

## Workshops



Trish Morey

### **Romancing the Editor: Romance Writing for Publication** **Trish Morey**

The romance industry is one of the most accessible and yet also one of the most intensely competitive publishing markets to crack. Learn from a three times #1 Waldenbooks Bestseller what it takes to make it out of that editor's slush pile and onto those book shelves.  
**Saturday 5 April, 10am – 1pm**

### **Writing for Younger Children** **Janeen Brian**

If you're interested in writing for children between 5 and 9, this is the workshop for you. We'll look at characters, story ideas and markets for your work.  
**Saturday 5 April, 10am – 1pm**



Janeen Brian

### **Erotica: It's Hot!** **Astrid Cooper**

Erotica is just sex scenes strung together, right? Wrong! The market demands strong stories and characters with sizzling sensuality. Even New York wants a piece of this action! Astrid's seminar will provoke and entertain while providing 'interactive' writing and publishing insights for this diverse and challenging genre.

**Saturday 5 April, 2 – 5pm**

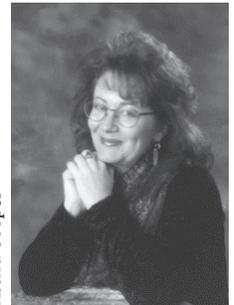
### **Essay Writing – Telling Nonfiction Stories** **Patrick Allington**

Whatever the genre and subject matter, writing an essay is like juggling. A good essay needs structure, facts, interpretation, opinions, a strong narrative and a clear voice. This workshop explores how to write essays that are entertaining as well as informative.

**Saturday 5 April, 2 – 5pm**



Patrick Allington



Astrid Cooper

## Writing Groups' Muster

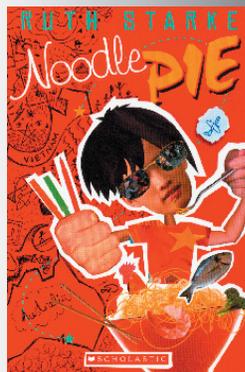
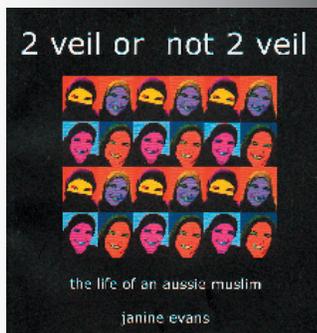
Whatever the aims of your particular group and whatever your group's genre, whether you cater for small or large numbers, published or unpublished writers, this is a great opportunity to pool ideas, see how others do it, hear about their successes and perhaps even their failures. The Muster will be held at the SA Writers' Centre, 187 Rundle Street (2nd Floor), Adelaide.

FREE for SAWC members and participants of groups who are current financial members of the SA Writers' Centre. Others – \$30 per person per day or \$50 per person for the weekend.

Please bring lunch – either a plate or \$10 towards a shared lunch and copies of your group's anthologies or other publications (if you have any). Bookings on 8223 7662 or sawriters@sawc.org.au

**Saturday March 8 and Sunday March 9, 2008**  
**10am – 3pm each day**

# Centre Information



## So Very Resourceful

Thanks to the following people and organisations who donated books to the Centre:

**Leo Demant**, *A Ritual Killing*, Vallen Publishers, 2008

**University of Queensland Press**, *Revolving Days*, selected poetry by David Malouf, 2008

**Beth Duncan**, *Mary Thomas: Founding Mother, the life and times of a South Australian pioneer*, Wakefield Press, 2007

**Dymphna Lonergan**, *Sounds Irish*, Lythrum Press, 2004

**Laurie Anderson**, *Bachlard*, Kinneil Press, 2007

**Barbara True**, *My Body Never Lied*, Gumboot Press 2007; and *Womb of the Moon*, Gumboot Press, 2008

**Going Down Swinging # 25: Aural Adventures from Around the Globe**, 2008

**Heather Taylor Johnson**, *Exit Wounds*, Picaro Press, 2007

**Erica Reed**, *The A-Z of Intelligent Conversation*, Emmanuel Books, 2007

**Janine Evans**, *2 Veil or Not 2 Veil: the life of an Aussie Muslim*, 2007

**Pat McNamara, Michael Dutkiewicz and Gary Turner**, *The Last Realm: Book One, Dragonscarpe*, Angel Phoenix Publishing, 2007

**Wakefield Press**, *Australia's Muslim Cameleers: Pioneers of the Inland 1860s-1930s*, by Philip Jones and Anna Kenny of the South Australian Museum, Wakefield Press, 2007

**Ruth Starke**, *Noodle Pie*, Scholastic, 2008

## Newsletter Folders

Thanks to the following people who helped fold the last newsletter:

Barbara Brockhoff, Betty Collins, Jo Dey, John and Coie Dikkenberg, Brabara Fraser, Sharon Kernot, Jeanie Klopper, John Malone, Hakim Oerton. Ken Vincent and Ann Timoney Jenkin.

## SAWC Quiz Night

We invite you to attend the most exciting fundraiser of the year, the SA Writers' Centre Quiz Night. Put Friday 18 April 2008 in your diaries now to make sure it stays free. If you are able to donate any goods or services to the prize pool, please contact Jude at the Writers' Centre.

## Are You A Writer with a Disability?

The SA Writers' Centre is applying for a Richard Llewellyn grant to assist writers with disabilities. The Centre hopes to acquire funding to pay a Writer in Residence to work one-on-one with writers of all levels and genres. To assist in our funding application could you please tell us (anonymously if preferred): (1) if you have a disability, and (2) what kind of disability? Please phone, email or post this information to the Centre by Friday 14th March.

## From the Front Desk

Stand out in the crowd and support the Centre by purchasing a smart black t-shirt with red SAWC logo. \$25 - please email or phone Jude to place your order. And don't forget to have a browse in the SAWC 'bookshop' next time you visit: we have many books for sale including the Australian Writers' Marketplace, Book Launching for Authors, Editing Made Easy; the latest Wirra Wirra short story anthologies; and the Handbook for SA Writers, which contains information on: agents, copyright, contracts, writing courses, editing, freelancing, funding, manuscript assessment, submission & presentation, publishers, promotion, synopsis and much, much more.

The SAWC will be closed during Writers' Week (the first week in March), but we'll be around in the gardens so come down and say hi. Jude.

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.

