

southern

write

Newsletter of the SA Writers' Centre Inc

May 2009

Renowned Writers Visiting SA

Thanks to various partnerships with other organisations, the SA Writers' Centre is excited to be able to bring nationally and internationally renowned writers and publishers to South Australia this year.

In August **Thomas Keneally** will be appearing at the Salisbury Writers' Festival, along with his publisher **Meredith Curnow** from Random House and agent **Fiona Inglis** from Curtis Brown. Thomas



Keneally is the award-winning author of twenty-six works of fiction and eight works of nonfiction. He has been shortlisted for the Booker Prize on four occasions, winning it in 1982 with *Schindler's Ark* (Hodder & Stoughton, Australia, 1994), which was later adapted into the film *Schindler's List* by Steven Spielberg.

Also appearing at the Salisbury Writers' Festival will be **Olive Senior**, a Jamaican now living in Toronto, Canada. Her book *Summer Lightning*



won the Commonwealth Writers' Prize and *Over the Roofs of the World* was shortlisted for Canada's Governor-General's Award for poetry. She has written several books on Caribbean culture including *The Encyclopedia of Jamaican Heritage*.

At the South Australian Writers' Festival at Wirra Wirra Vineyards in September crime writer **Jennifer Rowe** (who also writes children's books as **Emily Rodda**) will be appearing. She is well known for the children's fantasy *The Key to Rondo*, the *Deltora Quest* series, the *Rowan of Rin* series and *Pigs Might Fly*.

In October US based **Neal Porter**, Editorial Director of Neal Porter Books, Roaring Brook Press will be visiting as part of The Society of Editors' national conference. He will be the keynote speaker and chair a 'Meet the Publishers' session. His publishing house gained the 2003 and 2004 Caldecott awards for Eric Rohmann's *My Friend Rabbit* and Mordicai Gerstein's *The Man Who Walked Between the Towers*.

Thanks to all our partners for making these visits possible:



City of
Onkaparinga



The Dreaming Tent



During Reconciliation Week (27 May to 3 June) Reconciliation South Australia will present The Dreaming Tent, a new initiative to showcase the depth and diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. Between 10am and 4pm on **Friday 29 May** The Dreaming Tent at the South Australian Museum will present

Dreaming stories, storytelling, songs and readings by Aboriginal authors.

One of the highlights of the Program will be 'Black words; white spaces', a panel discussion on Aboriginal culture in literature: who can write about it and what are the cultural protocols?

Panelists include Christobel Mattingley, author of *Maralinga: the Anangu Story* (Allen & Unwin, 2009) and Jared Thomas, accomplished writer and lecturer. 'Black words; white spaces' is a free event from 12.30-1.30pm at The Dreaming Tent but bookings are recommended to: reconciliationsa@yahoo.com.au.

Stop Press: Board Nominations

It seems we were a little too enthusiastic in regards to the cut-off date for nominations to the SA Writers' Centre Board. According to the current constitution, nominations must remain open until 14 days before the Annual General Meeting.

So far we already have five nominations but, if you are keen, nominations now remain open until **Tuesday 12 May 2009**. Nominations must be made in writing and those nominating must be financial members.

Centre Information

Contributions

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

- **Frank Gemgnani**, *My Way: 4101-4200*, February, 2009.
- **Ginninderra Press** for: *'How Did the Fire Know We Lived Here?' Canberra's Bush Fires January 2003*, compiled by Stephen Matthews, 2003.
- **Gay Lynch**, *Cleanskin*, Wakefield Press, 2006.
- **The Mozzie**, vol. 17, no. 2, March, 2009.
- **Odyssey**, vol. V, Westminster School, 2008.
- **Overland**, no. 194, Autumn 1009.
- **pendulum**, vol.10, Wishbone Press, 2006.
- **Seaview Press** for: Wendy and Allan Scarfe, *No Taste for Carnage, Alex Sheppard: A Portrait, 1913-1997*, 1998; Allan Scarfe, *A Corpse in Calcutta*, 2000; Allan Scarfe, *The Dissident Guru*, 2004; Wendy Scarfe, *Miranda*, 1998; Wendy Scarfe, *Fishing for Strawberries*, 2001; Wendy Scarfe, *The Day They Shot Edward*, 2003; Wendy Scarfe, *Jerusha Braddon, Painter*, 2005; Jeff Keith and Wendy Scarfe, *dragonflies and edges*, 2004.
- **The Taipei Chinese Pen: A Quarterly Journal of Contemporary Chinese Literature from Taiwan**, no. 146, Winter, 2008.
- **Ken Vincent**, *Butterfly Girl*, Ginninderra Press, 2009.
- **Wakefield Press** for Gillian Britton and Stephen Lawrence (eds.), *Small City Tales of Strangeness and Beauty*, Wakefield Press, 2009.
- **Wet Ink**, no.14, 2009.
- **Islwyn Williams**, *Domain of Demons*, Greater Gilder Productions, 2000.
- **Julian Zytnik**, *Captain Fury*, Seaview Press, 2009.

SA Writers' Centre Life Members

- Max Fatchen
- Gillian Rubinstein/Lian Hearn

Our Thanks

Thanks to Tony Brooks, Betty Collins, Jo Dey, John and Coie Dikkenberg, Joanna Goldsworthy, Yvonne Griffiths, Catherine Jones, David C. O'Donnell, Hakim Oerton, Joel Shayer, Peggy Spry, Daniel Taylor and Ken Vincent for their assistance in mailing the April newsletter to all our members.

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. Advertising material is accepted for this newsletter but such acceptance does not imply endorsement by the Centre.

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 to reach the lift.



Thanks to SAWC sponsor:



Copy deadline:

15 May 2009 (for June issue)

Email to: comms@sawc.org.au

Post to: PO Box 43
Rundle Mall
Adelaide 5000.

