

A New Year, a New Focus ...

It's been an action-packed first month for me here at the Director's desk. While trying to meet as many of you as possible, I've been busy learning the myriad ties that bind the Centre and its members.

One of the key components that has kept us all bound together on the writing journey has been *Southern Write*, our monthly newsletter where we bring you Centre and member news, keep you up to date with opportunities for writers, publish member articles and publicise our upcoming program of events and workshops. In this edition we are announcing significant changes to *Southern Write*, including the change to quarterly editions from this issue, while strengthening our fortnightly e-news and online information services. This means you will receive four hardcopy newsletter per year: March, June, September and December.

All members will be aware of the financial difficulties the Centre faced last year. The response to the call for donations last year was overwhelming, and your generosity helped secure the Centre's future. Not all of you, however, may be aware of the structural changes to our funding arrangements, brought about by the Australia Council's decision to

fund a national body, Writing Australia, rather than individual state centres. Our involvement with Writing Australia is an exciting one, and in coming months we look forward to sharing many exciting projects and national opportunities this involvement will bring to South Australian writers.

These national funding changes have also brought about increased pressures on the Centre. We have had to look closely at all our programs and projects, and review where our resources are best directed, particularly in terms of member benefits.

The Centre's commitment is to bring the highest quality and most relevant information to our members in a format that is useful and timely, using the most effective platforms available. The online world brings us the capacity to talk to and engage with members in a whole new way. I encourage you to join us on facebook, to regularly visit our website, to subscribe to our fortnightly e-news bulletin, and for those so inclined, to give twitter a go. For those who don't yet engage with us online, this will be an excellent opportunity to do so and to be surprised at the amount of information you can now access through the Centre.

The Board and staff have worked

extremely hard to ensure a smooth transition to turn our monthly newsletter into a quarterly, and to refocus financial and staff resources into member activities and projects. You will see more events, forums and seminars, more opportunities for members to be published in our magazine, new projects and partnerships, and in coming months new professional development and networking opportunities for emerging writers. This will include a focus on the world of writing across different media and platforms, opening up knowledge for our members around issues of digital delivery and engaging readership.

We hope you will enjoy the new quarterly magazine and welcome your input. Malcolm Walker, our Communications Officer, talks you through the changes step-by-step on page three and is on hand to answer questions and queries.

We thank you for your support of the Centre and look forward to the new opportunities this change will bring to our organisation.

Sarah Tooth
Director

National Year of Reading – Our SA Winner



Congratulations to SA Writers' Centre member **Stephen Orr** on winning the SA section of the 2012 **National Year of Reading** Awards 'Our

Story' program with his book *Time's Long Ruin*.

Readers voted online or at their local library for the book they felt most represented our state, and *Time's Long Ruin*, inspired by the disappearance of

the Beaumont children, is one of eight books chosen to represent our nation.

The story is told from the point of view of a nine-year-old boy who lived next door to the children. It was one of seven books shortlisted by a committee of librarians.

The SA section of the **National Year of Reading** was launched in Rundle Mall on Tuesday 14 February. The Australia-wide program, run by public libraries, aims to encourage literacy in both adults and children.

Adelaide Festival Awards for Literature

Congratulations to members shortlisted in the **2012 Adelaide Festival Awards for Literature**. In the Young Adult Fiction Award: **D.M. Cornish**, *Monster Blood Tattoo Book Three: Factotum*; **Rosanne Hawke** for *Taj and the Great Camel Trek* and **Vikki Wakefield** for *All I Ever Wanted*; **Henry Aybee**, **Belinda Broughton**, **Rachael Mead**, **Mag Merilees** and **Rob Walker** for the Unpublished Manuscript Award; **David Sornig** and **Carol LeFevre** are the nominees for the Barbara Hanrahan Fellowship.

Centre Information

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

• **Tony Brooks**, *In Pursuit Of Love*, a collection of poems, illustrator Lyn Brooks, 2012.

• **Paul W. Cannell**, *The Longest Note*, vol.1, 2011.

• **Basil Corkin**, *So Swift the Years*, a collection of poems and short stories, 2011.

• **Ross M. Duffy**, *The Lottery of Life and Law*.

• **Buol Garang Anyieth Juuk**, *From Tyranny to Triumph*, 2011.

• **Douglas Kingston**, *Dyslexia Was Not in My Dictionary*.

• **Mike Lucas**, *Things and Other Stuff!* Ginger Cat Publishing, 2012.

• **Mike Riddle**, *Simon Said*, 2011.

• **Anna Solding**, *The Hum of Concrete*, 2012.

• **Writer's Friend**, iss. 145, Feb/Mar 2012.

June issue *Southern Write*
**Copy deadlines
are as follows:**

For fiction (750 words max.)
5pm, 30 April 2012

For commissioned articles
5pm, 15 May 2012

Email malcolm@sawriters.org.au
Post to: 'Attention Editor', PO Box 43,
Rundle Mall, Adelaide 5000.

For full details of these changes, please
go to the big grey box on page 5.

Life Members

- **Max Fatchen**
- **Gillian Rubinstein**
- **Sean Williams**

Our Thanks

Thanks to Connie M. Berg, Lyn Brooks, Betty Collins, Coie and John Dikkenberg, Barbara Fraser, John Gilbert, Joanna Goldsworthy, Gay Sanderson, Joel Shayer and Kate Wise for their assistance in mailing the February newsletter to all our members.