# Centre Workshops

## **Romancing the Editor: Romance Writing for Publication with Trish Morey**

Romance editors receive thousands of unsolicited manuscripts every year, so how do you make your work stand out? In this hands-on workshop, Trish Morey, bestselling author for the Harlequin Mills & Boon Sexy line and 2006 Australian Romantic Book of the Year winner, will lead you through a discussion of the romance industry in general before honing in on the romance story's basic building blocks – one man, one woman and a seemingly insurmountable conflict. Trish then shares with you those extra vital ingredients your story needs to make it sparkle and to get that editor to sit up and really take notice!

**Trish Morey** always fancied herself as a writer, so why she became a Chartered Accountant is anyone's guess. In 1992 she spied an article saying Mills&Boon was actively seeking new authors and with two young children at home, this was her Eureka moment – becoming an author for HM&B was her destiny! It only took 11 years to convince Harlequin to come to the party. Three times Waldenbooks #1 Bestseller and winner of the 2006 Australian Romantic Book of the Year Award, Trish has recently completed her thirteenth book for the internationally bestselling Harlequin Presents line, with plans for many more in the pipeline.

## **Writing for Younger Children with Janeen Brian**

In this workshop, Janeen will look at the general interests of that age group and how to develop ideas for stories. She'll discuss characters and whether to plot or not, how to develop our ear for the sound of language and how we can enrich our own writing. And then she'll look at some vital editing tips. Finally, where are those markets for your work? Participants should take away with them an idea or outline suitable for a book or children's magazine.

**Janeen Brian** writes fiction, nonfiction and poetry and enjoys writing for children of all ages. She has 65 books published in educational and trade publishing and has received three Children's Book Council of Australia Honour Awards. She has also received six Notable Book Awards as well as other awards for both her books and poetry. Many of her books have been translated while over a hundred stories, poems, articles and plays have been published in children's magazines in Australia and USA. Janeen's

latest book, *Cross-Currents*, is her first novel for older readers. In 2008 she will have three picture books released, as well as an Aussie Bite, *Elephant Mountain* and a junior novel, *Oddball*.

## **EROTICA: it's hot! with Astrid Cooper**

**WARNING:** If you are offended by four-letter words and uninhibited sexual content this is NOT the workshop or genre for you! You must be over 18 years of age to attend this workshop. Topics to be covered: erotica vs 'sensual romance' vs pornography – just what is erotica?; the sub-genres of erotica; what's hot and what's not?; who writes erotica, reads it, publishes it?; how to write and get published in erotica: includes market guidelines/content restrictions and the modern language of erotica; marketing yourself and your erotic fiction. Through her unique experiences, publisher anecdotes and latest market news, Astrid will provide participants with an understanding of the erotica market and how to maximise the chances of getting published in this challenging genre; there will also be discussions, fun (with giveaways), some inspiring and interactive (but non-threatening) writing exercises and plenty of time to have your questions answered.

Dare to be different! **Astrid Cooper's** motto has taken her life and career in many exciting directions: she has met Hollywood stars, internationally acclaimed authors, an Apollo astronaut. Astrid is published in Australia, Europe and North America. Her first professional sales were for erotica. She writes in several genres; her work has won awards and reached the best-seller lists in Adelaide and overseas. She is contracted to write a novella a month for one publisher. She writes full-time, mentors, teaches writing and is a contracted assessor for an agency – eating and sleeping are sometimes 'optional'. [www.astridcooper.com](http://www.astridcooper.com)

## **Telling Nonfiction Stories with Patrick Allington**

**Patrick Allington** is an Adelaide-based writer, editor, and researcher. He has published fiction, essays, and book reviews in a range of publications and websites. His current interests include Australian and Southeast Asian politics and history as well as the history and the future of the book. He has a Masters in Politics and a PhD in Creative Writing from the University of Adelaide.

Cost: \$55 for SA Writers' Centre members.  
\$77 for non-members.

Bookings on 8223 7662, [sawriters@sawc.org.au](mailto:sawriters@sawc.org.au) or  
through [www.sawc.org.au](http://www.sawc.org.au)

## 2008 Adelaide Festival Awards for Literature

Congratulations to all the South Australian writers who were short-listed in the 2008 Adelaide Festival Awards for Literature. The biennial awards, with total prize money of \$130,000, received 667 entries in nine categories, which judge the best work by Australian writers published in the previous two years.

**DM Cornish, Phil Cummings** and **Marianne Musgrove** were short-listed for the Award for Children's Literature

**J.M. Coetzee**, short-listed for the Award for Fiction and the Award for Innovation

**Ken Bolton**, short-listed for the John Bray Poetry Award

**Stephen Orr, Lesley Beasley** and **Julia Archer**, short-listed for the Unpublished Manuscript by a South Australian Emerging Writer Award.

# Opportunities

## Positive Words Magazine ...

is seeking submissions of poetry, short stories & articles for future issues. The special theme for April is SOMEONE ELSE'S SHOES and for May it will be CURTAINS but work on any theme is always welcome from new and established writers. Please include SSAE. Sample copies of the magazine are available by sending \$2.00 in unused stamps to The Editor: Sandra Lynn James, 466 Old Melbourne Road, Traralgon 3844, Victoria.

**Blast Literary Magazine** aims to provide space for the publication of high quality contemporary Australian poetry and other critical writing. Short stories with an edge, and succinct prose essays, are also sought. *Blast* is serious about poetry and the magazine has already built a reputation for publishing poetry of the first rank. *Blast* has received a grant from artsACT to pay writers in 2008. Deadline for *Blast* 8 is July 31. *Blast* is published twice a year (March and September). An annual subscription to *Blast* costs \$20 including postage.

Contributions, and subscriptions should be sent to:

*Blast*

PO Box 134  
Campbell ACT  
2612

For more information visit:  
[www.annsverband.com/blast/](http://www.annsverband.com/blast/)

## Breaking New Ground

The Literature Board of the Australia Council has announced a one-off grant initiative, *Breaking New Ground*, designed to 'create a stimulus to assist in the creation of important new work by established Australian writers and picture book and graphic novel illustrators which breaks new literary ground for the writer'.

Further information from Literature Board, Australia Council for the Arts, [www.australiacouncil.gov.au](http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au). PO Box 788, Strawberry Hills NSW 2012. Ph: 1800226912.

