

southern

write

Newsletter of the SA Writers' Centre Inc

November 2005

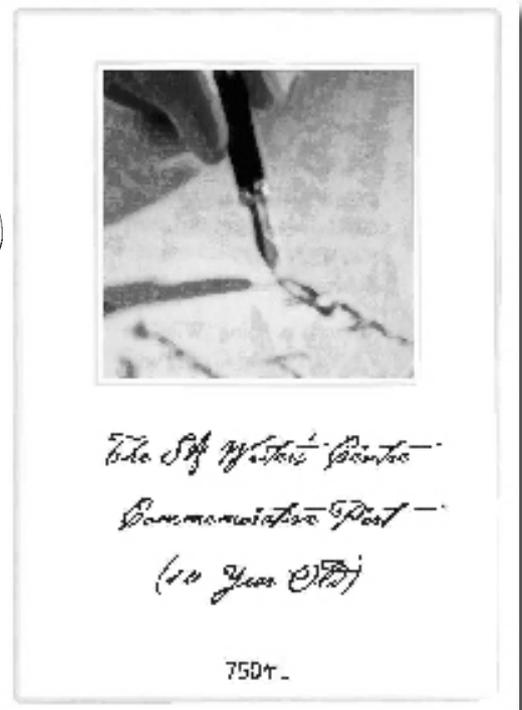
Happy 20th Birthday, SA Writers' Centre!

The SA Writers' Centre invites you to join us for the unveiling of a pictorial history covering the Centre's 20 years of operation, to be launched by the Hon. Jane Lomax-Smith, Minister for Education and Children's Services and Minister for Tourism in the SA Writers' Centre Atrium, 2nd floor, 187 Rundle Street, Adelaide on Thursday November 17th, 2005 @ 6.30pm. See enclosed invitation.

Established in 1985, the SA Writers' Centre was the first of its kind in Australia. Over the past twenty years, the staff, boards of management and volunteers have worked hard to build the profile of the Centre to foster writers, to fight for funding and to gain community recognition. The Centre now plays a pivotal role in the South Australian writing community and currently has over 1,000 members.

A large and varied program of events each year saw SA writers in caves, in schools, on tour buses, at the zoo, at Writers' Caf, on Popeye, at 'Poets & Platters' in Langmeil Winery, to name a few. In recent years, the SA Writers' Centre, working with community partners, has organised regular events, such as Young Authors' Nights, the SA Writers' Festival and the Salisbury Writers' Festival.

SA Writers' Centre commemorative Port label, by *Jane Lomax-Smith*



My, how we've changed!

1987



1991



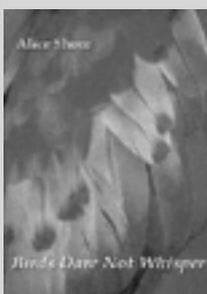
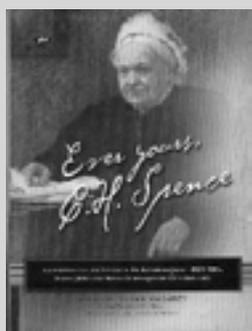
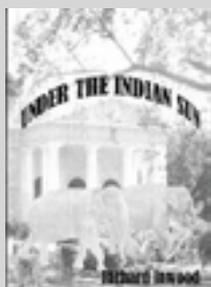
1993



1994



Centre Information...



So Very Resourceful

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

Author Donations

Claire Clements, *Pieces: A collection of Poems*, Seaview Press, 2005

Gwenda Harslett Jeffrey, *Snack for a Crocodile*, Seaview Press, 2005

Richard Inwood, *Under the Indian Sun*, 2005

Ashley Mallett, *Chappelli Speaks Out*, Allen & Unwin, 2005

Ann Nugent, Editor, *Blast: Poetry and other critical writing #2* includes Jan Owen, Geoff Page and Mike Ladd.

Queensland University of Technology, *The QUT Creative Writing Anthology 1*, *Easy Writer*, 2002; *I won't be Long: The Second dotlit Creative Writing Anthology*, 2004; *A Most Provoking Thing*, *New Writing from QUT: The Third dotlit Collection*, 2005

Alice Shore, *Birds Dare Not Whisper*, Ginninderra Press, 2005

Alan Tucker, *My Australian Story: The Bombing of Darwin: The Diary of Tom Taylor*, Scholastic 2005 (reprint)

Zenda Vecchio, *Children at the Gate*, Ginninderra Press, 2005

Wakefield Press, *Chance and Commitment: Memoirs of a Medical Scientist*, Basil S. Hetzel AC, MD, 2005; *The House at Number 10*, Dorothy Johnston, 2005; *Ever Yours, C.H. Spence*, Catherine Helen Spence's *An Autobiography (1825-1910)*, *Diary (1894) and some Correspondence (1894-1910)* edited by Susan Magarey with Barbara Wall, Mary Lyons and Maryan Beams.