Upcoming Events



Writing an Outstanding Book Proposal

with Lolo Houbein
Saturday 13 June, 10am-1pm

You have finished a book manuscript, surpassing your own expectations of your

abilities, but to convince a literary agent or publisher's editor that it is worth their consideration, you must creep through the eye of a needle. You want your work read and to be told it is publishable. We will discuss this David vs Goliath situation, what to offer, how to present your book as fitting into the literature already out there or as a unique work. Psychological aspects, tone, expectations, availability and re-starts will be examined.

Lolo Houbein has written articles, short stories, a multicultural writers' bibliography and six books. Her novel *Walk A Barefoot Road* won the ABC/Bicentennial Award and became an 18-part radio bookreading. *Wrong Face in the Mirror* was awarded the Dirk Hartog Award for Migration Literature and translated into Dutch. *Lily Makes A Living* was Commended for the Jim Hamilton Award. Her most recent books are *Tibetan Transit* (travel/history) and *One Magic Square, Grow Your Own Food on One Square Metre* (Wakefield Press). She has no literary agent.



Writing from the Inside Out

with Carol Lefevre
Saturday 13 June, 10am-1pm

Place and time in fiction determine atmosphere and mood. Landscape can work so hard for a writer that it might almost be classed as a character in its

own right. Workshop participants are asked to bring along a small number of images of places which have been important to you in the past, or which in some way resonate. Using these images as a starting point, you will work on creating a number of short pieces of writing which you may later develop into stories or longer fiction.

Carol Lefevre grew up in the Australian outback and, although most of her adult life has been passed in cities and in countries far from home, the outback landscape remains a persistent presence and inspiration. Her short fiction and nonfiction has appeared in a range of publications, including anthologies by Wakefield Press and Granta. In 2007 her first novel, *Nights In The Asylum*, was published by Vintage (Australia) and Picador (UK). It was subsequently shortlisted for the Commonwealth Writers' Prize and won the 2008 Nita B. Kibble Award for Women Writers. Her second novel, *If You Were Mine*, was published by Vintage in 2008.



Poetry: How's Your Form?

with Jill Jones
Saturday 13 June, 2pm-5pm

This workshop will encourage you to experiment with form in your poems.

Form is not just metre and rhyme, it is

the way linguistic and visual elements such as line, space, rhythm and syntax work in the poem. We will particularly look at the line and the way it works on the page, but also consider other elements of form. We will do some writing exercises and will read and discuss the work of several poets as examples. Bring a poem of your own you are not happy with and would like to improve its structure.

Jill Jones's work has been widely published in Australia as well as in New Zealand, Canada, USA, Britain and India. She won the Mary Gilmore Award for her first book of poetry, *The Mask and the Jagged Star* (Hazard Press). Her third book, *The Book of Possibilities* (Hale & Iremonger), was shortlisted for the 1997 National Book Council 'Banjo' Awards and the 1998 Adelaide Festival Awards. *Screens, Jets, Heaven: New and Selected Poems* won the 2003 Kenneth Slessor Poetry Prize (NSW Premier's Literary Awards). Her latest books are her fifth full-length work, *Broken/Open* (Salt, 2005), *Fold Unfold* (Vagabond, 2005) and a handwritten book, *Speak Which* (Meritage Press, 2007).



How to Structure a Fantasy Novel

with David Conyers
Saturday 13 June, 2pm-5pm

The popularity of fantasy novels continues to grow and publishers are

always in search of the next great epic trilogy. During this hands-on interactive workshop participants will develop an outline for a fantasy novel. Discussion points include creating characters and how they grow through the narrative, popular fantasy themes, how to develop tension and conflict, how to propel the story, the importance of dialogue and action and using cultural references.

David Conyers writes science fiction, horror and fantasy. His publications are found in numerous anthologies, speculative fiction magazines and journals across the world. He has been shortlisted for the Aeon Award in Ireland and the Ditmar, Australian Shadows and Aurealis Awards in Australia, and won the Australian Horror Writers Association Flash Fiction Award. His first novel, *The Spiraling Worm*, co-authored with John Sunseri, was published in 2007 and his first edited anthology *Cthulhu's Dark Cults* will be released in 2009.

Workshops: \$55 for SAWC members or \$77 for non-members
Bookings: 08 8223 7662, sawriters@sawc.org.au or www.sawc.org.au

May Workshops



The 'Business' of Writing Seminar

Saturday 30 May, 10am-1pm

How can you make a living out of writing and what happens when you actually do? Join freelance writer **Max Anderson** (pictured), **Caroline Schar**, former solicitor at Tri-meridian Corporate & Commercial Law and **Simon Graetz**, accountant and partner at Messenger Zerner, to learn about the organisational, legal and accounting skills you need to be a professional writer.



Technical Writing: a Lucrative Career Choice

with Lynette Washington

Saturday 30 May, 2pm-5pm

Technical writers combine their skill and flair with language with the needs of business to create documents as varied as policies, procedures, online help, user guides, technical guides, web content, CDROM scripts, newsletters and more. Technical writing can be lucrative career and there are opportunities to work freelance or in-house. This workshop gives a good overview of what is required to be successful, and those already working as technical writers will have the opportunity to further develop their skills. No prior knowledge of technical writing is required.

Lynette Washington has worked as a technical writer in Adelaide for over ten years. She has written within the banking, information technology, education, government and superannuation sectors. She holds a Bachelor of Arts Communication Studies (Honours) and an Advanced Diploma in Professional Writing. In her spare time away from work and family she dreams of being a world-travelling, best-selling novelist.



Environmental Writing

with Miriel Lenore

Saturday 30 May, 2pm-5pm

Widen Nature Writing to include current concerns for ecology, sustainability and a holistic approach to our planet and you have Environmental or Ecological Writing. Though there have always been 'green poets', this movement is more ecocentric than homocentric, and keeps focus on the particular as well as the global. Whether you want to write fiction, nonfiction (essays, memoirs, autobiography) or poetry about your pets, plants or global warming, this workshop will introduce you to various ways of doing so.