## The PressPress Chapbook Award

...is for an unpublished chapbook length manuscript of poems. The winning manuscript will receive \$300 and chapbook publication with PressPress. [www.presspress.com.au](http://www.presspress.com.au)

## ASA Mentorship Program

Details of the 2008 ASA Mentorship Program are now available on the ASA website [www.asauthors.org/](http://www.asauthors.org/)

## Australia Council Residencies

Residencies foster excellence in writing by providing individual writers with a supportive environment for professional development, research and creative risk-taking. Closing date: 15 March 2008. See [www.australiacouncil.gov.au/grants/grant\\_items/residencies\\_-\\_literature](http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/grants/grant_items/residencies_-_literature)

Other residencies and studios – Individual writers who meet the eligibility requirements may apply for a self-organised Australian or overseas studio residency that will allow them time and space to develop their own writing. The studio or residency must be of good repute and be able to offer appropriate facilities to support the planned project.

The literature board may offer successful applicants for overseas residencies, including self-organised overseas residencies, up to \$1000 towards travel and accommodation expenses for participation in seminars, readings and other literary events during the residency period. Successful applicants for self-organised residencies within Australia, may apply for up to \$500 towards travel and accommodation expenses for participation in seminars, readings and other literary events during the residency period. An itinerary and budget must be submitted to the Literature Board for approval prior to undertaking any additional travel.

## Southerly

Special Issue on the Short Story – Call for Submissions. Since 1939 when *Southerly* was established, short fiction has formed a vital part of its content and reputation. *Southerly* has been the first point of publication for many of our leading fiction writers. In November 2008 *Southerly* will be publishing a special issue devoted to the short story. Contributions are being sought for:

(a) Short Stories: fresh, innovative, crossover, risky and lively fiction is encouraged, including work from new and emerging writers. 'When I'm in need of a hit of real writing, a good stiff drink of paradox and complexity, I'm likeliest to encounter it

in short fiction.' – Jonathan Franzen  
(b) Essays, Articles and Book Reviews on short fiction in Australian literary culture. Suggested topics: the historical/cultural context of the short story (such as the resurgence of the form in the 1970s), the 'apprenticeship' of the form, short story cycles or collections; the discontinuous narrative, genre slippage or other formal questions (eg when is the short story not?), critical essays on individual authors of the short story, short fiction theory, adaptation of short fiction to film, publishing and short stories, short fiction and gender, sex and the short story.

The deadline for copy is 31 May 2008. Copy should be emailed in Word format (please include .doc in the name of your attachment) directly to both the editors, details below.

Word length is flexible depending on the nature of the piece, and reviews of several books in one review are preferred. Contributions will be paid at a minimum rate of \$200 for stories and articles, \$175 for book reviews. A style guide will be circulated and every contributor will be required to conform to this guide (particularly in relation to referencing), to accept editorial amendments and/or corrections where necessary and to proofread their own piece.

Please contact the editors directly with your submissions, or further enquiries:

Dr Debra Adelaide

[dkadelaide@iprimus.com.au](mailto:dkadelaide@iprimus.com.au) /

tel: 9558 9408

Associate Professor John Dale

[John.Dale@uts.edu.au](mailto:John.Dale@uts.edu.au) / tel: 9514 1951

## Evolution Publishing

Evolution Publishing is Australia's largest publisher of magazines and websites for gay, lesbian and bisexual readers.

'We produce magazines and websites in NSW, Victoria and Queensland, and are now sourcing freelance writers for a website presenting news, entertainment and culture to the GLBT community in Adelaide and regional SA.'

If you are a gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender writer (and/or photographer), know what's going on in your community and have a talent for writing news or features, send examples of your work, along with a CV, to:

[Andrew.Shaw@eevolution.com.au](mailto:Andrew.Shaw@eevolution.com.au)

To see the standard of stories we are looking for, visit our website:  
[www.eevolution.com.au](http://www.eevolution.com.au)

### **Australian Writers' Guild 41st Annual AWGIE Awards Call for Entries**

The Australian Writers' Guild 41st Annual AWGIE Awards are now open for entries.

The AWGIE Awards are the Australian Writers' Guild (AWG) annual awards for excellence in screen, stage, radio and new media writing. The AWGIEs are the only peer assessed awards of excellence for performance writers with judging based on the written script – the writer's intention – rather than the finished production.

Entry to the 41st Annual AWGIE Awards is open to financial members of the AWG and scripts, except for Monte Miller entrants, must have been produced between 1 January and 31 December 2007. For entry forms and more information, including special prizes and fellowships, visit [www.awg.com.au](http://www.awg.com.au), email [admin@awg.com.au](mailto:admin@awg.com.au) or call 1300 552 228.

Entries close 5.00pm, Friday 7 March 2008.

### **Ilura Press ...**

is now accepting unsolicited novel-length fiction manuscripts until March 15. Ilura Press is particularly interested in literary fiction. Go to [www.ilurapress.com](http://www.ilurapress.com) and follow the link for details on how to submit. Please read and follow submission guidelines carefully.

### **Next Wave**

Next Wave is delighted to announce that applications are now open for TEXT CAMP, a mentorship program for emerging arts writers (under 30) as part of the 2008 Next Wave Festival.

TEXT CAMP provides an opportunity for emerging writers to work with and learn from established writers, to build networks and contribute to critical and creative discourse around the 2008 Next Wave Festival, and contemporary art practice more broadly. Comprising two parallel teaching streams which explore either creative writing or critical writing methods, TEXT CAMP will explore the many ways that artworks and performance projects can be responded to through writing.

TEXT CAMP is a three-stage program involving a workshop, a mentorship and a publication outcome. The program will be led by two prominent young Australian writers, Rosemary Forde and Nic Low.

Applications are due 5.00pm on Friday 14 March 2008 (postmark date).

Please contact Next Wave should you require further information on [ulanda@nextwave.org.au](mailto:ulanda@nextwave.org.au)

### **CAL Seminar Series: Payments, Processes & Copyright development.**

Copyright Agency Limited (CAL)'s business is changing and they want you to hear about it. Along with offering new licences that will make your content available to more people than ever before, they are making changes to how they pay you for the use of your works. CAL has more details to share with you about their planned new faster payment method, CALdirect.

They will also discuss where copyright laws are heading as a result of the latest developments in technology and what issues you need to consider. Please join CAL at a free information seminar to learn more about these changes and what they mean for you. There will also be plenty of time for questions from the floor and networking over refreshments afterwards.

Tuesday 18 March 2008, Adelaide  
State Library of SA  
Hetzel Lecture Theatre  
Corner North Terrace and Kintore Avenue  
Adelaide  
3pm to 4.30pm

To book your place email [events@copyright.com.au](mailto:events@copyright.com.au) and provide your name, organisation (if applicable), address, contact number, email address and mention the date/venue. Or phone them on 02 9394 7600.