Paula Vince, *Quenarden: The Prophecies*, Appleleaf Books, 2004 (reprint)

City of Onkaparinga, *Time Fractures: Wirra Wirra Vineyards Short Story Competition 2005 Anthology*.

Newsletter Folders

Thank you to the following folders who helped with the October newsletter: John Dikkenberg, Graeme Rickard, Laurie Anderson, Barbara Brokhoff, Jo Dey, Catherine Jones, Cailean Darkwater, Tim Earl, Jo Vabolis, John Howard and Lindy Warrell.

Reminder to SA Writers

The Festival Awards for Literature deadline is Friday, 11 November 2005 and offers writers awards and prizes (\$10,000-\$15,000) for published books and unpublished manuscripts as well as several fellowships. Contact Gail Kovatseff at Arts SA on 8463 5423 for details and go to www.arts.sa.gov.au

Thank you Rose Wight

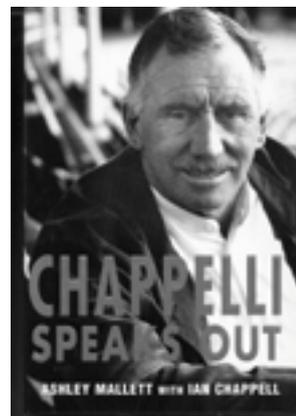
The Adelaide Festival Corporation has kindly donated copies of *The Times Literary Supplement* and the *London Review of Books* which are now available for SAWC members to read.

Attention Poets

Members are invited to email or send poems which relate to the SA Writers' Centre 20th Birthday. These poems will

CHAPPELLI SALES GO THROUGH THE ROOF!

Chappelli Speaks Out by Ashley Mallett (Allen and Unwin) was the fastest selling book in Australian bookselling in its first week. 4,000 copies have sold since they went into bookshops on 1 September. That was quite a phenomenal figure!



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

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



Disclaimer

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

Board's Eye View...

Words and Wine

by Jude Aquilina



Words and wine, words and wine ... go together like sun and shine. Increasingly, wineries are becoming friends of the arts. It began with jazz bands on Sunday afternoons and now wineries are partnering music festivals, gourmet festivals and, thankfully, writers' festivals. Wirra Wirra Winery supported the recent SA Writers' Festival in the southern region and provided a picturesque venue for events. As did Coriole Winery. Fox Creek Wines sponsor Wakefield Press, and Langmeil Winery at Tanunda have been longstanding supporters of literature by being wine sponsors for the SA Writers' Centre and for hosting 'Poets and Platters' since 1999. I was one of the first poets to read at Langmeil Winery in their historic stables. Richard and Shirley Lindner, their family and staff produced an atmosphere of sheer literary delight. The food, the wine, the poets, who also included Elizabeth Mansutti, Martin R. Johnson, Mike Ladd, Cath Kenneally and Graham Rowlands (who performed in feather boa and tutu!), all worked well together. Staged at the Barossa Vintage Festival, around 200 locals and tourists have been introduced to our state's talented poets through 'Poets and Platters'. And now, Langmeil winery are bottling a ten year old port to celebrate the SA Writers' Centre's twentieth birthday! These commemorative bottles will be available for sale at the SAWC's birthday celebrations, through our office and from Langmeil direct.

I congratulate Mark Lloyd and Coriole for hosting numerous musical and theatrical events, and, for the first time, 'Poets and Pizza', as part of the SA Writers' Festival. It was there that a new Coriole red wine was officially launched. It is named 'Jude Aquilina Cabernet Barbera'. What a lovely name! Of course I was extremely chuffed to be the first poet in "The Coriole Poet Series" and had to provide six poems for the back labels of these bottles. It was not easy choosing suitable poems. Line

length and poem length were deciding factors. The poems had to appeal to a wide range of readers and could not be too obscure, naughty, depressing or political! I tried to select a mixture of serious and humorous poems, with some directed at women, others at men. I sent a dozen poems to Mark. In his final selection, he chose 'something for everyone'. What a thrill to think that someone may be pouring a glass of 'Jude Aquilina', and perhaps reciting my poem: I want to jump out of the bottle and say, 'Thank you - thank you for choosing this wine and for supporting the arts and helping raise the profile of poetry'. What a pleasure it has been to meet and work with Mark, Libby and the Coriole crew, to taste their fine food and wine and to be part of this important project which I feel could be the start of a trend.