Award-winning poet **Miriel Lenore** has published six volumes of poetry, mostly dealing with people and place. Poems from her latest collection, *In the Garden*, were exhibited in the Adelaide Botanic Garden as part of the Garden's 150th Celebration and also of Fringe 2007. Her book, *travelling alone together*, has featured twice on the ABC PoeticA programme, and *sun wind & diesel* was a set text at Adelaide University in 1998 and 1999. Miriel has been Guest Reader at Adelaide Writers' Week, and other festivals and conferences.

Booking a Workshop or Seminar

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

Seminar: \$60 for SAWC members or \$80 for non-members

Bookings: 08 8223 7662, sawriters@sawc.org.au or www.sawc.org.au

National Sci-Fi Convention comes to Adelaide

Conjecture 2009: the future of the future which is not what it used to be.

Writers and readers of science fiction and fantasy should mark out the Queen's Birthday long weekend in their diaries. For the first time in 25 years the National Science Fiction convention 'Conjecture 2009' will be held in Adelaide from **Friday 5 June to Monday 8 June**. The venue is the Holiday Inn in Hindley Street. The guest of honour is the Canadian author Julie Czerneda. A special feature of the weekend is local and interstate authors reading from their works and taking part in 'On the Couch' style interviews, to be recorded for podcast and broadcast on stations of the South Australian community radio network. The recordings of the literature component are being co-ordinated by Ewart Shaw, a stalwart of community radio, who saw the first episode of *Dr Who* in real time. Email him at ewart.shaw@adelaide.edu.au. The convention website is <http://conjecture2009.org/>

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www.goingdownswinging.org.au

Board's Eye View

Can writers' groups afford not to be members of the SA Writers' Centre? What are the advantages? Where can services be improved? Board member **Ken Vincent**, Chair of North Eastern Writers Inc, took a close look.

In recent meetings of the Board of the SA Writers' Centre the question has been seriously asked: 'Why would writers groups want to be a member of the SA Writers' Centre?' I was asked as a member of such a group to report to the Board on the benefits my group received and where improvements could be made. After some consideration and, I must confess, no consultation with other groups, I reported back to the Board. For my sins I was asked to develop my report into an article for *Southern Write* where I would detail the benefits to my own group, North Eastern Writers Inc (NEW Inc) and more generally what is available to other groups.

I have categorised the benefits under three headings: 1. Material Support and Resources, 2. Information and Communication and 3. Promotion.

Material Support and Resources

There are two categories of group membership: one for groups who regularly use the Centre and who pay a membership fee of \$125 per year and one for groups who don't and pay \$88 per year. The difference in services to groups lies mainly in material support. Groups paying the higher fee have twenty-five hours access to the Centre's facilities for what amounts to \$37. They also have access to a public address system, a data projector (soon to be purchased), overhead projector and white boards at a reasonable rental and, one must remember, having these facilities on site is a huge convenience. Groups on the



North Eastern Writers Inc Christmas gathering

reduced membership rate also have some limited access to the Centre without fee. All members are aware of the Centre's library which is chock-full of resource material for groups and writers.

Information and Communication

A much more intangible benefit is the information provided through the monthly newsletter and monthly electronic update. My own group would be shooting in the dark if we couldn't access this information. Of course, information from the Centre is available to individual members and one could argue these members would pass such information onto their groups. The question is, do they? Multiple copies of *Southern Write* are provided to each member group and, as is the case with my own group, the electronic update is forwarded to each member. It has been my experience that the staff of the Writers' Centre provide information on request; if they don't know something, they will find out.

The biannual Group Muster brings groups into contact with each other and is also a valuable source of information. Through information made available at the last muster my own group accessed a sizeable grant which has funded an ongoing program of guest speakers and workshops. An improvement would be to hold these musters annually. The website is also a useful source of information though one does not have to be a member to access it.

Promotion

This is an area where groups can really benefit from their membership of the Writers' Centre. To focus, again, on our own experiences, we find a significant number of our members have joined our group after being referred by the Centre. We recently ran a short story and poetry competition and, with little promotion other than advertising in *Southern Write* and contacting interstate Centres, with the help of the SA Writers' Centre, we not only received a large number of high quality entries from all around Australia but made a tidy profit to help expand our group's activities.

I would like the Centre to expand its services to provide advice and support for groups on governance issues such as incorporation, conduct of management meetings and administration as well as providing information about program activities which groups may adopt. I am well aware each group will have a different experience in their relationship with the Centre and in the benefits they obtain. I can only reiterate my group has found membership with the SA Writers' Centre extremely valuable.

The next event for NEW Inc is an open mic poetry evening on Friday 5 June at the Tea Tree Gully Community Hall from 7-10:30pm. \$5 a head. RSVP to Margaret@northeasternwriters.com

One path to publication

SAWC Member **Phillipa Fioretti** tells of her path to a two-book publication deal.

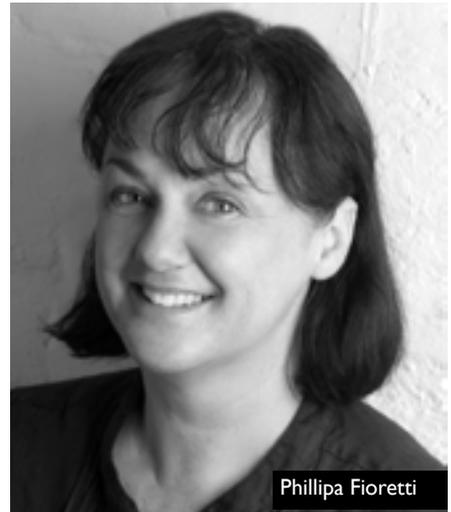
In August last year I applied, along with many other Australian writers, for the Hachette Australia/Queensland Writers' Centre Manuscript Development Program 2008. I submitted a synopsis and the first fifty pages for my book *The Book of Love* (working title only) and was fortunate to be selected, along with seven other writers from around Australia.

In November the eight of us spent a week together on Queensland's Sunshine Coast. We worked on developing our manuscripts in consultation with Bernadette Foley and Vanessa Radnidge, publishers at Hachette Australia. Author Kim Wilkins, agent Sophie Hamley and bookseller Fiona Stager, President of the Australian Booksellers Association, were also on hand to provide feedback and advice.