Disclaimer

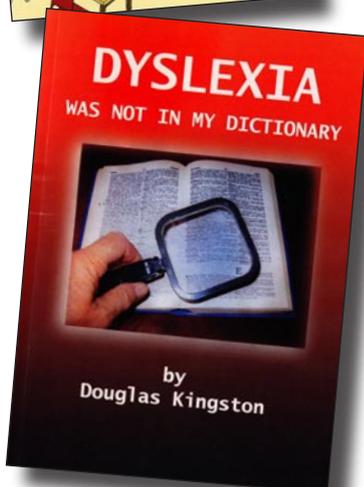
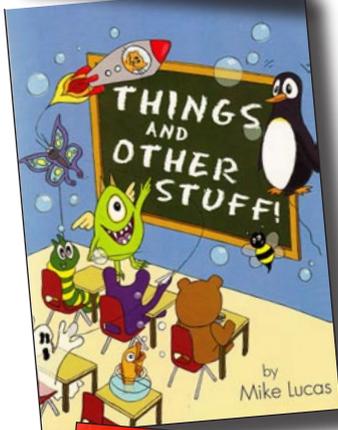
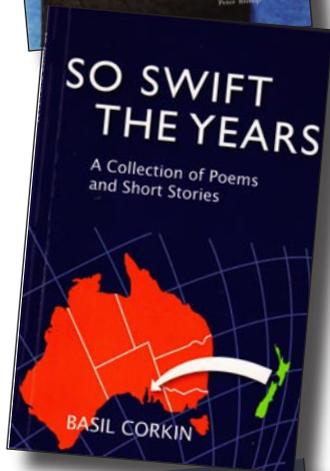
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Wheelchair/Lift Access to SAWC

Wheelchair access to the SA Writers' Centre is available at the 26 York Street rear entrance. Alternatively, come in from Rundle Street via Caffe Brunelli, proceed towards the toilets and take the door to your left at the end of the passage to reach the lift. SAWC events/workshops free for a carer or companion.



Thanks to SAWC sponsors:



Your New Look Newsletter

Southern Write Editor **Malcolm Walker** takes a look at some surprises in the new quarterly *Southern Write*.

Change always elicits questions, and with four editions annually – March, June, September and December – I’m sure you’ll be asking how is this quarterly going to work for you? What will *Southern Write* look like and how will it be different?

Now for the exciting bit! The most radical change is that this free space will allow us to publish some of your short fiction, something we’ve never done before. From June we will be accepting short fiction up to 750 words, with entries being judged by a panel comprised of staff and board members. We’re looking forward to reading members’ submissions. You will find the guidelines on page 5.

Our five pages of regular listings – ‘Book Donations’, ‘Competitions’, ‘Member Achievements’, ‘Opportunities’ and ‘What’s On’ – will move to the website. In fact, they’re already there. The new quarterly will also focus for more in-depth articles dedicated to the nuts-and-bolts of writing in all its many facets, together with other newsworthy items on the publishing industry. As we’ll have more space, we’re interested in hearing from you about what subjects you’d like to see us cover – or perhaps you’d like to write something. If you have any suggestions, please send a short email to malcolm@sawriters.org.au, outlining what you’re interested in.

The five regular listings were popular aspects of the old newsletter, but we’re not taking them away: we’re giving them a new lease of life. And there are benefits to moving these columns on to our website. Relocating ‘Competitions’ and ‘Opportunities’ means that updates will be weekly rather than monthly, giving members a timely heads-up for that competition or award. Each entry will have a direct link through to the organisers, so no more typos when transcribing long unwieldy URLs from printed page to keyboard.

As for the ‘Member Achievements’ page there are several benefits to moving across to the website that we could not deliver in the limited space a monthly magazine provides. Firstly, the website has roughly

3,500 visits per month, so regular inclusion of your achievements gives you an extra 2,500 potential readers. Secondly, entries can be slightly longer and can now include online publications and hyperlinks, so you can flag your podcast or publication in an online journal. Finally, you and your writing become ‘searchable’, giving much more exposure than in a print-based entry.

‘What’s On’ will continue to serve members in publicising book launches, events, meetings and groups, but will move across to our website, so these entries will reach a much larger audience. Most importantly we will be able to include clickable links to the original material or to your website or facebook page. To some extent this has already happened, with ‘Launches and Events’ functioning as a regularly updated web page.

We still want to acknowledge donations of books by South Australian authors. Having your donation listed on the website means it’s more visible and searchable, hopefully adding to the author’s web presence and book sales.

Updates will still arrive via regular e-bulletins, keeping you informed as to what’s hot and happening. These will come through to you fortnightly rather than monthly, ensuring that you’re getting the most up-to-date coverage of local, national and international writing and publishing industry news. You may have already noticed that we now have a smarter, more streamlined e-bulletin with hyperlinks that take you to directly to websites.

We’re committed to finding solutions that will work for our members. We encourage those of you who are not online to check out options at your local library. Librarians are familiar with online resources and can walk you through the basics of getting onto the web. Second-hand computers are not as expensive as you might think. In the box just opposite we’ve listed two organisations you can contact for inexpensive computer packages. If you’re not sure how to work with these changes you can ring us. We will also be providing some basic information sessions dealing with the web and online world (see box bottom page 5).

The publishing industry is undergoing massive change due to the rise of the ebook, and these days the thrust for membership organisations is towards greater online content with faster delivery of information and services. Even such venerable institutions as Adelaide Festival Writers’ Week are including more diverse content ... and if you’ve read their program you’ll see that they’ve included blogging, graphic novels, game writing journalism and screen writing. With more and more information going online these days, the SA Writers’ Centre aims to increase its web presence and avoid being left behind.

With less hard copy newsletters, we will save some trees and carbon footprints, and you’ll no longer need to worry about coffee stains all over those crisp white newsletter pages; misplacing that really important competition or opportunity will no longer matter – because at the click of your mouse you’ll have the information. The SA Writers’ Centre has always aimed to assist and connect writers, and we will continue to do so through our workshops, seminars, projects, festivals, networking evenings and one-on-one visits.

So stay tuned for our bumper June edition, and fortnightly e-bulletins. **Important:** if you’re **not** already receiving our e-bulletin you’ll need to email the Centre so that we can update your email address on our database. Please send it to admin@sawriters.org.au

For suggestions for articles please email malcolm@sawriters.org.au The SA Writers’ Centre website can be found at www.sawriters.org.au

Low Cost Computers!

If you need a computer you may be eligible for a low cost computer and training from one of the two organisations listed below

Aspitech: Call 8464 0766 for information or go to www.aspitech.com.au

Digital Depot – Anglicare: For further information call 8209 5403 or 8209 6600.

Upcoming Workshops

**Our NEW 3 month Workshop Program has arrived
... get your diary out and start planning now.**

APRIL

Travel, Write, Earn!