**GOING DOWN SWINGING**  
No. 26

Continuing to tickle the rich underbelly of literary endeavour, *Going Down Swinging* turns its attention to the art of the street in the 26<sup>th</sup> issue.

The best in new short fiction, poetry, comic art & spoken word plus! a special street art feature!  
In bookstores this March.  
and! 30 numbered, hardcover limited editions of No. 26 will be available, featuring original one-off works by street artists Tom Civil, miso, Vexia, ghostpatrol & HaHa.

*Going Down Swinging* now publishes 2 books/CD issues per year. Subscribe to get your wordy goodness delivered to your door! Details at the website.

[www.goingdownswinging.org.au](http://www.goingdownswinging.org.au) Stylized by Tom Civil

# News and Views

## **CAL Announces \$70 Million Agreement**

Copyright Agency Limited (CAL) has announced it has entered into a new three-year, \$70 million contract with Universities Australia, the peak industry body representing the university sector.

'This is a huge fillip for not only CAL members, but for copyright in general,' said CAL Chief Executive Jim Alexander. 'The new agreement confirms the rights of creators to be rewarded for the use of their work.'

'At the same time, this agreement acknowledges the benefits a CAL licence can provide users who want streamlined access and usage rights to a wide range of information materials,' said Jim Alexander.

Under the contract, which commenced on 1 January 2008, academic staff across 37 universities will be able to photocopy, download and distribute copyright materials. CAL Chair Brian Johns welcomed the agreement on behalf of members, saying the efforts to

work collaboratively with universities demonstrates just how strongly CAL believes in and recognises the importance of Australia's education sector.

'Education is central to our future. The CAL-Universities Australia agreement will greatly benefit the education sector by helping to expand intellectual creativity in this country.

'The agreement ensures universities can continue providing access to quality educational materials tailored to the needs of individual students and groups,' said Brian Johns.

For more information visit our website at [www.copyright.com.au](http://www.copyright.com.au)

## **The Elizabeth Jolley Research Collection**

Curtin University of Technology has made the life and work of one of Australia's most significant and highly respected writers, Elizabeth Jolley, accessible to a global audience with the launch of the innovative online Elizabeth Jolley Research Collection. The Collection will be officially launched at a special event on

Curtin's Bentley Campus by Dr Ian Templeman AM, founder of the Fremantle Arts Centre Press and the publisher of Elizabeth Jolley's first book *Five Acre Virgin and Other Stories*. The Elizabeth Jolley Research Collection is at <http://john.curtin.edu.au/jolley/>

## **Between Us Manuscript Assessment Service**

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[meredithwh@yahoo.com](mailto:meredithwh@yahoo.com)

[www.users.bigpond.com/between](http://www.users.bigpond.com/between)

# What's On

## **Australian Poetry Centre Regional Festival: Harmonic Threads Anzac Day weekend 25 – 27 APRIL 2008**

### **Castlemaine**

Four days of poetry readings, workshops, dialogues, discussions, performances, films, music and food.

The APC are proud to announce that they are hosting an Australian Poetry Centre Regional Festival, which they hope to make an annual festival that will tour the regional centres of Australia.

Key guest speakers include international poets:

Sam Hamill (USA), Lorna Crozier (Canada), Peter Balakian (USA) and Laksmi Pamuntjak (Singapore).

There is an impressive line up of award-winning national poets including: Robert Adamson (NSW), Judith Beveridge (NSW), Geoff Page (ACT), Barry Hill (VIC), Anthony Lawrence (TAS), Jaya Savige (QLD), Patricia Sykes (VIC), John Foulcher (ACT), Esther

Ottaway (TAS), Ross Gillett (Regional VIC), Lorraine McGuigan (Regional VIC), Ross Donlon (Regional VIC), Anne Gleeson (Regional VIC), Tim Sinclair (SA), Marcella Polain (WA) and Jayne Fenton Keane (QLD).

For more information please call the Australian Poetry Centre on 03 9527 4063 or email [admin@australianpoetrycentre.org.au](mailto:admin@australianpoetrycentre.org.au)  
[www.australianpoetrycentre.org.au](http://www.australianpoetrycentre.org.au)

### **Fiona McIntosh - Author Talk**

Ever wanted to just change careers mid life but feel you can't or worse, you shouldn't? Come and listen to Fiona McIntosh speak about life, the crisis of middle years, trying to be superwoman and how she risked everything for a dream and succeeded.

Fiona spent 20 years in the travel industry before following her dream of writing a book. Since then she has written 11 adult novels and five children's books. Her fantasy novels are best-sellers

around the world. Fiona is now writing crime and will write mainstream fiction from next year.

Hosted by the Marion Library Service at the Marion Cultural Centre Domain Theatre. Sunday, March 30, 2008 4pm to 5.30pm FREE. Book by phone on 8375 6855.

### **Mostly Books**

There will be a Poetry Group for 2008 at Mostly Books on every fourth Sunday from 2.30-4.30 pm, starting on the 27th of April. Enquiries welcome!

Ph: 8373 5190

or email: [mostlybooks@internode.on.net](mailto:mostlybooks@internode.on.net)

### **Funding for Writers**

Susan Hayes, the Manager of Copyright Agency Limited's Cultural Fund will give an overview of CAL and talk about how the Cultural Fund can benefit Australian writers, illustrators and publishers. Date: Saturday 8 March, 12-12.30pm, At the SA Writers' Centre. After the talk she will be available to talk one-on-one to discuss individual projects. Book with the SAWC.



### PoeticA

Presented by Mike Ladd, Saturday at 3.05pm, repeated 3.05pm on Thursdays.

Program details for March:

- 1<sup>st</sup> A Requiem For St Kilda – poems by Kenneth Steven about the abandoned island of St Kilda, in the Outer Hebrides.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Scrambled Eggs and Whiskey – the poetry of Hayden Carruth.
- 15<sup>th</sup> Vicki's Voice – a feature on the life and writing of Vicky Viidikas.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Life Without Rain – an anthology representing the hope and despair of drought in Australia.
- 29<sup>th</sup> Verbal Medicine – contemporary clinician-poets of Australia and New Zealand.

### The Wild Water

This year's Macclsefield Fringe Arts presents:

A Writers' Event 'Dreamshare.'

8th March at the Macclesfield Institute.

Opened at 11.30 by guest of honour and writer Audrey Windram.

9.00 – 11.30 am: workshop – Writing Made Easy: Plots that sell.