A variety of genres had been selected, but all of us were told we had been chosen for the quality of writing and likely commercial success of the book.

It was made clear that no one would be offered a contract at that point in time. Nonetheless, it was a memorable week for so many reasons. I can't list them all here, but I have to say the experience of sitting down with a publisher who has read your book, enjoyed it, knows the characters and wants to talk about it is, for a writer, an extraordinary experience. Usually eyes glaze over and the subject changes when one mentions one's 'manuscript' (as we all know).

I worked on the suggested changes to my manuscript on my return to Adelaide and emailed it to Bernadette Foley a week later. It was an exercise in will not to think about it and one I failed completely. But in early January – just as I was about to step out the door to go crabbing at Edithburgh for a few days – Bernadette rang to offer me a two-book contract. Needless to say I was delighted to accept, so delighted that as I sank into the mud and sand of the low tidal flats, unseeable 'things' nipping my feet, I



Phillipa Fioretti

forgot to scream. Considering I had only started the book less than a year ago I was, and I still am, thrilled and bemused by my good fortune. *The Book of Love* (WTO) will be published around April/May 2010, with the manuscript for the second book due in August 2010.

Phillipa Fioretti can be contacted at www.phillipafioretti.com.au

The 'brave new world' of POD

Fantasy writer **Prue Batten** tells of a Print On Demand experience with her novel *The Stumpwork Robe*.

My novel, a fantasy called *The Stumpwork Robe*, was being assessed in the UK by Cornerstones Literary Consultancy UK, when the director suggested I upload chapters to YouWriteOn.com to secure reviews. Out of that came an offer for publication in YWO's first ever Print On Demand (POD) initiative. Ostensibly, the programme places new authors in the marketplace when mainstream publishers are reducing the chances for new writers to a trickle. By offering the bare essentials of publication and distribution through the world's major online book retailers, YWO is attempting to put good books into the marketplace at an attractive price for the reader. This means that there are no advances and no publicity. In return, the author secures 60% of sales after the publisher's costs as opposed to 10-15% traditionally.

POD is exactly what it says: only the ordered numbers of copies are printed. The average cost of a book is lower in this system because it is digitally produced whereas a normal print run may be offset printed, which means the set-up costs of such a system are much higher and must be passed on to the purchaser in what is already a difficult economic climate.

I am very lucky as my book is currently being sold through huge online retailers: Amazon.com, Amazon.co.uk, Barnes and Noble Online, with WH Smith and Waterstones to follow. But the reality is that with an ISBN, one's title can be ordered anywhere at any time. The whole formatted novel, wraparound cover design and specifically designed headers included, was emailed to YWO/Legend Press as PDFs and JPGs where it is now maintained in an electronic 'bank' at Lightning Source UK.

The only drawback has been the lack of a working publicity department. In a steep learning curve and with the help of Australian distributor Dennis Jones, and a number of mainstream published authors, advice has been forthcoming. I set up a marketing plan including media releases and a website. I approached a major book retailer and was launched in Hobart in April. I paid for bookmarks to be printed to send to potential retailers. I figure I am too old and time is too short to battle a mainstream system where only 1% ever creep beyond the slush-pile. In the meantime, this is a journey like no other and when my copy of the book, a trade-sized paperback, arrived from London, so perfect in its print quality, I knew it had been worth it just for that moment alone. As for the future, Alison Goodman, who wrote the excellent *Two Pearls of Wisdom*, said to me she felt POD was 'the brave new world of publishing'. Time will tell.

Launched at home and then away

SAWC Member **Tracy Crisp's** first novel *Black Dust Dancing*, published by Wakefield Press, was launched in Adelaide last month.

I flew back to Abu Dhabi the morning after my book was launched and a few hours after a last-minute interview on my hometown's morning radio. I'd been back in Adelaide for March and it had been an exciting month. I'd performed in a Fringe show; my extended family had gathered in our backyard for a combined 40th birthday/booklaunch celebration (Black Forest cake); my oldest friend gave me a surprise party in her backyard (fruitcake); and I saw my manuscript become my first book. All of this in a glorious Adelaide autumn, a welcome respite from the Middle East's rising heat.

As we checked our bags in at Adelaide, the woman behind the counter said, "Are you a comedian? I saw your show" and my boys danced around and said, "Our Mum's famous! She's been on the radio!"

You can see where this is going, can't you?

A friend met us at Abu Dhabi and took us to his car, parked just a few cars down from a jeep plated in gold-leaf. Seriously. A gold-leaf jeep. My head started to spin.

Back at our apartment, I couldn't resist checking my email before I got into bed. Bingo! An email from someone I've never met, subject line: *Black Dust Dancing*. She's read my book. She liked it. I want to go home.

At home, people bought my book then waited in line for me to sign it. At home, I could walk into a bookshop and see my book on stands. At home, I was on the radio and my children thought I was cool. Here, no-one knows my surname and when I kiss my boys they use the backs of their hands to wipe their cheeks clean.

It was strange because last year, when my partner first suggested this move, I felt relieved, pleased to be offered this escape. I was growing increasingly nervous about the book's publication, especially how people in my hometown would react. If we weren't in Adelaide, I could avoid the downward glances of friends who would say, 'I read your book' all the while thinking, 'Is that it? Is that what you've been working on all this time?' So while everyone said, 'You'll have to come back for the launch,' I nodded, but I was thinking, 'We'll see.'

mentally, I list the friends who have the book, but who haven't emailed or phoned

In the end, the launch was awesome. Ace. And, now, I want to be back home.

I try to console myself. It doesn't make any difference whether I'm in Abu Dhabi or Adelaide. I'm a first-time author, with no reputation to trade on. A friend has warned me not to get 'dispirited' if reviews are slow to appear, and I have been told that a novel's eventual publication is a curious experience: exhilarating, but deflating too (there's that moment just before you eat the honey, says Winnie-the-Pooh). Well, yes. I did go into an Adelaide bookshop and the woman behind the counter said, 'Hello! We just got your book ... we ordered two ... now, where did I put them?'