**with Paul Greenway
Saturday 21, 10am-1pm**

Tickets? Yep. Laptop? Of course. Income? Maybe ... This workshop will look realistically at ways to fund your love of travelling and writing – and how to avoid the pitfalls. We'll discuss pitching ideas, modern-day alternatives such as travel blogs and storing and sharing your precious photos – and, of course, tips about how to mould your story into something publishers really want.

Personal Story into Publishable Memoir

**with Dennis McIntosh
Saturday 21, 10am-1pm**

Take the journey with Dennis McIntosh, top shearer and best selling author of *Beaten By a Blow*, recently read – and re-read – on Radio National's First Person program. Develop your enthusiasm and commitment, work through a series of exercises and come out with a new set of tools, as you see how one man made it from digging ditches to published writer.

Poetry: Page and Stage with Mike Ladd

Saturday 21, 2pm-5pm

This workshop will help you develop your poetry into new areas. The first part will focus on writing and publishing poems for the page, the second part on how to develop poems for performance, video or YouTube. Bring a poem to perform if you wish. Concrete (shape) poems and other visual styles will be covered.

Crime Writing

**with Stephen Orr
Saturday 21, 2pm-5pm**

Crime has colonised the shelves and e-shelves of our collective imagination. Every year dozens of new releases invite readers to enter the world of bikies, paedophiles and plain brand murderers. This fascination with the dark side has developed into a mega-genre of commercial and literary fiction. So, why the fascination? Making Crime Pay will introduce writers to commercial crime writing, as well as exploring the world of fictional dead people. For short or long crime fiction.

MAY

Writing Inspiring Multi-Sensory Fiction

**with Jane Turner-Goldsmith
Saturday 19, 10am-1pm**

This workshop will highlight some of the findings from 'psychology and creative writing'. Research shows that writing has therapeutic benefits, through self-expression and coherent narrative. As a psychologist and published writer, Jane will share tips on positive psychology for writers, and on increasing your creativity and mindfulness.

Finding Your Characters

with Hannah Kent winner of Writing Australia

Unpublished Manuscript Award

Saturday 19, 10am-1pm

How do you make your characters convincing? How do you create a unique voice for your narrator or protagonist? You'll be introduced to a variety of strategies that can be used to create well-developed, complex characters. From

generating ideas and developing back-story, to practising a variety of techniques that can be used to avoid exposition, this workshop is for those who want to learn why some characters are more compelling than others.

The Beast Within and Without: Mythical Creatures in Fantasy

**with Ben Chandler
Saturday 19, 2pm-5pm**

The mythical beast is a prime metaphor, so it's not surprising that so many of them are found in contemporary fantasy. Their prevalence suggests some vital connection to the human subconscious. This workshop will give you a better understanding of how to tap into your inner beast and this age-old storytelling meme and exploit it in your fiction. For beginner or established fantasy writers.

Marketing Through Social Media with Malcolm Walker

Saturday 19, 2pm-5pm

These days social media plays a huge role in building your readership. Do you need a website or blog? Or facebook and Twitter? If so, you'll need strategies in place before your book hits the shelves. This workshop will help you sift through the options by highlighting the benefits and the drawbacks of social media.

JUNE

Short, Sharp, Shiny! Writing Short Film

**with Stephanie McCarthy
Saturday 16, 10am-1pm**

With a wealth of film experience, Steph McCarthy explores what makes a successful short. Forget those unfocused, dialogue-heavy self-indulgences that leave you

Cost: \$55 for SAWC members or \$77 for non-members

Bookings: 8223 7662, admin@sawriters.org.au

or www.sawriters.org.au

**Please ensure that before booking you
check the full details for these workshops at
www.sawriters.org.au**

Learn How To Use The Internet

Helping Hand Aged Care and Telstra are running workshops for older South Australians on how to use the internet: learn to email, tweet and use hash tags. For details call Helping Hand on 1300 653 600.

knowing you've just wasted precious time. All you'll need is the ability to think in pictures, a pen and notepad and you'll come away full of tips about putting your script into action. Two short screenings will highlight the triumph of image over dialogue.

Captivating First Chapters and the Driving Elements of Fiction with Carol Lefevre

Saturday 16, 10am-1pm

Have you ever written a story or laboured long over the early chapters of a novel, only to end up wondering why what you have written doesn't seem gripping? Your characters may be rounded and active, yet not all activity is action and not all action is dramatic. Regardless of genre, all fiction is driven by the same dramatic elements. This workshop will focus on these elements to help you create captivating beginnings.

Compiling a Cook Book with Liz Harfull

Saturday 16, 2pm-5pm

A significant proportion of books sold in Australia are cookbooks. But making sure your readers aren't disappointed with the end results is not as easy as it seems. This workshop will reveal how to write one that draws the reader in and leaves them confident try another of your recipes, whether for publication or simply to record precious family memories.

Writing Historical Fiction with Helen Halstead

Saturday 16, 2pm-5pm

So you're writing historical fiction and want to lend your novel authenticity ... but still need to appeal to modern readers? Find out about research and how to adapt your characters' speech and behaviour to suit the era without boring slabs of exposition. This workshop will show you how dialogue and action can help aid historical accuracy and plausibility and hook your readers.

Submissions Wanted

Fiction Submissions:

- must be 750 words maximum
- double-spaced times New Roman 12 pt font
- by electronic submission only to malcolm@sawriters.org.au
- must not be published elsewhere, in print or online
- there are no restrictions around content or genre
- you must be a financial member of SAWC
- no individual feedback on submissions will be given
- only one entry per member per submission round
- selection will be made by representatives of SAWC staff and board
- all copyright remains with author
- submission deadline for this round is **30 April, 2012**

Nonfiction Submissions:

- members must submit a 200 word outline and 50 word bio to malcolm@sawriters.org.au prior to submission
- submissions may be made at any time
- commissioned articles must be received before the deadline
- final piece can be no more than 2000 words maximum (articles of 900, 1400 and 2000 words are preferred)
- double-spaced times New Roman 12 pt font
- electronic submission only to malcolm@sawriters.org.au
- you must be a financial member of SAWC
- no individual feedback on submissions will be given
- the SAWC welcomes articles on the craft of writing, interviews and industry issues; however, priority will be given to submissions that engage with issues of interest to our membership
- the SAWC does **not** publish reviews
- selection will be made by representatives of SAWC staff and board
- all copyright remains with author

Calling All Regional Members!