To include literature in a marketing-strategy is clever and forward thinking. Wasted space on a label is a wasted opportunity to make a product unique, to attract business. Think of food packaging: a morning poem on a cereal box; on jars and milk cartons; poems on bathroom tiles, on toilet paper ... well maybe that is going too far, but the possibilities are endless. Bring back literature to the household, to the table. In my grandmother's time, parlour games, word games and spontaneous poetry writing were popular Saturday night pastimes. Nowadays, television stifles interaction and conversation between family members. Our busy lives are punctuated with impersonal messages via phones and computers. It is time to sit face to face with friends over wine to talk and think and laugh and maybe read a poem.

Russel Jeavons, culinary philosopher and author of *Your Brick Oven*, spoke on a panel of wine and food writers at the Willunga Farmers' Market during the SA Writers' Festival. His book about his famous wood oven cooking techniques, with colour pictures and recipes, is largely bought by men or as gifts for men. 'Men's

gifts' is apparently a corner of the market that is uncatered for (except with standards like socks and booze). So why not give a man a bottle of wine with a bonus poem? The gift becomes special. Perhaps a series of wine labels could contain love poems with blank spaces for the titles: the buyers pen in their own title to suit, eg., 'Happy Anniversary Hannibal' or 'For Lillian, My Love'. Another possibility is a series of poems based on common men's occupations, to sell at Christmas time as gifts.

Thankfully, arts and culture are increasingly associated with good food and wine. Tasting Australia, held recently in Adelaide, brought together chefs, food, drink and travel authors, tv presenters, poets and winemakers (to name but a few). Mark Lloyd, Roger Zubrinich and I spoke on a panel where we debated 'Poetry or wine for the table?'. Of course we all agreed that ample amounts of both should suffice. I liked Ian Parmenter's environmental slant ... 'save water, drink wine'. Held in the Riverland, the state's Regional Arts Conference, 'Vines, Wines and Creative Minds', was another recent event. These associations of wine and words/wine and minds are heartening. Perhaps tomorrow's writers and thinkers could choose their favourite wine and pen a poem to woo the winemaker. These relationships may be symbiotic: winery supports artist - artist produces wine-inspired masterpiece. After all, Horace (65-8 BC) states: 'No poems can please for long or live that are written by water drinkers'.

As newly appointed Office Manager at the SA Writers' Centre, I look forward to meeting and talking to members of the Centre. Regrettably, I will have to stand down from my position on the SAWC board. Thankyou to Barbara, John and fellow board members for your support and for running a tight ship, fuelled by Langmeil wines and Caffè Buongiorno pizza.

Jude Aquilina

Opportunities...

Writer Wanted

I am looking for an experienced/professional writer to put together a number of stories submitted by a number of ex-army musicians who can tell the story but the story is only interesting to those directly involved. We need someone who can make all the stories tie together and make them interesting reading for the general reader. Can you assist us in our quest? Contact Pat Steer on 8371 1422 or dustbin@adelaide.on.net

Mentor Required

A Year 12 student is writing a novel and would like some guidance. If you are interested and want more information call 8339 7021.

Writer Wanted

'Somebody to help me get this book out of my head and onto paper. Briefly, I was born with severe disabilities to both hands and right leg back in 1958. From then to now has been interesting to say the least – I just need someone with the right key/keys to unlock what is there and to put it down on record.' Call Tony Francis 0415 744 305.

Start a conversation

Submit an original essay or short story to the *Sydney Morning Herald* on the theme of ambiguity. 'All cash and glory to those with the passion to write what has never been written and the discipline to strip it of indulgence. Write fiction or nonfiction up to 3000 words and make it burn.' Prize \$2000 for each category. Deadline 13 April 2006. More info at www.tertiary.smh.com.au

Tasmanian Residency

The Tasmanian Writers' Centre invites Australian writers to apply for the 2006 Island of Residencies program. Successful applicants will be provided with: return economy air travel, three-weeks accommodation, \$400 as a fee for presentation of a writers' workshop during the residency, \$100 per week towards living expenses. Applications close 30 November 2005. To find out more and obtain an application form email director@tasmanianwriters.org phone 03 6224 0029 or visit www.tasmanianwriters.org/island_of_residencies.htm