And besides all that, we live in a globalised, interconnected world; my email has already proven that. I get interviewed by email, my responses posted on the web. A friend sends me a scanned copy of a mention the novel got in a street publication. Blogging friends begin to post responses on their blogs.



Then, even this interconnectdness becomes a double-edged sword and I check my emails increasingly avidly. It's like playing pokies — just enough emails to keep me both interested and ... broke as, mentally, I list the friends who have the book, but who haven't emailed or phoned. If you can't say anything nice ... There's only one thing worse than being talked about.

The truth of course is much more simple. Life goes on. They've got reports to edit, meetings to be at, washing to take off the line. They've been meaning to read it, to email, to phone. You know how it is. I do.

But through everything, it's one short moment that makes me glad I was home the first time I saw my book. With my father's death last year, I am parent-less and this, my first novel, is the first, the most significant, thing I will do without my parents here. So, the day I collected my author copies, I sat at my kitchen table, the box of books closed in front of me, the space inside and around me so enormous that I couldn't even cry.

Just at the right moment, my mother-in-law came back from the shops, grabbed a copy, sat at the kitchen table and started to read. Every single word, from the title page on. When I did start to cry, she held me. Then, she went straight back to the book.

Tracy Crisp blogs at adelaidefromadelaide.wordpress.com

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What's On

Sun 3 May: SAWT Workshop

Workshop of *Draw the Line*, by Meg Roberts, to be directed by Martin Christmas with actors Michael Baldwin, Roger Newcombe, Anna Thomas and Sherron Hunter. From 2-5pm at the Holden Street Theatre, Hindmarsh (next to Hindmarsh Stadium). Admission is free.

Tues 5 May: Friendly St Poets

Friendly Street Poets Inc. poetry reading will be held from 7pm until late at the SA Writers' Centre. Open mic with only a 3-minute time limit (includes introductions). Guest reader is Rob Hardy from *New Poets 14*. Entry \$5/\$4 conc with free wines and juices.

Sat 9 May: Poetry Seminar

Friendly St Poets Inc. presents a seminar on 'Performance Poetry'. With Kalicharan Nigel Dey, Ivan Avalanche Rehorek and Graham Rowlands. From 2-4.30pm at the SA Writers' Centre.

Sun 10 May: Book Launch

Barbara Robertson: An Australian Artist's Life by Lorraine McLoughlin will be launched by the Hon. Lynn Arnold. From 2.30pm at the SA Writers' Centre. Wine and finger food provided. RSVP to 85582874 or fitzmc@fitzmc.com

Mon 11 May: Meeting for Writers and Illustrators with Disabilities

A public meeting will be held to start a new organisation to represent interests and run workshops, readings, meeting and exhibitions. From 2.30pm at The Big Space, rear 234a Sturt Street, Adelaide (access by the side walkway). RSVP essential on 8262 3221.

Tues 12 May: CAL Seminars

Three free sessions, run by Copyright Agency Limited, at Hetzel Lecture Theatre, State Library of South Australia.

- Session 1: 11am-12.15pm: 'An introduction to CAL for members and copyright users'
- Session 2: 1.30-3pm: 'Making the most of your online works'
- Session 3: 3.30-4.30pm: 'A Google Settlement Workshop'

To reserve your place email events@copyright.com.au or call CAL's Member Services team on 02 9394 7600.

Tues 12 May: Book Launch

The Last Protector by Cameron Raynes, published by Wakefield Press, will be launched by Brian Butler, AM. From 5.30pm at the Reading Room of Barr Smith Library, University of Adelaide. RSVP to editor@peninsulapress.com.au

Fri 15 May: Book Launch

Rosanne Hawke will launch Roger Norris-Green's latest novel *Seagulls* in the Wallaroo Uniting Church Hall, Emu Street, Wallaroo at 2pm as part of the Kernewek Lowender weekend. All welcome. Email renorrisgreen@austarnet.com.au

Sun 17 May: SAWT's Sundays

Features script-in-hand performances of *Too Close to the Tea Room* by Randi Cernaz and *Never a Drop to Drink* by Wayne Anthony. Starts at 1pm at the Holden Street Theatre, Hindmarsh (next to Hindmarsh Stadium). Admission is \$10 (pay at door) and includes soup, buttered roll, guest speaker (Wayne Anthony) and the performances. Go to www.sawt.org.au

Sat 16 May: Haiku and Tea

Haiku (Japanese poetry) and Tea Ceremony are deeply traditional Japanese cultural practices. Enjoy learning more during an afternoon of free events at the Art Gallery of SA. There will be haiku readings, too. See details on the Art Gallery website at <http://www.artgallery.sa.gov.au/japan>

Wed 20 May: SA Writers' Theatre General Meeting

The meeting will commence with ten-minute readings of first-draft scripts followed by the reading of a new play: *The Vision* by Peter Munroe. From 7pm at the SA Writers' Centre. More information please go to www.sawt.org.au

Thurs 21 May: North Eastern Writers

The North Eastern Writers meet the third Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be held from 7.30-9.30pm at the Tea Tree Gully Memorial Hall. Enquiries to Ken 8380 5348 or Sharon 0403 831170 or visit www.northeasternwriters.com

Thurs 21 May: Poetry Readings

Readings by published poets Graham Catt and Amelia Walker at Burnside Library, from 7pm. Cost is \$5.50 and includes a champagne supper. Book by phoning the library on 8366 4280.

Sun 24 May: Book Launch

Thinking Outside the Square by the Henley Scribblers will be launched by Anne Bartlett from 3-5pm at the SA Writers' Centre. All welcome.

Tues 26 May: SA Writers' Centre Annual General Meeting

The SAWC's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held in the Seminar Room of the SA Writers' Centre, 2nd Floor, 187 Rundle Street, Adelaide at 7pm. Or come along at 6pm for \$10 pizza and a glass of Langmeil wine. RSVP 8223 7662.