The SAWC is currently reviewing how we can best provide services to you, particularly through providing online workshops and distance mentoring and manuscript appraisal. We're interested in hearing what you need most. Please email admin@sawriters.org.au with the subject heading REGIONAL MEMBER and give us your feedback, thoughts and ideas.

SAWC Website Free Information Session

Malcolm Walker will provide a free information session on navigating the SA Writers' Centre website to reduce your search time and increase your enjoyment of what's available. Come to the SAWC on **Wednesday 21 March** from 3-5pm.

What's On



Poetica March Program

Poetica is presented by Sarah Kanowski and Daniel Browning on Saturday at 3.05pm, repeated 9.05pm on Wednesday.

- 3 Mar Dransfield – David Tredinnick reads the poems of Michael Dransfield.
- 10 Mar Jennifer Maiden – selected works from Jennifer Maiden's *Pirate Rain*.
- 17 Mar e.e.cummings – poetry and prose by the influential modernist poet.
- 24 Mar *The Taste of River Water* – Cate Kennedy reads from her latest book.
- 31 Mar Raul Zurita – a feature on Chile's leading contemporary poet

More at: www.abc.net.au/rn/arts/poetica/

Once a Month: Emerging Writers

Are you an emerging writer (20-30 and writing with a view to publication) looking to share feedback and develop work? Adelaide Emerging Writers' Group meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Carelew. For details contact convenor Ben Mylius at ben.mylus@gmail.com or phone 0434 082 043.

Get Acknowledged With a Spoke

You can donate money to support the SPOKE Festival at <http://www.pozible.com.au/index.php/archive/index/4524/description/o/o> and receive a 'spoke' on their Wheel of Honour. The Wheel lists all sponsors who support the event.

Sat 3 - Fri 9 Mar: Choose Your Own Adventure In the CBD

Adelaide is hosting a physical 'choose your own adventure' story around the CBD using QR codes. Free: win prizes. Scan the QR codes with your smart phone. Start at Dymocks, Rundle Mall. Details: [facebook.com/AdelaideAdventure?sk=wall](https://www.facebook.com/AdelaideAdventure?sk=wall).

Sat 3 Mar: Book Launch

MidnightSun Publishing proudly presents *The Hum of Concrete*, an evocative novel by new writer Anna Solding. Highly esteemed author Sean Williams will launch *The Hum*

of Concrete at Adelaide Writers' Week, Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden at 5pm sharp. Join in and raise a complimentary glass to celebrate.

Sun 4 Mar: Book Launch

Karrawirra Parri: Walking the Torrens from Source to Sea by Mike Ladd, with photographs by Cathy Brooks and published by Wakefield Press, will be launched 5pm at Writer's Week. All welcome.

Tue 6 Mar: Book Launch

Thirty Days' Notice by Cath Kenneally and published by Wakefield Press, will be launched 5pm at Writer's Week. All welcome. Please RSVP by Thursday 1 March via phone 8362 8800 or email charlotte@wakefieldpress.com.au with 'RSVP Thirty' in the subject line.

Wed 7 Mar: Book Launch

Outside the Magic Square: A Handbook for Food Security by Lolo Houbein and published by Wakefield Press, will be launched 5pm at Writer's Week. All welcome.

Wed 7 Mar: Book Launch

Rosanne Hawke's novel *The Messenger Bird* will be launched by Amy T. Matthews in the Ira Raymond Room, Barr Smith Library, University of Adelaide at 6 pm.

Sun 11 Mar: Hills Poets

The next meeting of Hills Poets will be at 3.30 pm at Crafers Inn. Gold coin donation. Please ring Jill Gower on 8339 5119 for any other information you may require.

Wed 14 Mar: WTF!# What the font R U?

A SPOKE Fringe Word Festival panel discussion on how engagement with reading and writing is affected by the chosen font and characters of this silicon age. From 2-3.30pm at the SA Writers' Centre. Details in the Events section of www.facebook.com/spokefestival

Sun 25 Mar: Book Launch

Relay, an anthology of short stories and poems by Marion Writers Inc., will be launched by Sue Fleming 3-5pm at

Cooinda Neighbourhood Centre, 245 Sturt Road, Sturt. Books will be on sale and refreshments will be served. All welcome. Inquiries and bookings by email: jenswrite@hotmail.com

Tue 17 Apr: Blogging Workshop

A free workshop about communicating on the internet, brought to you by the SA Writers' Centre, the Mental Health Coalition of SA, the Media Resource Centre and mindshare. At the SAWC at 6.30pm. Speakers: Louise Pascale, Jane Howard, Sarah K. Reece, Stephen West and Jude Aquilina. Light refreshments – all welcome.

Sun 22 Apr: Book Launch

SAWC members and friends are invited to the launch of *Thread me a button*, by Jude Aquilina and Joan Fenney. Professor Kay Lawrence will launch this Ginninderra Press poetry collection at 2pm at the SA Writers' Centre. All welcome. Refreshments provided.

Early Evening Events

The Centre is kicking off a series of monthly early evening events, to provide an forum for writers to present works and discuss ideas, as well as providing an informal networking opportunity.

We've already kicked off the series with VERSIFY, which will be a regular spoken word event.

We will also be hosting forums, panel sessions, readings, film screenings, monologues, review evenings and more. All details will be in our fortnightly e-news and on our website.

If you have an idea or would like to contribute to this series, please contact us on admin@sawriters.org.au

Writing at Varuna

Bo Henley looks at how residencies can help get your project up and running and on to another level.

Four months on, and I still can't quite believe I was one of eight bright-eyed emerging authors selected to take part in Crime Writing Week 2011 at Katoomba's writing mecca: Varuna, the Writers' House. Wow!

Let me explain. Varuna offered a one-week residency of intensive professional development for unpublished authors of crime novels. Those chosen would work in consultation with established crime and literary author Marele Day with the aim of developing the author's manuscript to the next level. Applicants sent in a pitch for their novel, a short bio and the first fifty pages of the manuscript.