Submissions for Anthology

'Attention all sippers, guzzlers, abstainers and quaffers ... We're now calling for submissions of poetry, prose, fiction and creative nonfiction for our little SA drinking anthology. We want the romance, the repulsion, the twitching nostrils of the expert home-brewer, the sweet smell of sweat on the brow of a dedicated grape grower. We want tannin, aroma, fizz and a good head. It's your choice. Make us thirsty. Submissions must be 3500 words or less, though less is better in our opinion (we prefer to read in moderation...).' Enquiries and submissions to alcoholanthology@hotmail.com

Asia and Pacific Writers Network Website

www.apwn.net is a directory of writers, writing organisations, festivals, literary magazines, e-zines, blogs, groups, news and announcements. An edition is published each month. If you are interested in being a guest editor or have ideas for themes, email info@apwn.net. Register online and add yourself, organisation, e-zine etc to the directory.

OZ Co Seeking Expertise

The Australia Council for the Arts is seeking expressions of interest from people over 18 years of age who would like to be considered for nomination as board or committee members or as specialist peer advisers. Particular encouragement is offered if you have expertise in the areas of hybrid and interdisciplinary arts; new media arts; community cultural development or other community-based arts practices; as well as media relations, marketing and audience development; and from those with Indigenous or non-English speaking backgrounds. If you are interested please visit www.ozco.gov.au/peers or call (02) 9215 9121 or toll free 1800 226 912.

Submissions wanted

Betty Collins is Assistant Editor of *Bonzer*, an online monthly magazine for 'wise elders'. Readers are invited to submit stories or articles of general interest of not more than 750 words. Submissions should be sent as attachments to The Editor, www.bonzer.org.au. There is no payment.

Bakehouse Theatre ...

in conjunction with Arts SA is offering exciting new opportunities for SA writers, actors and directors: 3 weeks free theatre rental, \$1000 production funding, box office run by the Bakehouse, 90% of box office sales, advisory administrative and marketing support. Selection Criteria: The performance must be 1 hour+ in length. The 3-week season must include at least 8 performances. The proposed production must be a new work to SA, or if previously performed it must have a strong rationale as to why we need to see this production again. Proposals deadline 16 December. If you are interested in taking the opportunity to be part of this innovative program, contact Peter Green on 82270505 to chat about your show. Check out our website www.bakehousetheatre.com for more information about applications.

Blast Magazine

Ann Nugent, editor of *Blast Magazine*, is interested in publishing short critical pieces or quality poetry by Australian poets. Deadline: 31 January 2006. For more details email anugent@annsverandah.com

The Lizard Lounge

This is your big chance to do comedy in a loving, supportive environment! Every Thursday through November, 7-9pm at 9 Hindley Street Basement. Performers sign up at 6.30pm. All ages, stand-up, comedic poetry, sketch comedy or readings, all welcome! Hosted by Maria Bamford of Rove Live, The Glass House, Melbourne Comedy Festival, Sydney Opera House and the Comedy Channel!

new e-zine

From 1st October a new on-line (+ hard copy) magazine will be available for contributions at www.killingstill.com. It includes 'non-mainstream' poetry/prose/artwork/articles.

Please read contributors notes carefully before emailing submissions to the editor, Glen Murdoch at bigchief@killingstill.com

SA Writers' Centre Partnership with Varuna

Thanks to support from the Macquarie Bank Foundation, selected SA writers will be able to develop their manuscripts at Varuna in the Blue Mountains of New South Wales. The Writers' House is a national centre for writing retreats and manuscript development. Each year, Varuna provides over 100 professional development opportunities to writers at all levels of experience and achievement and from all parts of Australia.

The Longlines Partnership has been established to increase the benefits and possibilities available for writers living away from the Brisbane-Sydney-Melbourne hubs of activity. We will now be able to offer the following new opportunities for our members:

- One-hour face-to-face or phone consultations with Varuna's Creative Director, Peter Bishop. These consultations can be of vital importance in determining the status and direction of a project and for giving a national perspective to a writer's work.

- A 2-week fellowship at Varuna. Selected by the Creative Director and the SA Writers' Centre. The recipient will have to pay a Fellowship Fee of \$165, but will receive an airfare, food and accommodation for the full two weeks.