Wed 27 May: Book Launch

Two books by Ken Vincent will be launched from 6.30pm at the City of Tea Tree Gully Library, 571 Montague Road, Modbury. Jude Aquilina will launch *No Shoes and the Day Was Freezing* and Sharon Kernot will launch *Butterfly Girl*. Both books are published by Ginninderra Press. All welcome. RSVP to 8397 7333.

Sat 30 May: Friendly Street Poets

As part of Library and Information Week enjoy poetry and light refreshments at the Port Adelaide Library. From 1.30-3.30pm. Contact 8405 6580 or book online at www.portenf.sa.gov.au/goto/librarycalendar

Sun 31 May: Poetry Readings

Amelia Walker and Graham Catt will read from their recently published poetry collections at the St Peters Library from 2.30-4pm. They will be joined by musician Angie Starr and MC Extraordinaire Kimberley Mann. Phone St Peters Library 8334 0200 for more information.

Hill Poets

There will be no meeting of Hills Poets in May. The next meeting will be in June, details to follow in the next *Southern Write*.

O p p o r t u n i t i e s

The Text Prize for Young Adult and Children's Writing

Judged by a panel of editors from Text publishing, the winning unpublished manuscript for young adults or younger readers will receive a publishing contract and a \$10,000 advance against royalties. Submissions close 31 July 2009. Go to www.textpublishing.com.au for details and conditions.

PressPress Chapbook Award

The PressPress Chapbook Award is for an unpublished chapbook length manuscript of poems (20-40 pages). The winning manuscript will receive \$500 and chapbook publication with PressPress. Go to www.presspress.com.au for conditions and an entry form. Alternatively, email info@presspress.com.au or send an SSAE to PO Box 94 Berry NSW 2535 Australia. Deadline for submissions is 30 May 2009.

Your City Nights

The City Nights project is calling for text, audio, video and stills contributions that reflect the experience of the city at night. Contributions are welcome in any genre and the stories can be as big or small as a city. The best contributions will be selected, performed and be part of a program on ABC Radio National. Entries close 15 June 2009. Go to <http://pool.org.au/citynights>

Max Harris Poetry Award

Entries are now invited for the Max Harris Poetry Award 2009, offering a prize of \$3000 for the winning poem. The winning entry and two unpaid commended entries will receive University of South Australia Max Harris Poetry Award Certificates, which will be presented at an award ceremony in October 2009. The entry fee is \$10 for one poem and an extra \$5 per poem for up to two additional poems. The closing date for entries is 15 July 2009. Please visit www.poetryandpoeticscentre.com

Going Down Swinging Submissions

Going Down Swinging is now calling for submissions for the 29th issue. Short fiction, nonfiction, poetry and comic/graphic art. Guidelines at www.goingdownswinging.org.au/submissions. Submissions close 31 May 2009.

ACT Poetry Prizes

The ACT Government offers three national prizes that recognise excellence in poetry. For a Collection of Poetry: the Judith Wright Prize for a published collection by an Australian poet (valued at \$10,000); the Alec Bolton Prize for an unpublished manuscript by an Australian poet (valued at \$5,000). For an Unpublished Poem: The Rosemary Dobson Prize for an unpublished poem by an Australian poet (valued at \$3,000). Applications close at 5pm on Wednesday 27 May 2009. For more information and an application form visit www.arts.act.gov.au or call 02 6207 2384.

ABR Review Competition

The 2009 ABR Reviewing Competition is on again and worth \$1000. Reviews should be 800 words and of any book published since January 2007. All categories of books are eligible, including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, children's and YA books. Entries close 31 July 2009. Go to the website <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~abr/New%20Competition.htm>

Interested in Life Writing?

'I wish to have one or more sessions with a knowledgeable person to discuss the writing of experiences as a homestay hostess of about 50 international students from 14 countries attending English classes over 20 years. I have successfully achieved this as a woman on my own in my 50s, 60s and 70s. It could be entertaining and encouraging to others who are interested in doing the same, but are hesitating.' Payment negotiable. Please contact Anne Tregenza at 8295 2576 or email anntre@bettanet.net.au

Australia Council Literature Board New Work Grants

New work grants assist in the creation of new work by developing and established Australian writers and picture book illustrators. Developing writers/illustrators can apply for \$15,000, \$25,000 or \$40,000. Established writers/illustrators can apply for \$30,000 or \$50,000 per year for up to two years. Applications close 15 May 2009. Go to www.australiacouncil.gov.au/grants/grants/new_work_-_literature

pendulum Anthology

pendulum is an imprint of Wishbone press which compiles an annual literary anthology of short stories, poetry and photographs. They are looking for short fiction up to 2500 words (max 2 pieces per contributor), poetry (max 3 poems per contributor) and photographs (max 5 images per contributor, 300dpi TIFF format). Deadline for submissions is 30 June 2009. Email to pendulum@nims.chisholm.vic.edu.au or post to *pendulum* Magazine, PO Box 684, Dandenong VIC 3175.

Pioneer Woman's story

Rhonda Pohlke, poet and author, is available for readings and discussions re her book *First she Lived: The Story of Eliza Lipson Allan*. Eliza was a SA/VIC pioneer woman. You can contact Rhonda at rho_ter@vic.chariot.net.au or 03 5352 1100.

Writing Retreats

The Writer's Journey supports writers in all genres through the complex process of creating written work. Highly regarded as a writing tutor, Jan Cornall leads retreats, workshops and journeys in a range of locations. The next Writer's Journey is Desert Writers, from 27 June to 4 July, a walking and writing journey along the Larapinta Trail near Alice Springs. Cost is \$2890. Bookings and info at www.intotheblue.com.au or call 0414 929 768.