I arrived at Katoomba loaded with computer, pens, paper and a bucket of enthusiasm. I'd just completed the third draft of my novel, 'The Fatal Span', and couldn't wait to improve under Marele's guidance. So how did it work? Marele allocated two group sessions and two one-on-one sessions over the first five days. Joining me were Tamara Pratt from Queensland, and Catherine Lee and Ben Pratt from New South Wales. Our first group session critiquing each other's work produced some entertaining and insightful ideas, suggestions and comments from all of us, and thankfully my colleagues detected those idiot errors I missed – even when reading it out loud!

The following day we each had our first one-on-one manuscript critique with Marele. After discussing the premise, story and character arcs of the novel, Marele suggested I could improve the escalation of tension by 'feeding threads of (subplot) information' through my first ten chapters. From her local knowledge of what Sydneysiders would or would not accept as plausible, she also recommended I set the story a few years in the future and relocate the bridge. Simple! Not quite. How do you relocate a bridge when you've set the story around it? Bridges are kind've big, especially when the antagonist's history is woven into the same area. Well, it was time to put that science and navigation background to some practical use. Out came the paper maps, the Google maps, the map scales and calculator, and a scrawled

plan for hiking new suburbs on my return to Sydney.

The verdict: yes, it could be done – provided I repositioned the bridge a small distance to the east, lengthened the bridge spans and extended the feeder roads further to the north and south. Wouldn't the locals get a surprise in the morning? But with fictional bridges you can do that. And it had its advantages. It brought the bridge closer to a local landmark central to the third book in the series, 'Black Kite', and the bridge's physical presence proved 'less disruptive' to the local residents and therefore a less irksome read for Sydneysiders. In the end, it proved tough only to my brain – I'd grown rather fond of disrupting Birchgrove and Balmain!

'Feeding the thread' proved more difficult than I'd anticipated. It took some time to allocate the first hint of one particular subplot to the right scene, then to decide which subsequent scenes and chapters I'd use to expand the thread. As with all editing, I tossed pieces back and forth until I believed I had a more interesting mix of the subplot clues. Phew!

But Varuna's not about working on two changes to a manuscript. To keep my brain firing, I intensified the motivations of the three central characters, restructured two of the early chapters, amended the opening and catharsis sections to include the new location changes and accentuated how the overall theme affected the major players.

The extent of the group's improvement was evident by Friday's second group critique session, and reiterated by Marele's discerning and instructive comments as well as her generous praise. And yes, my efforts to build tension in the subplot earned a compliment from the great lady. I felt ten metres tall!

So how did Varuna make a difference? Two words – belief, inspiration. For the first time, I truly believed I could achieve my writing goals, a big change from my half-hearted, 'Yes, I can do this.' Now it's: 'I can see where I want to go, I can see how to get there, and I'll do whatever it takes to achieve my goals.'



From that week at Varuna, I was inspired to work even harder on the manuscripts and short stories, to enter more competitions – even if only for the achievement and the discipline that entails, to actively hone down that elusive 'elevator pitch', and to develop my book proposals.

So, did I overcome my usual procrastination ploys and achieve this? Yes. And it feels so good saying that. I made re-editing the manuscript by November 2011 a priority so I could forward it to the Minotaur/MWA First Crime Novel competition. It's in – at last! After that, I reworked the synopses for 'The Fatal Span', plus a second (unrelated) story, 'The Isthmus', and packed the two off to the CWA's Debut Dagger competition.

Over the Christmas break, I planned one small achievable project a week (or else no Charlesworth's chocolate raspberries). Top of the list: my much-promised outlines for the second and third books that follow 'The Fatal Span' – 'Hell's Bells' and 'Black Kite' – in the now renamed Max Murdoch Series. After swapping around a few subplots and a couple of the characters, I now have two vastly improved story arcs and, yes, two satisfying outlines. I'll commence expanding those chapters in late April.

Currently, I'm completing the first draft of 'The Isthmus', a whodunit set on the west coast of the UK in 1878 on, you guessed it, a dark and stormy night, and have two other short stories in the outlining stage. As a follow-up to last year's A Decent Proposal workshop at SAWC, I've enrolled in an online course through AWM Online to develop my book proposal. I intend to get published, and I'll learn all I can to make sure I get there.

this article continues overleaf

... continued from page 7

One other thing I've learned is to promote myself as a brand, and by that I mean promotion across the various social networks.

While at Varuna, I scribbled a daily blog about life, writing and everything. You can check it out on my website <http://www.bohenley.com> under Bo's Blog. It's a fun account of my stay, and you'll quickly notice two of my other passions: bushwalking (to clear my head – so I can refill it with more story ideas) and feathered bird-watching.

Oh, and there might be the casual mention of the Katoomba azaleas, the Blue Mountains, Sydney, bridges, old power stations, steam trains, hot chocolate at the Guylian Cafe in George Street – and how much I missed Pappadino's restaurant in Katoomba which was damaged by fire early last year. I really hope it's rebuilt by

the time I return; their lasagne is to write murders for. Next up: facebook.

I couldn't write about Varuna and not mention the wonderful Varuna staff: Lis, Vera, Kathy, Rod, Joan and the unforgettable Sheila – you made us so welcome, assisted and supported us so much – I thank you.

I would like to thank Arts SA for the opportunity to attend Crime Writing Week and am grateful for the IMP Grant that funded my travel expenses.

For me, Varuna wasn't just about the writing: It was about new friendships, camaraderie, sharing struggles, laughter, advice, suggestions, networking, keeping in contact, learning from Marele, liaising with the wonderful Varuna staff – and my early morning hikes along the Prince Henry Walk to Echo Point – to view one of the most awe-inspiring vistas nature can offer.

Now that's an inspiration to write.

Don't Forget Our Website

As we're going quarterly you'll now find our information pages on the website. On our homepage at www.sawriters.org.au under the drop down menu 'What's On' you'll find 'Launches, Events, Meetings', 'Opportunities and Competitions Listing'. You'll also find our Workshops and Seminars there. Under the 'Members' drop down menu you'll find 'Book Donations' and 'Member Achievements'.