- An opportunity to take part in 3 annual Longlines Masterclasses (2 residential, each of 5 writers for 1 week, and 1 non-residential, comprising readings and phone consultations). No airfares are provided. Applicants pay an application fee of \$22 and a program fee of \$275 for a one-week Masterclass.

Peter Bishop will be available for consultations and group workshops at the SA Writers' Centre on 16,17,18 Feb 2006. Bookings for consultations, in person or by phone to the SAWC. Writers should send a sample of their work (no more than 12 pages) plus a brief description of their writing experience, hopes and fears to Longlines Consultations, Varuna, The Writers' House, 141 Cascade St, Katoomba 2780.



Small Business with Big Dreams for Aussie Kids

'We encourage our children to aim high and reach for their goals. Some of them dream to create stories and show them to the world through film, to be part of the alluring entertainment industry. PartyCp8 is a privately funded company that is creating real and unique opportunities for young Australians from 12 to 18 years of age to enter the highly competitive film industry.

This extracurricular course is the first of its kind in the world that offers the participants hands-on experience in making a feature film. The weekly workshops will be intense as students will learn the necessary skills to accomplish their tasks at a professional grade level. Students will learn to set particular team goals and work collaboratively on one project, according to a rigorous time schedule. They will have the opportunity to appear on TV, meet industry professionals and learn from Hollywood and Australian masters about the craft.

From the writing of the screenplay through to the actors and directors, the film will be created by the students. They will be using the latest equipment, including high definition (HD) digital cameras and editing hardware and software.

The aim is to produce a commercially viable movie. Subject to successful Box Office results, those involved – students, supervisors, mentors and schools – will receive a 50 per cent share of any profits the movie makes. Selected participants will have the opportunity to attend international film festivals to represent and market their film. There is no other course like this in Australia or the world.

PartyCP8 workshops will commence with several locations in Sydney, with plans to expand to other Australian cities and overseas. The company aims to have 200 students at each of its workshops.

For those interested in learning more, or becoming involved in this innovative small business contact:

Adrian Bertino-Clarke on 0433 116 603, or info@partycp8.com.au or visit PartyCp8 website www.partycp8.com



Obituary...

Members of the SA Writers' Centre will be saddened to hear of the death of Jonathan Lucraft. Jonathan first became a member of the Writers' Centre in 1997 and almost instantly his impressive and wide-ranging writing skills were put to work. He conducted first-rate travel writing workshops at the Centre, in which Jonathan's extensive knowledge and experience as a highly successful Tour Operator owner in the UK were exploited to the full. He also volunteered to take responsibility for Radio Adelaide's Short Story program during 2004. In this role he would read and select stories to be broadcast, and find suitable voices to match the stories. There is no doubt that his outgoing personality and his pearls of wisdom will be sorely missed at the Centre, as will be the case in the many other volunteer organisations, such as Radio Adelaide and Radio for the Print Handicapped (RPH), where he made substantial and outstanding contributions. It was a measure of the man and his commitment to all the community organisations he was involved in that, even in the latter stages of his battle with cancer, when the body must have said, 'Enough,' he continued to work until the very end. Jonathan Lucraft 1941-2005.

By Malcolm Hughes, who had the privilege of being one of Jonathan's producers at Radio Adelaide.

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What's On...

Poetica November

Radio National, 729AM, Saturday at

3.05pm and repeated 9.05pm, Thursday.

5th T.V. – a radio poem by John Kinsella, produced with sound artists 'The New Pollutants.'

12th Collaborations from Renga to Ern Malley; poetry composed by groups or pairs of writers.

19th New and selected poems by Rhyll McMaster.

26th Catullus: new translations by Josephine Balmer of this scathing and scandalous Roman poet.

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

Talks at Marion Cultural Centre

'Beloved African', presented by Jill Baker, is a story of a great and enduring love, of pioneering adventure in the early days of Rhodesia, of the builders, the educators, the history, triumphs and troubles of that beautiful country. Monday, 7 November, 11am–12.30pm. FREE. Also Dr. Karl Kruszelnicki will talk about his new book, *Dis-Information and Other Wikkid Myths*, Wednesday, 16 November, 2005 from 7.30pm to 8.30pm. Tickets \$6.60. Limited seating, bookings to the Marion Cultural Centre Box Office on 8375 6855.

Big Book Club

A Man's Got to have a Hobby by William McInness. The star of *SeaChange* and *Blue Heelers* takes us back to the long Australian summers of the 60s and 70s, writing about people who aren't famous but should be. Touring dates: 21–25 November 2005. Events to be confirmed. For more details go to www.libraries.sa.gov.au or call 8333 4049 closer to the date.