Digital Storytelling Workshops

Want to learn to compile your own digital story in a creative way? These workshops are open to everyone, assuming basic computer skills. Participants record their own voiceover and use photos, music and film to produce a 2-4 minute piece. Six sessions for \$40 or \$34 unwaged. Contact Vassi Coutsoumbes, Arts and Cultural Development Officer, City of Marion on 8375 6891 or email vac@marion.sa.gov.au

AHWA Flash and Short Story Competition

Submissions close 31 May 2009. The winning authors will receive paid publication in *Midnight Echo*, the Magazine of the Australian Horror Writers' Association. Go to www.australianhorror.com

Murray Alfredson's poems, 'Agnus dei' and 'Birger Jarlsgatan I' have been selected by vote for the annual 'Best of *Poets Ink*' print issue for April 2009. His long elegy, 'In memoriam gemini mei', has been re-published in *Ocean* (Spring 2009).

Owen Carmichael's short story 'It's the People You Meet' was highly commended in the *Free Expression* literary competition. His feature on the 'March of Pride' in Paris was published by *DNA Online*.

Steve Davey's story 'Time I am' was Highly Commended in the recent Eaglehawk Literary Competition.

Joan Fenney received the SA Writers' Centre Award 2009 for highest overall achievement in Professional Writing from the Adelaide Centre for the Arts, Advanced Diploma Course. Her poem 'Waves of her Childhood' was Very Highly Commended in the 2009 'Scribbli Gum' Gumnuts competition.

Colin Hayvick recently graduated from the Diploma of Arts (Professional Writing). He also received the Omnibus Books Award for 2009 for 'Highest Achievement in Writing for Children'.

Stephen House's new play *The Yum Yum Room* (which opens for Come Out 2009) has just been picked up for publication by Currency Press in NSW. His last Come Out show for 2007 (*Vin*) has also been picked up for a new professional production in Madison, Wisconsin, USA. It will have public and school shows.

Elizabeth Hutchins' short story, 'Turtle Tears', has been Highly Commended for the 2009 WildCare Tasmania Nature Writing Prize. The \$5,000 first prize went to Canadian writer Maureen Scott Harris.

Gwen Leane's story 'The Dam Builder' has been accepted for publication by Pocket Book Publishing.

Kristin Martin's poem, 'sweetest failure', won the *Positive Words* December 2008 Mini-Competition. It was published in the March 2009 edition of *Positive Words*.

Jacqui Merckenschlager has been selected as a finalist to perform her poem 'Mining Town Pianist' in the Gulgong NSW Leonard Teale Performance Poetry Awards on the June long weekend.

Max Merckenschlager's poem 'Israeli Wall' was Very Highly Commended and 'Catnap' was commended in the recent Gumnuts competition of Scribbli Gum. Two of his poems 'Brown Beach' and 'Last of the Nomads' were included in the summer-2008 *Prosopisia* (an international journal of poetry and creative writing).

Dorothy O'Neill's story 'Walking on Water' will be published in the 2009 edition of *Australian Stories*.

John Sabine has had another article, 'Adelaide's Desalination Plant - a new source of holy water' printed in the Autumn 2009 edition of the complimentary publication *SA50s Lifestyle News*.

Kathryn Simons won the Laura Literary Award, coming first in the Young Adult section.

Lidija Šimkute's two poems 'In Darkness and Silence' and 'My Father' were included in the World Poetry almanac 2008 published in Mongolia. She will be attending the International Spring Poetry Festival in Lithuania in May, 2009. The poem 'Sun Splinters' is also on the Poetry and Poetics Centre website. There is a link to the selection of poems under the 'Poetry News and Information'.

Alan Tucker's *Australian Story: Atomic Testing, Woomera 1953* has been published by Scholastic Press, 2009.

Lynette Washington won the Imprints Booksellers Award for Highest Achievement in Writing Short Story for her graduating class (the Advanced Diploma in Professional Writing).

Kristin Weidenbach has received a grant from Arts SA to travel to Darwin in May for the 2009 Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Conference to promote her book *Rock Star: the Story of Reg Sprigg*.

CBC Shortlists

Four South Australian writers and two publishers have been included on The Children's Book Council's Book of the Year Shortlists. They are:



Ruth Starke

- **DM Cornish** for *Monster Blood Tattoo, Book Two: Lamplighter* (Omnibus Books, Scholastic Australia) in the Older Reader category
- **Christine Harris** for *Audrey of the Outback* (Little Hare Books) in the Young Readers category
- **Greg Holfeld** (illustration) and **Ruth Starke** (text) for *Captain Congo and the Crocodile King* (Working Title Press) in the Picture Book category
- **Working Title Press** for *Captain Congo and the Crocodile King* and *Tom Tom* by Rosemary Sullivan (text) and Dee Huxley (illustration) in the Early Childhood Category
- **Omnibus Books, Scholastic Australia** for *Monster Blood Tattoo, Book Two: Lamplighter, Leaf* by Stephen Michael King and *Puffling* by Margaret Wild (text) and Julie Vivas (illustration), the latter two both in the Early Childhood category. The full list is available at www.cbca.org.au

SA Writers' Centre Quiz Night

It's on again but, this time, it's general ...

The SA Writers' Centre Quiz Night is on Friday 26 June. Start getting your table of six together now and watch for further details via email and in the next *Southern Write*. This year the focus is on both general and literary knowledge.

Please note: competitions are listed in order of closing date

May 14: Jambo Africa Creative Writing Competition for Africans Living in SA ★☞
Cash prizes: 1. Poetry Competition (Free verse or rhyming) and 2. Short Story Competition (True story or fiction). Details at SA Writers' Centre (8223 7662) or Migrant Resource Centre (8217 9522).

May 15: HorseSA Writing Competition ☞●
Three categories: 1. Open Short Story up to 1500 words; 2. Essay: any aspect of SA horse history up to 1500 words; 3. People's Choice Award: enter 1 photo and up to 300 words on your trail experience. Entry fee is \$7.70 per entry. Prizes: category 1 and 2: \$100, category 3: \$30. Enquires to horsesa@horsesa.asn.au or visit www.kidmantrail.org.au

May 29: Bush Lantern Award
For bush verse: maximum 100 lines. 1st prize: Bush Lantern Award Trophy and \$200; 2nd prize: Certificate and \$100; 3rd prize: Certificate and \$75. Entry fee is \$6 per poem or \$15 for three poems. Entry form and appropriate fee in a suitable envelope to: Bush Lantern Award, Bundaberg Poets' Society Inc., PO Box 4281 Bundaberg South 4670. Cheque or money order to be made payable to 'Bundaberg Poets' Society Inc.' Email lees@fastel.com.au for further details.