We've also got a 'Groups' page. If you're interested in talking to fellow writers, then joining one of the listed groups is a fun and productive way to make the most of the writing experience by sharing the ups and downs, the challenges and delights with others of a like mind.

Romance Writers Report: A Review

Mark Caldicott takes a look at what this recently donated monthly publication has to offer Romance Writers.

The *Romance Writers Report* is a premium-quality, nationally- and internationally-distributed monthly publication by the America-wide non-profit organisation, Romance Writers of America. A number of copies of this journal have recently been donated to the South Australian Writers' Centre by South Australian Romance Writer, Lucy Clark.

A combination of news, regular columns and specialist articles, *RWR* is an invaluable resource for both aspiring and published romance writers. A monthly Department and RWA Information/Focus section in the opening pages of each issue presents news on such matters as new romance authors' first sales, agent updates, romance writing contests, romance fiction conventions and conferences as well as an editorial from the RWA President and letters from *RWR* readers and information on advertising in the *RWR*. The magazine's monthly columns include interviews with prominent romance writers on the

writing craft, participation in online writing workshops and other invaluable romance writer community matters such as industry-professional interviews and author-networking.

The varied and authoritative selection of feature articles which make up the main body of each issue of *RWR* are especially impressive. Focusing upon broad-spectrum issues such as romance-writer mentoring, self-publishing, teaching yourself to write a novel, tips on writing category romance, the basics of author branding and the importance of reading romance classics (i.e. Jane Austen and Charlotte and Emily Bronte), not-to-mention crucial bread-and-butter issues such as author copyright and insurance issues for the self-employed, the breadth and depth of the articles is not inconsiderable. There are many contributions from professional romance writers, across a broad spectrum of romance fiction sub-genres, ranging from the more widely-known and read

'mainstream' contemporary and historical romance categories genres to the more 'specialist' category-genres such as those of 'Erotic', 'Paranormal', 'Futuristic' and 'Suspense-Adventure' romance fiction.

Extensively complimented with photographs, new fiction and workshop and convention advertisements (and a detailed monthly workshop, contest and convention section), the value of the *RWR* as a tool for both aspiring and published writers of romance fiction is substantial. *RWR* not only endeavours to demonstrate that there exists a prominent community of romance writers, but seeks to actively promote and publicise this community and actively include both the aspiring and published romance writer (as well as the *RWR* reader) as a participant in this community. The donated selection of the *RWR* is about to be accessioned as part of the journal collection at the Writers' Centre. Visitors to the SAWC will very shortly be able to readily peruse this selection.

Opportunities

Australian Film Festival 2012

A competition for film scripts up to 15 minutes. 1st prize \$1,000. Details and entry at www.australianfilmfestival.com.au/

Bursaries to attend NonfictionNow

NonfictionNow offers three days of panels, screenings and events about nonfiction at RMIT in Melbourne in November. Copyright Agency Limited and NonfictionNow 2012 have a limited number of bursaries to enable independent Australian writers and journalists to participate. Details and applications at www.rmit.edu.au/nfn2012

Poetrix Magazine

The closing date for submissions to Issue 38 is **15 March** 2012. Seeking great original poems by Australian women on any theme or topic. Submit up to 6 poems with SSAE to: P.O. Box 532, Altona North VIC 3025. More info at <http://www.sherrylclark.com/poetrix.htm>

Victorian State Library Fellowships

The 2010-11 Creative Fellowships are for periods of three, six and twelve months. Grants range from \$12,500 for three months to \$50,000 for 12 months. Application forms are available from the State Library website at slv.vic.gov.au/research

Arts SA Funding Round

The 2012 Arts SA funding deadline for various categories, including the **Independent Makers & Presenters: Individual Development** is **5pm Friday 16 March**. Download the funding handbook at <http://www.arts.sa.gov.au/site/page.cfm?u=456>

Call for Scripts

The Film & TV Department of Adelaide College of the ARTS is seeking Short Film Scripts for production by students in late 2012. Script submission by email due Friday **2 March**. Details at <http://bit.ly/sD9z3Z>

Cancer Council Victoria's Arts Awards Program 2012

Share your cancer experience. Theme: strength. Short story, poetry, youth and children's writing and other categories. Details at www.artsawards.com.au

CAL 2012 Seminar Program

From 26-29 March in Function Room 2, Art Gallery of SA, North Terrace. Copyright Essentials; Clearing Copyright Material; Websites, Blogs & Social Media and Doing Business Online. All sessions \$125. Details at: www.copyright.org.au/seminars

The Novella Project

A collaboration between *GriffithREVIEW* and CAL, the Project will publish up to three novellas, the authors of which will share in a prize pool of \$30,000. The novellas selected will be published in *The GriffithREVIEW*, as well as individually in electronic format. Closes **26 April**. Full details at the website.

Ashton Wylie Unpublished Manuscript Award

This \$10 000 award rewards excellence in the mind, body, spirit genre. Entries close **31 March**. Full details at <http://www.authors.org.nz/>

Editor wanted

Help required to edit five short stories (80 pages), written by a someone whose first language is not English. Payment offered. Contact Robert 8355 5032.

Literature Board – Grants

Staff from the Literature Board of the Australia Council will be available on Wednesday **7 March** to discuss possible grant applications. Check your eligibility at www.australiacouncil.gov.au/artforms/literature and phone 8223 7662 to book.

PLR and ELR Payments

Public Lending Right and Education Lending Right programs make payments to Australian creators and publishers in recognition that income is lost through free multiple use of their books in lending libraries. The closing date is **31 March**. See: <http://www.arts.gov.au/funding-support/lending-rights> Email: plr.mail@pmc.gov.au

Ecopoetry Submissions Wanted

In November Two Ravens Press will publish an ecopoetry anthology, addressing the relationship between people and the natural world. Deadline **31 March**. See www.tworavenspress.com for more information.