11.30am – 12.30pm: Opening/workshop: Audrey Windram, 'Dreamshare.'

12.30 – 1.30pm: Lunch

1.30 – 3.00pm: 4 Local writers share their journey, readings/ discussion.

3.00 – 3.15pm: Stretch break.

3.30 – 5.00pm: Panel: top-selling author, a printer, Writers Right press: How to self-publish.

### Poetry@MaccyArts Club Lounge

Sat 22 February, Sat 1 March, Sat 8 March, Sat 15 March.

Poetry open mic. 7.30pm. SLAM event (date tba).

Live Jazz, 'DJ dark. Food /coffee/licence. Till late.

Support and Sponsorship from Longview Winery, Dist. Council Mt Barker and Writers Right.

Contact info: Graham 08 8388 9089

### The Society of Editors Talk

Tuesday 15 April, 7.30pm

Deborah McCulloch will talk on 'What it

means to live in Adelaide all your life'. SA Writers' Centre. All Welcome.

### Attention Armchair Sleuths And Murderous Minds

You are invited to help form a group for writers, readers and enthusiasts of crime fiction. Indulge your taste for the macabre in a relaxed and friendly social environment. Sharing of works in progress is most welcome, as are all other forms of encouragement and motivation. This will be a sanctuary where you can discuss your favourite authors or influences, dissect the real life cases that may have inspired you to put pen to paper and celebrate every aspect of this diverse genre.

If you have questions, comments or suggestions, please phone Stephen Lord on 8344 4514 or email badwolf76@adam.com.au . Alibis available on request J.

### Format – Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th of March.

This weekend event brings together the alternative formats for writing, information sharing and story telling. A celebration of the non-traditional modern ways of writing which are high quality, well written and artistically clever. *Format* is about communication of stories, ideas, feelings and thoughts.

*Format* will explore zines, non-professional self-publishing, blogging/ networking websites, street commentary/ stencil art, travel writing, gender writing and more.

Come along for half an hour or the whole afternoon, dip into what catches your eye or just hang out at the Zine Fair or the DIY Academy. Details below.

### Fringe Zine Fair

As always, the hugely popular Zine Fair brings together Zinesters from all over, creating a space for them to make, talk, develop, swap and sell to their hearts' content. The event has tripled in size from its first year creating even more zines and arty objects to discover.

The Zine Fair takes place on Saturday, March 15th at Fringe Factory Theatre on Elizabeth Street (aka the Old Balfours Factory, just off Waymouth St in the City).

### The DIY Academy

A mixture of informal panels and workshops on DIY including bike maintenance, blogging, travel writing and wallet making from old soy milk cartons. Panels will explore blogging, zines, self publishing, gender writing and street art. The Academy of DIY will be held on Sunday, March 16th, also in the old Balfour's Factory. All events are free and all events are roughly contained under the wider banner of the first annual Format Festival, the new home of Lo-Fi within the Adelaide Fringe Festival. For more information stay tuned to this rather long winded URL:

<http://www.adelaidefringe.com.au/getdoc/09696959-c030-409c-97a4-48336194335f/Format.aspx>

### Betty Collins Talk

Betty Collins will be visiting Broken Hill and giving a reading at the Library on the evening of the 26th March.

### North Eastern Writers' Group

The next meeting will be held on Thursday the 20th of March from 7.30pm-9.30pm at the TTG Memorial Hall. The guest speaker this month will be John Malone. All welcome. Enquiries to Ken 8380 5348 or Sharon 0403 831170.

### The Hills Poets

The next meeting of the Hills Poets will be on Sunday 9 March at 3.30 pm at the Bridgewater Inn, Mt Barker Rd, Bridgewater. The meeting will be in the dining room in the cellar of the hotel. The car park on the left-hand side of the hotel is easiest access. For information please ring Jill Gower on 8339 5119.

### Etchings Launch

Ilura Press invites everyone to the launch of issues 3 & 4 of literary journal *Etchings*. The festivities will take place at The SA Writers'Centre, 6pm on Thursday 27 March. Carol Lefevre, whose novel *Nights in the Asylum* is currently longlisted for the Commonwealth Writers' Prize, will launch the journal and contributors Heather Taylor Johnson, Rebekah Clarkson and Henry Ashley-Brown will read short pieces. Delectable nibbles and wine will be provided.

Everyone most welcome!

# Congratulations...

**Janeen Brian's** *Elephant Mountain*, an Aussie Bite, has been published by Penguin Books. Her story, 'It happened in the Holidays' was published in the February edition of *Orbit, School Magazine* and her picture book, *Columbia Sneezes!*, illustrated by Gabe Cunnett, was published by Omnibus Books. She has also been invited to become an ambassador for The Premier's Reading Challenge.

The anthology in which 3 of **Astrid Cooper's** speculative fiction erotica stories appeared was voted #1 readers' choice for 'best anthology' in the Predators and Editors poll and her latest story was also nominated for an award. Astrid has been contracted to write a novella a month for a North American publisher.

**Marilyn Linn** has had three poems published in *Parenting Express* at the end of 2007.

**Christine and David Harris** received a CAL Professional Development Fund grant to attend a conference, 'Innovating Minds, Communicating Ideas: Reinventing Language Teaching & Learning', in Malaysia in March.

**Ruth Craig's** 'Memories of My Long Island Kitchen' was published in *I Remember When* Volume 2 (A collection of memories) published by Legacy Books 2007.

**Zenda Vecchio's** short story 'Girl with Fair Hair' was published in *Island Magazine*.

**Lidija Šimkutė's** 2007 poetry publications in English: feature poet with fourteen poems in *Lituanus* – Vol.53:3 (USA); in Lithuanian: six poems in *Krantai*, No3, two poems in *Skuodas* – Sept. (Lithuania). In translation: eight

poems in 1)Bulgarian – [www.liternet.bg/publish21/1\\_shimkute/kraiko\\_1.htm](http://www.liternet.bg/publish21/1_shimkute/kraiko_1.htm) (translator Aksinia Mihailova); 2). Japanese: two + four poems in *Ravine* - 163, 164 Kyoto, Japan. (translator Koichi Yahushigawa). She also gave many poetry readings and paper presentations in September & October during her visit to Lithuania.

**David Mortimer's** poem 'Backyard' was published in *Five Bells* (Spring 2007).

**Graham Rowlands'** poem 'Marilyn Monroe Reads' was published in *The Canberra Times* and his poem 'Truman Capote's Quirks' and 'My Ex-publisher's Influence' were published in *Island Magazine*.