No Place Like Home ...

is an extraordinary collection of stories by young writers aged 8-21 years, creating a narrative picture of Australians, past and present. '... for we are all displaced peoples or the descendants of displaced peoples, whether we are from Indigenous, settler, migrant or refugee families.' The launch will be from 5.30pm, Thurs 10 November at the Jade Monkey bar in Twin St (off Rundle Mall), city. Edited by Sonja Dechian, Jenni Devereaux, Heather Millar and Eva Sallis and published by Wakefield Press.

Performing Arts Committee Luncheon

Brett Sheehy, Artistic Director of Adelaide Bank Festival of Arts 2006, will give a detailed Visual Presentation of the 2006 program. From 11.30am in the Red Ochre Restaurant. Cost \$50 includes a glass of wine and a sumptuous 2-course lunch. 9 November 2005. RSVP Diane Morris on 8271 1747 ASAP.

Lizard Lounge

Basement 9-11 Hindley Street Adelaide. Poetry & Spoken Word Evening. Last Thursday of Every Month. All Welcome. Open Mike. Great Atmosphere. Guest Poets to be announced. Call Lauren on (08) 8212 0620 for details or to get involved.

Meet a Local Author

Megan Hender will talk about *Saying Goodbye: Stories of caring for the dying*. Monday 7 November, 7–8.30pm, Adelaide South West Community Centre, 171 Sturt Street, Adelaide. Call 8212 3533 for details.

Introduction to Screenwriting

Chris Tugwell's 2-day workshop is a basic course for anyone intending to develop their skills in screenwriting and covers stages of development of the script, synopsis, outline and treatment, writing dialogue, layout, developing believable characters, structure, etc. Chris has produced more than 50 scripts for film, TV and multimedia. He also works as a script editor and consultant for stage, feature film and TV projects. He taught screen and stage writing for the Adelaide Institute of TAFE and is currently working on the adaptation of his stage play *X Ray*, the true story of the plight of Australian David Hicks held in Guantanamo Bay. Cost: \$125 for AWG members, \$200 for non-members. At the SAWC, 5–6 November, 2005 from 9.30am–4.30pm. Further info call 8232 6852 or sa@awg.com.au

The Hills Poets ...

meet every second Sunday of the month from 3.30 to 5.30 pm at the Crafers Inn, Crafers. The next meeting will be on Sunday 13 November. New poets are always welcome to come and join us and read their work, or if they prefer, just to listen. Enquiries to Jill Gower on 8339 5119.

Wednesdays at One

Kirsty Brooks will speak about the books in her life, 7 December, at the Institute Building, corner of North Tce and Kintore Ave from 1pm. Kirsty, a former Chair of the SA Writers' Centre, is Director of Driftwood Manuscripts, an assessment agency for writers. She has published four books, written for magazines, websites and board games and was awarded the Barbara Hanrahan Fellowship at the SA Premier Literary Awards. Cost \$6.50. Contact Helen Williams, Friends of the State Library for more details on 8207 7255.

Copyright Agency Ltd.

In November 2005, Copyright Agency Limited (CAL) will be running seminars on what's happening in the world of copyright and CAL. Snapshots of: What is being copied in schools, universities and TAFEs; where the money goes; what is happening in copyright policy and how it may affect you; and what's happening in market and sector development for copyright materials. At the State Library of SA, Lecture Theatre, North Terrace, Adelaide, Wednesday 30 November 2005, 5.30pm CAL for beginners session (30 mins.) with a 6pm start. Refreshments will be served. To register, contact CAL on (02) 9394 7600 or email info@copyright.com.au.

The Mudd Club

'You are invited to the launch of the *mudd club* vol 1, an independent publishing initiative which features new anonymous writing on pop culture and politics by the most talented and good looking people you know. It's the literary event of the year. Seriously. Thursday 17 November. Sugar, Level 1, 274 Rundle Street from 8pm. DJ, Dance Troupe. Music by GR4F Literary Collective. *No readings*. Free entry. Tell your cool friends to gatecrash.' More info: themuddclub@gmail.com

Annual Australian Assoc. of Writing Programs Conference

24–27 November 2005. Theme: Alchemy: Blending Research and Creativity. November 24 will be devoted to a full day of postgraduate workshops for creative and professional writing students. Curtin University, Perth, WA. For more info go to www.gu.edu.au/school/art/text

Letters ...