Expressions of Interest: Register of Consultants for IAD Press

IAD Press is establishing a register of consultants experienced in traditional and electronic publishing to work with them. Send your details to: press.manager@iad.edu.au. Phone Tony Duke for details on 0429 848 236 and see www.iadpress.com

VIM Journal seeks submissions

This is a new Melbourne literary journal with a focus on all things 'good'. Submissions close **31 March**. Full details at <http://vimjournal.com>

Voiceless Writing Prize

Focus on the relationship between humans and animals. Fiction and nonfiction pieces of 5-10,000 words. 1st prize \$15,000 and a People's Choice prize of \$5,000. If published in the collected works you will receive \$500. Entries close on **16 March** 2012. Details at voiceless.org.au

Writer Required

Writer wanted to assist in the completion of a true story set in Germany in WWII, regarding Ludwig Roselius, Adolf Hitler and a family member. For more information, contact Lou 0424 354 727 or email: 11e715d3i2g@yahoo.com.au

ABR Patrons' Fellowship

The *Australian Book Review* seeks applications for the Patrons' Fellowship. The scheme rewards outstanding Australian writers and advances the magazine's commitment to critical debates and literary values. A substantial nonfiction article with an Asian focus, either a profile of a major Asian literary/cultural figure or a discursive essay with Asian literary/cultural themes, is sought. The Fellowship is worth \$5000. Closes **20 March, 2012**.

Speculative Fiction: a New Ebook Publisher

Hague Publishing is seeking submissions from Australian and New Zealand authors. Find guidelines and access to the online submission system at www.haguepublishing.com.

Opportunities ...

continues on page 11

Apologies to **Margot Albrecht** for misspelling her name in the February edition of *Southern Write*.

Karin Anderson's poems 'Reflections' and 'My Daughter aged 16' appeared in *Positive Words* in November 2011, 'Dawn Chorus' in December 2011 and 'A Wishing Well' in January 2012. Her two poems 'Because of You', one a tri-Fall poem and one a wrapped refrain, were published in *Free Expressions*, February 2012.

Edoardo Crismani had two short stories, 'Once were Warriors' and '440' published in *Southerly* vol. 71, no. 2.

Katrina Germein has two poems accepted for a SA children's anthology called *Tadpoles in the Torrens*, to be edited by Jude Aquilina and published by Wakefield Press.

Jill Gower recently had a haibun, a tanka and a haiku published in *Haiku Bindii Journeys*. and a tanka in the anthology *Food for Thought*. Her poems 'The Duke of York', 'Mangroves of Port Adelaide', 'Tidal Reach' and 'Old Customs House' were published in the anthology *The Heart of Port Adelaide* and three poems 'Dance of Autumn', 'Days of Gold' and 'Le Stanze' were in *Gawler Poetry Reader No 5, Poets at the Pub*.

Shelda Rathmann's poem, 'Wake Up Call' was published in *The Mozzie* in October and 'Birkenhead Bungalow' was runner-up in the UK magazine, *Writers' Forum* Poetry Competition.

Alice Shore's poem, 'We Are Only Sheep', was published in *The Ark*, no. 220, the Journal of Catholic Concern for Animals. Another three of her poems were published in the 2011 *Poets in the Pub* anthology and another four in the Ginninderra Press anthology *The Heart of Port Adelaide*.

Ann Tregenza's *The Calling of Pelican Cate: A Lake Eyre Story* for children and adults young of heart, first published by Little Red Apple Publishing, 2011.

Zenda Vecchio's poem 'After Surgery' was published in *Positive Words* in December and 'Kathleen: Royal Adelaide Hospital' appeared in *The Mozzie* vol. 19, iss. 10. Her short story 'Kewpie Doll' was published in *Tamba*, iss. 49.

Marion Writers Inc's first anthology *Relay* has been published with the assistance of a Community Grant from the City of Marion.

Ashley Mallett's fiction piece 'Bradman V Warne' was published in a double page spread in *The Age*, 21 January 2012.

Janeen Samuel won First Prizes with two poems in, respectively, the King Island Literary Competition and the CJ Dennis Literary Awards in 2011. She won First Prize in the Stringybark Speculative Fiction Award with her story, 'A Visit From the Duchess', which was subsequently published in the anthology of that name. Another story won both a Third Prize and the Tanilba House Award in the *Port Stephens Examiner* Literary Awards. She had a nonfiction piece published in *The Write Angle* and a short story published in *Award Winning Australian Writing 2011*.

Valerie Volk's short story, 'New World', was shortlisted in the 2011 Stringybark Awards and published in their recent collection, *Marngrook*, while her poem, 'Giraffes', was shortlisted in the *page seventeen* competition and published in iss. 9. She had four poems included in the Ginninderra Press anthology, *The Heart of Port Adelaide*: 'At the Maritime Museum'; 'Wool Stores Lament'; 'Times Change' and 'Menace'. Valerie's short story 'The Homecoming' won third place in the Writing to Inspire contest, and her story 'Damaged' was shortlisted in the *Positive Words* end-of-year competition. Valerie's poem 'Melaka' was published in *The Write Angle*, no. 38, and 'Lessen?' in *The Mozzie*, vol.19, no.10. Her third collection of poems, *Even Grimmer Tales*, was shortlisted and won second commended in the recent IP Picks (Interactive Publishing) competition.

Rob Walker had two poems, 'meeting Self Doubt' and 'Downs ballet dancer in the bus station', published in Adelaide's *Finger* magazine and another, 'watching my blind cat' appeared in *The Cortland Review* (US). His poetry collection 'Tropeland' was shortlisted for the Adelaide Festival Awards for Literature – Unpublished Manuscript Section.

Annette Wickes has a story, 'Seasick Boy' in *Blast Off* (School Magazine), February.

Lyn Williams's poem 'Black Spider' appeared in *FreeXpresSion*, September 2011 and two haiku in October, 2011. The poem 'Tatterdemalion' was published in *Positive Words*, August 2011. The very short story 'Dog Count' was placed second in *Positive Words' 2011* End of Year competition and published in *Positive Words*, January, 2012.

Linda Wyrill's poem 'Eiffel Tower at Midnight' was published in iss. 49 of *Tamba*, her article 'Why Write?' appeared in *Pass It On* in January and her story 'Mad March' was featured in the February edition of *Adelaide's Child* magazine.

Writing Australia

In 2012, Writing Australia will be rolling out a number of projects, including the second annual Unpublished Manuscript Award.

Writing Australia will soon launch an exciting new National Residencies Project. This will be a great opportunity for South Australian writers. For full details in coming months keep an eye on the SAWC website, on our e-bulletin and on the Writing Australia website.