May 29: Shoalhaven Literary Award
First prize is \$1000 plus a two week artist's residency at the Arthur Boyd Centre at Bundanon (near Nowra). The judge this year is Dr Rae Luckie. For more information and an entry form go to: http://www.fawnswshoalhaven.org.au/Our_Competitions.htm

May 29: 2009 Katharine Susannah Prichard Speculative Fiction Awards ☺★
No entry fee for those aged 20 and under. Each story in the Open category needs to be accompanied by a \$7.50 fee. Stories must be between 1500 and 3500 words. Further information can be found on the Katharine Susannah Prichard Foundation website: www.kspf.iinet.net.au or contact the Centre on 08 9294 1872.

May 31: The Australian Vogel Literary Award ●
Entrants must be below 35 years of age as at May 31 2009. Manuscripts up to 100,000 words. Entry fee is \$25. First prize is \$20,000 plus royalties from sales. Go to www.allenandunwin.com/vogelawards

May 31: Imagination Creation Western Union Young Writers Writing Competition ☺★☞
Story and Poetry Sections for 10 years and under (first prize \$50, second prize \$25); 11-14 years (first prize \$80, second prize \$40); 15-18 years (first prize \$100, second prize \$50). Plus Margaret Callanan Award (\$50) for an inspirational poem (ages 18 and under) and Wyndham Local Awards, four prizes of \$50 chosen from Wyndham residents' entries. Entry fees apply. Judged by Sherryl Clark. Entry forms and enquiries: Margaret Campbell (03) 9741 3577 or email margaret_c@optusnet.co.au

June 5: Young Writers Awards ☺★●
Open to all students from reception to Year 12, sponsored by *The Advertiser*. Application forms at www2.advertiser.com.au/nie. Send entries to Young Writers Awards, SAETA, PO Box 3203, Norwood, 5067.

June 5: FAW Q150 Short Story Competition ☺☞
Presented by Fellowship of Australian Writers (Qld). First prize is \$350 with certificates for Highly Commended and Commended. Strong Australian theme. Entry Fee is \$5 per entry. Limit of three entries per author. Word count of 1000 to 3000.

June 12: Eureka Street/Reader's Feast Award for Social Justice/Human Rights Writing ☺●
The award of \$5000 is open to any Australian writer aged 30 or over as of 1 January 2009. Electronic submissions only. Details at <http://www.eurekastreet.com.au/article.aspx?aeid=12542>

June 12: The Eureka Street's Margaret Dooley Award for Young Writers ☺★●
The award of \$1500 is open to any writer under the age of 30, as of 1 January 2009. Second place in the award is awarded \$350, and third \$150. Full details at <http://www.eurekastreet.com.au/article.aspx?aeid=12542>

June 12: U3A Sunshine Coast Writing Competition ☺☞
Open to members of any U3A and people who are retired or semi-retired and thus eligible to join U3A. Categories: Short Story (1000-1500 words); Rhyming Poetry (20 to 40 lines); Free Verse (Up to 40 lines); Challenge; Make Me Laugh (Prose 1000 to 1500 words.) Prizes: 1st \$150, 2nd \$75, 3rd \$25 in each category. Single entry is \$7.50. Two or more \$5 per entry.

June 26: Jean Ringland Memorial Open Poetry Competition ☺☞
Poets are invited to write up to 50 lines on the theme: Coming Home. Prize to be awarded at The Poetry Soiree, Byron Bay on Aug 2. Judge is Shirley Walker. First prize is \$500 and second prize is \$250. First and second prize winners will be published in *Dangerously Poetic's* Anthology on the theme of Coming Home. Entry fee is \$5 for one poem or \$10 for three, cheques made out to Dangerously Poetic, Inc. www.dangerouslypoetic.com

June 30: Australian Unity Bryan Kelleher Literary Award ☺☞●
For bush poetry. First prize is \$1000. No entry fee. Details at www.australianunity.com.au/literaryaward or call 03 8682 6778.

July 15: Lochee Andison Youth Literary Award Biennial Writing Competition ☺★☞
Open to all SA Middle and High School students. First prize is \$100 plus a plaque held by school for 2 years. Subject: Transport. Can be fact or fiction up to 2000 words. Send entries to The Secretary, Society of Women Writers SA, 72 Ormond Ave, Clearview, SA.

July 24: CJ Dennis Literary Awards ☺☞
First prize in each category is \$200 to the winners. Prize winners will be publicly announced on Sunday, 6 September 2009 in the Auburn Institute, Clare Valley, SA. The categories are: 1. 'The Universe - Yours to Discover' - short story; 2. 'The Universe - Yours to Discover' - poetry; 3. Short story - open; and 4. Poetry - open. Length of submissions is limited to 50 lines for poetry and 2500 words for stories. Entry fee is \$5 per piece of work.

August 14: 2009 St. Martins Playwriting Competition ☺★☞●
Open to all Australian playwrights aged 13-30 years. Submission guidelines and entry forms at www.stmartinyouth.com.au

August 31: The Mona Brand Award Short Story Competition ☺●
Maximum 2,000 words, open theme, \$5 entry fee, no entry form required. First prize is \$200, second prize is \$100, third prize is \$50. All competition entry details on <http://alexander.bigpondhosting.com/monabrand.htm>. Enquiries to Helen Luidens on 02 4363 2627 or luidens@terrigal.net.au

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

☞ Call in and collect copies of entry forms for 20c each or send one business-sized stamped self-addressed envelope, plus one loose 50c stamp for every TWO competitions.