Fund Raiser

'Come and see the great film
Adaptation! Most of us can relate to
it, as it's about a man who has writer's
block. Why? Fundraiser for *Wet Ink* - the
magazine of new writing. Sunday 20
November 7pm at the Mercury Cinema.
Cost: \$15 includes screening plus lots of free
drinks and nibbles after the film. Hope to
see you all there!'

Inside/outside ...

and the creative spaces in between. This
professional development workshop &
master class on arts processes in prisons
& the criminal justice system, facilitated
by world renowned US theatre director &
arts therapist John Bergman, is a fantastic
opportunity for artists, writers and others
interested in exploring the processes of
engaging in community arts work in prisons
and the criminal justice system. John has
25 years experience in creating theatre
within and touring to prisons around the
world—don't miss this opportunity! Friday
to Sunday, 9–11 December, 2005, 10am
to 5pm each day. Places are limited and
registration is required by 25 November.
For more info contact Emma Webb at
Community Arts Network SA on (08) 8231
0900, SA country toll free 1800 245 678 or
email to ewebb@cansa.net.au

Book Launches

Margaret Lloyd's

new novel

The Long Grass

will be launched at
the old police station, Goolwa
2–4pm, 4 December 2005
Friends and fellow writers
are welcome to attend.

...

Please come to the launch of
The Structure of Light

Poems, haiku and prose

by Sally Hunter

On Sunday 13 November 2005
3–5pm at Sophia
225 Cross Road, Cumberland Park, 5041
Jenny Wightman will launch the book
RSVP: 8370 0365

...

Bookends Books invites
you and your friends to the launch of
Red in the Morning

Poems by

David Mortimer

To be launched by Ioana Petrescu
SA Writers' Centre
Thursday 24 November at 6pm
All Welcome

Dear Editor,

I would like to commend those concerned
with the preparation of the booklist, *Extra!*
Extra! So far, I have read these titles from
it: *Ill-starred Captains: Flinders & Baudin;*
Long Words Bother Me (also as a matter of
interest *Words, Words Words: A Word in*
Your Ear), *Angels Don't go Droving;* *Ruby*
of Trowutta: Recollections of a Country
Post Mistress; *Heart of the Matter, Crime:*
it Can Happen to You; *Elizabeth Costello;*
Three Dog Night; *The Goddam Bus of*
Happiness; *Spirit Wrestlers.* On reserve
are *Knitting;* *Fire, Fire* and *Where is the*
Green Sheep?

While working through my choices at
Marion Library Service, I was invited to
fill out two lists of five books at a time and
I understand some of these have been
purchased for that library. There are still
some books on the list I want to try for, so
there's more reading ahead yet. It has been
helpful and informative to have the list on
hand. Some lists have been put out for the
public at the library and Barbara provided a
detailed list with ISBNs as a ready reference
for purchases.

Altogether, it has been an illuminating
and refreshing experience for me.
Congratulations on a very worthwhile
20th anniversary acknowledgement of the
SA Writers' Centre and its good work in
assisting and promoting the work of South
Australian Writers.

Gwen Dally

Seaview Press Interviews

Susan Rintoul or Bill Phippard
of Seaview Press

will be available on
the first Friday of the month:
4 November & 1 December to
talk to authors personally about
their manuscripts—specifically
book production and/or editing
and indexing. Seaview Press
acts only for self-publishers.
Appointments at the SAWC of
up to an hour will be free but
bookings are essential. Please
ring 8235 1535 to book or email
susan@seaviewpress.com.au

LOOKING FOR A PUBLISHER?

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

Unlike Self Publishing, Partnership Publishing provides the
distribution network, manages the project from line editing,
typesetting, proofing, printing, book design, often co-funds
production, provides promotional support including a personalized
page for the author's work and a short biography. Sid Harta can
arrange for author launches/talks to promote their title.

There are many problems with the alternative, Self Publishing,
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SPACE FOR IMAGINATION: THE VIEW FROM CHELTENHAM

BY DAVID MORTIMER



“Since they moved all the racecourses
Birdies have no place to go”
Captain Matchbox Whoopee Band, “That’s
what the bird said to me”,
Wangaratta Wahini (1974)

It looked like junk mail. Even my next door neighbour threw it away. She was part of the protest last year, after the jockey club announced its intention to sell Cheltenham racecourse. But for some reason it caught my eye: “A Structure Plan is to be prepared for the Cheltenham Woodville Precinct Council needs your input”

I had been working across town at Urrbrae, and at lunchtime could walk in the Waite Arboretum, where there are trees from all around Australia and all around the world. I particularly liked the Bunya pines, the Dragon’s blood trees, and a Flinders Teak which received my personal award for the best quality shade.