Also confirmed are writers visiting Adelaide as part of the Writing Australia National Touring Circuit. We are delighted to announce that **Andrea Goldsmith**, **Cate Kennedy** and **P. D. Martin** will all be conducting full day workshops at the SAWC in the second half of the year. Details will be online and in our June newsletter.

Mar 13: Castaways Poetry Competition ☺●

1st prize \$250 + 2 copies of the Castaways 2012 catalogue and two commended prizes \$100. Up to 3 poems, no more than 24 lines each. Details at <http://www.rockingham.wa.gov.au/Events/Castaways-Poetry-Competition.aspx>

Apr 27: Campbelltown 2012 Literary Awards ☺★●

Five categories according to age, ranging from 7 to 60+ years. First prizes range from \$500 to \$75, with silver and bronze prizes valued at between \$300 to \$25. Entries must not exceed 2500 words and must have a connection to Campbelltown. For more information and entry forms go www.campbelltown.sa.gov.au and click on 'Recreation'.

Apr 27: Common Thread Short Story Competition ☺●

For stories between 3000-5000 words, with an optional feedback report. 1st prize \$500, 2nd prize \$200. Entry fee \$10. Guidelines, conditions and entry forms at www.pippakay.com.

Apr 27: Raspberry & Vine ☺★●

Works of fiction up to 4000 words of any genre. The competition is open to anyone, and students will receive a 20% discount. 1st prize \$300. For student discount a photocopy of student's ID card or completion certificate is required with the entry. Guidelines and forms: www.raspberryandvine.com.au

Apr 30: Best of Times Competition ☺★●

Humorous short stories up to 2500 words. 1st prize \$200, 2nd \$50. No entry form required. Include a cover sheet with your name and address, title and word count. Entry \$6 per story. Cheques/money orders to Chris Broadribb. Post your entry to Chris Broadribb, PO Box 55, Blaxcell NSW 2142 with a large SSAE for return of your story and a results sheet. Details: http://spiky_one.tripod.com/comp13.html

May 3: Annual Queensland Day Writing Competition ☺●

Short story up to 1000 words. 1st prize \$150, 2nd \$75, 3rd \$50. Entry \$5. Details at www.herveybayartscouncil.com.au

May 7: Alan Marshall Short Story Award 2012 ☺★●

Open Section with a \$2000 1st prize and \$1000 2nd prize for stories up to 2500 words. Young Writers' Section with a \$400 prize for a story up to 1000 words by a writer aged between 15-19 years. Details and entry form from www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au

May 31: Young Writers Award 2012 ☺★●

Students from Reception to Year 12 are invited to submit an original piece of poetry or prose to win prizes and receive certificates for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in each group. Special prizes for Young Writer of the Year and Editor's Choice

awards, and the 1st place winner of Group 6 receives the Elizabeth Butler Award. For full details and forms go to <http://www.saeta.org.au/>

Nov 11 2013: 100 Years From Gallipoli Poetry Project ☺●

New poems written between 11 November 2011 and 11 November 2013, may be entered. Entry fee \$20. Topic: 'What does ANZAC Day mean to you, to today's families, communities or nations?' Winners are published and share a prize pool of \$5,000. Details at www.ozzywriters.com

Please note: competitions are listed in order of closing date

Key

- ☺ competition listed for the first time
- ★ competition with sections for young writers
- ☞ SA Writers' Centre holds the entry forms
- the entry form is available on the Internet

Entry Forms: ☞ Entry forms 20c each or send one business-sized stamped self-addressed envelope, plus one loose 60c stamp for every TWO competitions.

Opportunities

...cont. from page 9

New Publishing Opportunity

Disposable Fiction is a new creative micro publishing company based in the Adelaide Hills. For submission details and their competition, please go to www.disposablefiction.com.au

Carclew Grants

Applications are open in the 2012 Project and Development Grants for ages 26 and under. The first round closes at 5pm on **March 15**, 2012 for activity from 1 July-31 December. Details at www.carclew.org.au

Aesthetica Creative Writing Competition

Poetry and short fiction. 1st prize both categories £500, publication in the *Aesthetica Creative Writing Annual* and a complimentary copy plus a selection of books. Entry fee £10. Entries close **31 August**. See: www.aestheticamagazine.com/submission_guide.htm

British Australian Community Literary Prize

Open to all citizens and permanent residents of Australia, this prize will be awarded to an original, unpublished essay on the theme

of the positive heritage of British culture in Australia. Word limit 8000. Entries close **30 April**. For more details visit <http://www.britishaustraliancommunity.com/wp/british-australian-community-literary-award>

New Small Publisher

Rough Draft is now accepting manuscripts for consideration for publication in 2012. Details at: www.roughdraft.com.au

ABC Fiction Podcast

ABC's new Fiction Podcast is where authors and audio producers get together to produce new audio stories. Go to www.abc.net.au/pool for more details.

Indigenous Writer and Illustrator Project: Big Book Club Inc

For Indigenous writers and illustrators aged 18 and older to work with a mentor on a picture book for children up to age 5. Details at thelittlebigbookclub.com.au/programs

Membership Application Form

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

Name/Organisation

Address

Suburb/Town

Postcode

Telephone..... Fax Email

\$127 organisation with use of facilities (inc GST)

\$90 organisation (inc GST)

\$66 individual (inc GST)

\$39 student/healthcare cardholder (inc GST)

\$15 youth (under 18) (inc GST)

Renew

New

Concession number

Date of birth/...../.....

Method of payment: Cheque/money order attached

Bankcard

Mastercard Visa

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

Cardholder's nameCardholder's signature Date of application

(Please enclose a SSAE [A4 envelope only] for return of receipt and membership card. If a tax invoice is required, please tick)

[FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: Rec No:Rec Date:On database:

If undelivered please return to:

SA Writers' Centre Inc

PO Box 43

Rundle Mall SA 5000

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**Southern Write
March 2012**

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SA Writers' Centre Inc

Fostering, developing and promoting South Australian writers and writing.

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Caffe Brunelli



The SA Writers' Centre is a member of Writing Australia



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Arts SA



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