Just a reminder that this year we will not be able to acknowledge competition commendations, letters to editors, and publication acceptances. They must have already been published. Ed.

## New in the Library

**Lesley Beasley reviews *The Art of Creative Nonfiction: writing and selling the literature of reality***  
By Lee Gutkind.  
John Wiley & Sons, 1997.

If you've studied writing in America you've probably heard of Lee Gutkind and creative nonfiction. Here neither the name nor the phrase is so familiar, although we've all had experience with the genre.

The primary aim is to use fictional techniques on a nonfiction subject, so that even the most resistant reader will find it fascinating. The subject itself is not so important. Football, politics, science, anything will do, so long as there's an engagement in the drama and passion of life. If you've read works by Truman Capote, Stephen Jay Gould or Simon Winchester, if you're a fan of Oliver Sacks or Helen Garner, if you've discovered Peter Doherty's *A Light History of Hot Air*, or *Best Australian Essays 2007* or any sports articles by Martin Flanagan, not to mention countless biographies, the memoirs of Oprah Winfrey and anecdotal

cookbooks by celebrity chefs ... you've been reading creative nonfiction.

If you've followed the Sandman in Siberia, taken to archaeology with the ABC's Time Team or become addicted to Australian Idol, you've been watching creative nonfiction.

In other words, everyone is doing it, so it doesn't hurt to go back to a classic text by the man often seen as the father of the art. A founding editor of the journal *Creative Nonfiction* and now Professor of English at the University of Pittsburgh, Gutkind tackles thorny issues such as the boundaries of truth with ease – and a certainty that some might challenge today.

For him the hallmarks include dialogue that places the reader right in the action, an inner point of view that allows us to see the world through the characters' eyes, and frequent use of 'slices of reality' or scenes from real life. Fiction writers will have no trouble recognising these as the old *show, don't tell* rule. Take a yellow highlighter, Gutkind suggests, and mark all the scenes in a favourite magazine or book. You will

probably find you've covered most of the text. The trick is in how to integrate these scenes, how to segue from one to another and hook the reader in the first few lines. Add to that how to read as writer, how to incorporate small details (Frank Sinatra's toupee, a fist dashing away tears, a pair of red shoes), how to frame a narrative and know when to enter and leave, and how to sound objective while being subjective.

The list goes on. From story ideas to the narrator's voice, from amassing clippings to keeping a journal, the advice is so succinctly put and cleverly packaged that it's deceptively easy to read, except of course, for the section on how to cope with rejection.

While creative nonfiction is now the standard for first person narratives, this book still makes a good introduction, so long as the principles aren't reduced to a formula that destroys the very vitality it's trying to foster.

*Lesley Beasley is the SAWC's Administrative Assistant. See her profile on page 10.*

# Literary Competitions...

## ☞ 10 March 2008

The Henry Kendall Poetry Award. 1st prize \$500. Entry fee \$7 per poem. No theme or style. Max length 32 lines. Download from [www.fusionarts.org.au](http://www.fusionarts.org.au)

## ☺☞★ 17 March 2008

Imagination Creation Western Union Young Writers Competition. The Margaret Callahan Award for inspirational poems ages 18 and under. \$50. Individual poetry and individual story. Prizes \$50-\$100. Entry \$2 each. For entry form and enquiries contact [margaret\\_c@optusnet.co.au](mailto:margaret_c@optusnet.co.au)

## ☺ 14 March 2008

2008 New South Wales Premier's History Awards  
The New South Wales Premier's History Awards are made to Australian historians in recognition of distinguished achievement in scholarly writing and publication and in the presentation of history in non-print media. The awards are conducted in association with the History Council of New South Wales. The 2008 awards, each valued at \$15,000, are:  
The Australian History Prize for a book on Australian history;  
The General History Prize for a book on international history;  
The Community and Regional History Prize for a book which contributes to the understanding of Australian community, institutional or regional history;  
The Young People's History Prize for a book or audio/visual presentation which increases the historical understanding of children and young adults;  
The Audio/Visual History Prize for the presentation of history utilising non-print media (including film, television, radio, CD-ROM, DVD or website);  
The John and Patricia Ward History Prize for the Use of Archives in Writing History for a book which uses unpublished archived sources.  
Works may be nominated by authors, agents, publishers or producers. All works must have been first published or produced

- ☺ 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.

between 10 March 2007 and 7 March 2008.

Guidelines and nomination forms may be downloaded from the Arts NSW website, [www.arts.nsw.gov.au](http://www.arts.nsw.gov.au) or obtained from Arts NSW, PO Box A226, Sydney South NSW 1235, ph. (02) 9228 5533, or email [jean@arts.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jean@arts.nsw.gov.au)

## 14 March 2008

Bundaberg Writers' Club Short Story Competition  
Short Story to 2,500 words. Open theme. First prize \$300, Second prize \$100. \$5 per entry or 5 entries for \$20. For entry form and conditions, email [novels@sandycurtis.com](mailto:novels@sandycurtis.com) or phone (07) 4159 1010.

## 27 March 2008

The Inverawe Nature Poetry Competition 2008 is for poems of up to 28 lines, on a nature theme. First prize \$500, single runner up \$200. Additional \$200 prize for a Tasmanian resident poet and a \$200 prize for an emerging poet who has not yet been published. Limit of three entries per poet, \$5 entry per poem. All entries must be accompanied by an entry form which is available at [www.inverawe.com.au](http://www.inverawe.com.au)

## 28 March 2008

Voices on the Coast 2008 Writing Competition. Voices on the Coast – a youth literature festival, is seeking writing competition entries for an unpublished manuscript by a new (previously unpublished) author. The competition is for a prose story aimed at younger readers

(ages 8-13 years) – length up to 30 000 words.

Prizes: \$2000 first prize and \$500 second prize.  
Entries open to all Australian residents. For guidelines and entry forms - [voices@immanuel.qld.edu.au](mailto:voices@immanuel.qld.edu.au) or telephone 07 5477 3437. Supported by a Maroochy Shire Council Community Wellbeing Grant.

## ☺ 31 March 2008

Positive Words magazine is holding a Mini-Challenge for March. Entrants need to write a short story up to 100 words or a poem up to 10 lines using the word ANGER or ANGRY at least once. Entry fee is \$1.00 in unused stamps. The prize is a six-month subscription to Positive Words magazine. No entry form required but entries must be postmarked by March 31 to: Positive Words, 466 Old Melbourne Road, Traralgon 3844 Victoria.

## 31 March 2008

The Best of Times short story competition. For humorous short stories (any theme) up to 2500 words. Mystery prizes (non-monetary) for first, second and third place. No entry form is required. Include a cover sheet with your name and address, story title and word count.  
Entry fee is \$5 per story. Send a cheque or money order made out to Chris Broadribb or if you have a PayPal account, you can pay [cabbook-5@yahoo.com.au](mailto:cabbook-5@yahoo.com.au)  
Post your entry to Chris Broadribb, PO Box 116, Burwood NSW 1805 or email it to [cabbook-5@yahoo.com.au](mailto:cabbook-5@yahoo.com.au). If you enter by post, include a

large SSAE so that your story can be returned afterwards, along with a results sheet. If you would like an electronic copy of the results then provide your email address. Winners will be notified by the end of April. Winning stories will be published on the website if the authors agree. Competition webpage: [www.geocities.com/spiky\\_one/comp5.html](http://www.geocities.com/spiky_one/comp5.html)

## ☺ 15 April 2008

Alpha 2 Omega Short Story and Poetry Competition 2008. Short Story - to 2000 words. Open Topic. Cost: \$5.00 per entry (or 3 entries for \$12). 1st Prize: \$150.00 plus book package  
Runners-up: \$25.00  
Poetry - 40-line limit. Open Topic; any style. Cost: \$3.00 per entry. Four for \$10.00. 1st Prize: \$100 plus book package  
Runners up: \$15.00  
[www.alpha2omega.org.au](http://www.alpha2omega.org.au)

## ☺☞ April 23, 2008

The R. Carson Gold Short Story Competition. FIRST Prize \$1,000. Entry Fee \$7.50. Entries must be a magazine-type story. Word limit: 5,000.

## ☺ April 23, 2008

Positive Words Short Story and Poetry Competition 2008.A. Open Short Story : up to 2000 words. B. Open Poetry : up to 48 lines. Entry Fee \$2.50 per entry. Cheques, money orders or the equivalent in unused stamps (50cent or \$1.00 preferred) will be accepted as payment. Please make cheques payable to S. L. James or Rainbow Press. First Prize \$50.00, Second Prize - six months subscription to Positive Words. Certificates for commended entries will be awarded in each section. Entries should be marked 'Competition' and sent to: Positive Words, 466 Old Melbourne Road, Traralgon 3844 Victoria.

# Half a Page with Lesley Beasley

**L**esley Beasley has had short stories and/or poetry in *Westerly*, *Redoubt*, *Muse* and *Poetrix*. She has reviewed books for *The Canberra Times*, *The Age* and *Australian Book Review*, and is currently working on both a history and a novel set in 1850s Australia. Last year the history was short listed for the Varuna Awards. This year the novel was short-listed for the Festival Award for an Unpublished Manuscript. Lesley works part-time at the SA Writers' Centre.

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

I can't wait to see Geraldine Brooks' novels on the screen, with anyone (almost anyone) but Nicole Kidman in the lead.

## Do you write with a computer or by hand?

Nonfiction by computer, but fiction by hand. It's the only way to keep advancing rather than constantly editing.

## Any tips for aspiring writers?

I wouldn't presume to advise anyone else, but I collect other people's gems and stick them on my wall – tacky I know, but there you go. I have Vincent van Gogh saying (in translation): Don't go into the studio thinking you're going to create a

masterpiece. Go in like a peasant planting a row of potatoes.' I love that. Writing a book is hard work. If you keep thinking about how much is left you'll never make it to the end. Another tells me: 'It's no good making time to write, you have to take it.' And then there's the article I pinched and summarised so that it now reads 'How to write a first draft: Don't stop; Don't think; Kill the Editor; Be specific.'

## Do you listen to anything while you write?

Only the deafening silence of words disappearing into thin air, and, until a few weeks ago, my dog sighing because – yet again – I'm late for her walk.

## What's your opinion of the SA literary scene?

I'm sure it's thriving, but I wouldn't know. I've never quite found the door. I do know that we have some fantastic writers in South Australia. We should celebrate them more and fund more writing projects. After all, it's stories of people's lives – whether fiction or nonfiction – that keep the best record of our communities.

## What are you currently reading?

*A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian* – hilarious, Ben Elton's *Blind Faith* – ditto and Brenda Niall's *Life Class: The*

*Education of a Biographer*, but my latest favourites are *Suite Francaise* by Irene Nemirovsky, set and written in World War II France, and Patrick Gale's *Notes From an Exhibition*. I also never miss Max Fatchen's column in *The Advertiser* – perfect cameos from the over-80s world.

## What books have influenced you?

How long have you got? Recently – works by Geraldine Brooks, Kate Grenville, Lucy Frost and historians Robyn Annear and Antony Beevor. Countless books I've loved (and some I've hated) have left their mark.

## What was your worst job ever?

I've never had a worst job, but I can tell you one of the best is here at the Writers' Centre.

## What started it all off?

I think it's hard-wired, or perhaps buried in years of reading, coupled with a ridiculous drive to get everything down.

## What's your favourite writing fuel?

If only there was something you could eat or imbibe that would make even the slightest difference!

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

Any will do!

## LONGLINES: CREATING REAL PATHWAYS FOR WRITERS

**W**riters of prose, poetry and drama living away from the metropolitan centres of Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne are warmly invited to send in applications for the Macquarie Group Foundation LongLines Varuna Workshops and Residencies. For each state and territory, one two-week LongLines Varuna residency is awarded. There are 5 places in the prose workshop, 4 in the poetry and 3 in the drama. Plus there are 15 non-residential readings and consultations – your chance for a considered reading of your whole work plus an hour long conversation with one of Varuna's experienced team of writing consultants. 35 valuable places in all. But read on!

From 2008, the LongLines Poetry Workshop will be presented in partnership with the Australian Poetry Centre, with additional funding from the Myer Foundation, and the four poets selected will be the four poets to be published in the annual New Poets program – the program that has grown from the annual Five Islands Press New Poets Program. Yes, you read that right – being selected for the LongLines Poetry Workshop means a publication!

The LongLines Drama Workshop will be presented in partnership with Playlab, with additional funding from Arts Queensland. In 2007 this was a wonderful week – three playwrights, three dramaturges, and one of the playwrights thrillingly redrafted her play four times and went on to a shortlisting in the Queensland Premier's Drama Awards. This is an astonishing opportunity for playwrights.

And for prose writers there's the new annual Penguin/Varuna Scholarship. Penguin has generously provided a \$5000 scholarship, plus 20 hours' editorial guidance from Penguin, exclusively for a LongLines writer. Each year, Varuna's Creative Director Peter Bishop selects up to 15 vibrant and viable manuscripts to present to Penguin – that's 15 LongLines manuscripts being read and considered by one of Australia's most distinguished publishing houses.

Several of these manuscripts will have been developed through the LongLines Prose Workshop, through the non-residential readings and consultations, or through a LongLines Varuna residency. A LongLines application can make a lot of things happen!

For all information about LongLines, go to [www.varuna.com.au](http://www.varuna.com.au). All applications must be accompanied by an application form with a \$25 application fee. All applications must be postmarked no later than April 30.



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# Notes from New Caledonia

by Jane Turner Goldsmith

New Caledonia seduced me some twenty years ago – and each time I return. I love the people, the country, the climate, the vegetation, the food. For a week in November last year I was lucky enough to be invited, along with fellow Australian writers, Anita Heiss, Shane Maloney, Philip McLaren, Peter Brown, John Coetzee and Dorothy Driver to participate in the 3rd Salon International du Livre Océanien (SILO) in Hienghène, New Caledonia. Of all the gigs to be invited to, this is the one! We were generously looked after from the moment we set foot on the tarmac at Tontouta airport, and for a full week were drawn in to literary and oceanic connection, stimulating debate, festivity, food and (literary) frolic in a spectacularly beautiful region five hours up the coast from Nouméa. Hienghène is a remote village on the north-east coast of New Caledonia, a region of dramatic mountainous scenery, lush rainforest vegetation, palms, ferns and brilliant flowering creepery foliage, all tumbling into an azure sea. It was something of a nostalgia trip for me, having visited in 2004 to reunite with friends and family, and to complete research for my novel *Ponciana*, set in these and other parts of New Caledonia.

Just twenty years ago the region of Hienghène was still largely unvisited by tourists, considered unsafe due to inter-racial conflict and the political instability of the times – the pro and anti-independence movements. Near Hienghène, in the valley of Tiendanite, is a memorial at the scene of a fatal ambush – nine kanaks returning home from a political meeting, shot dead by white and mixed-race settlers.

So our event, held for the first time in this part of the country, was politically very significant. Thankfully, harmony and optimism characterize the political climate in New Caledonia today, the language is of negotiation and compromise, and while questions of self-determination will, I suspect, remain contentious for a while to come, most kanaks and ‘caldoches’ seem united, somewhat ironically, in a new war against the invasion of retirees from metropolitan France!

But back to SILO. The opening ceremony saw the entire government of New Caledonia helicoptered in, and we stood by solemnly to observe ‘la coutûme’ – the traditional exchange of gifts, signs of goodwill and mutual respect. While the speeches were endless, in formal, untranslated French, the gravitas of the event did not escape us. We were next shuffled to the centre culturel where we (respectfully again) endured another series of significant speeches alluding to cultural exchange and reconciliation between the provinces of south and north, under a hot sun which nearly saw Rosemary, director of the Melbourne Writers’ Festival, faint. The welcome punch revived us all and we proceeded to a feast of bougna and more, prepared by the women of the region.

We were dismayed to discover that siestas hadn’t been programmed, but settled uncomplainingly into the first afternoon of literary offerings, kicking off with John Coetzee. Poor John! We went out in sympathy for him, aghast at the lack of protocol – no introduction, no thank you – and the fumbling confusion with the sound system. John just soldiered on! Next day, sound system rectified, the presenters were thundered out by a torrential

downpour, blocking out all sound for a full twenty minutes!

The standard of organisation might have frustrated the urbanites among us, used to the smooth flow and uber-efficiency that characterize our Australian festivals. But frustration was overridden by the sheer goodwill, good nature and generosity of the organizers.

The resort in which we were all lodged gave us ample opportunity to connect over sumptuous buffet meals – three times a day! Attendees consisted of writers from Australia, New Caledonia, France, Tahiti, Samoa and Hawaii, publishers from France and Tahiti, three Australian writers’ festival directors and artists, clowns and sculptors. We unfortunately missed out on meeting with Haitian writer Dany Laferrière (he missed the plane from Montreal) but we did meet the diminutive filmmaker and author extraordinaire Khadija Al-Salami from the Yemen, (*Tears of Sheba*) whose searing documentaries expose the human rights abuses of young women in her country. We enjoyed a moonlit evening of storytelling under the coconut palms (swaying of course), with storytellers from Burkino Faso and the Congo. We were to have witnessed an evening of ‘slam’ poetry with local poets in the caves of the region, but a wedding party pipped us ... c’est la vie.

Every evening the long tables provided the perfect setting for (unremitting!) socialising. Every meal was a buffet that put on five kilos just to look ... prawns in pastis, local seared fish, duck à l’orange ... they had pear tart and crème caramel for breakfast! Luckily we had a regular morning rendezvous at 6.30 am to sprint the beach or power walk down quiet forest lanes before snorkeling in the sea and petit déjeuner on the deck.

Meeting up with Phil McLaren, indigenous writer from NSW was a treat, as his gregarious nature and propensity to invite everyone to the table led to many nights of convivial mingling. One evening Philip started off the storytelling with the ‘true’ history of his courtship with his wife (of some thirty years), Roslyn. No one at table could then escape. As complete strangers approached, they too had to tell and we ended up with a veritable anthology of love stories ... how fitting for a group of writers, storytelling, at a beach restaurant under the stars (lapping waves, palm leaves flapping) ...see what I mean about seduction? I’m told the storytelling merged into a song and guitar fest (featuring our Tahitian delegation) well into the wee hours.

At the farewell cocktail the hotel staff upturned bottles of rum and coconut cream into the bowls of milky Pina Colada, and we danced away half the evening before rejoining our convivial long tables to eat again! It was with a degree of nostalgia (or hangover?) that we departed Hienghène, each of us hoping to be invited to the next SILO in 2009.

That heady mix of stimulating, fun company, sensuous tropical warmth, and Pacific-time languor will stay with me for as long as I can ward off the tumble back into the real world. I have come back a devotee of some lesser known oceanic literature, and my eyes opened to the rich culture of the Pacific.

*JTG has written a junior novel, *Gone Fishing*, an adult novel *Ponciana* and edited an anthology, *Adopting: Parents’ Stories*. She is working (slowly) on her second novel with the help of a Australia Council Literature Board grant.*