So I wrote a letter, suggesting a Cheltenham Arboretum, which was published in the *Messenger* press – the *Portside* and the *Weekly Times*.

I went to the Structure Plan meeting at Charles Sturt Council’s civic centre on Woodville Road, took note of what was

happening, and actually took notes – which proved useful later. I put my name down to be kept informed, and I sent an email to council and our local ward councillors about traffic flow worries down our street.

I was thinking globally, acting locally, and being a good resident, ratepayer and taxpayer – protecting the “amenity of our locale”, and expecting our representatives to represent our interests. I also expected to be kept in the loop, and I let the matter rest. That was in June this year.

In July I had not heard much, so I sent an email to our state member, Jay Weatherill. In August I attended a residents’ meeting to “Save Cheltenham Park Racecourse”. Jay Weatherill walked out, but our federal member Rod Sawford spoke well, so I sent him an email suggesting he speak out more.

What really woke me up was an article in the real estate section of the *Adelaide Review*.

This was a report about the CEO of my local council, which is officially opposed to the sale of Cheltenham, happily telling readers how he had written to the Premier of a state government which is also officially opposed, urging that the state government rezone the racecourse for development – the argument being that “this thing’s going to happen, whether you want it to happen or not”. (“Around Town” *Adelaide Review*, August 5-18, 2005).

I wrote a letter which was published as “The Lungs of Cheltenham” in the *Adelaide Review* of September 2-15, 2005. I also wrote an email to the Premier, Mike Rann, pointing out that “... I hadn’t realised about this ‘urging the Premier’ thing until I found out that the Chief Executive of my local council, Peter Lockett, had been doing it -- and was happy to brag about it Mr Lockett’s message appears to be ‘Give up. You’re surrounded ... by developers’. I urge the opposite, and I expect more from a Government that set up the thinkers-in-residence programme, inviting Herbert Girardet and others, in a festival-of-ideas State.”

Also, in response to the question that one of the Premier’s cabinet colleagues

reputedly asked a residents’ delegation, about the possibility of saving Cheltenham for open space, namely “what’s in it for us?”, I said: “... I would suggest that you all have a chance to appear members of a visionary government, rather than a short-sighted, chop-it-up, sell-it-off one. And we’ll all breathe better air”. (I like answering rhetorical questions).

Since then I have hardened up my position. I am urging the State Government to purchase Cheltenham racecourse and zone it “Open Space: for the use of the Community”. I believe it could be bought at a negotiated discount on some kind of leaseback arrangement with the SA Jockey Club for regular or occasional horse races.

I am able to argue this “win-win” situation is both possible and appropriate because of the notes I took at the Structure Plan meeting in June, when the Chief Executive of the jockey club stated that the main motivation for the SAJC wanting to sell was to show the State Government that it (the Jockey Club) could “stand on its own two feet”.

So now, after letters in the *Messenger* press, *Advertiser*, *Sunday Mail* and *Adelaide Review*, along with emails to all three levels of government, I am labelled an “activist”. But to me it is just a matter of wanting my elected representatives to represent me – i.e. the standard political process.

If this is activism it is a very passive sort – mostly amounting to sending the odd email or two in the middle of the night. But I do admit to a history. I have got form, so to speak.

I am a member of CROW, my father Arthur Mortimer’s activist group, which stands for “Concerned Residents Of the West”.

In 1977, when we were living at Largs Bay and our nearest public library was at West Torrens (one branch library for 214,000 people in the western suburbs) I was one of the group that tried to “borrow the State Library dry”.

Actually we borrowed all books catalogued with the author’s name beginning “M”, using a series of shopping trolleys, and being photographed by

Letters (cont) . . .

Thanks for the Memories

the press. Premier Don Dunstan found some money fast, and suddenly we had a shopfront library at Semaphore, followed by others in Port Adelaide, Woodville, Henley Beach and so forth.

Dad's subsequent thesis that public library access improves football performance is legendary. Various versions of this, along with exhortations for federal funding of public libraries, have made it dangerous to open any newspaper since. (I am doing my best to pass the "Oh no – another letter from Dad" experience on to my own children).

Dad prefers not to talk about a letter unless and until it is published. But on the other hand he has a balm for disappointment. Once, when a particularly well-crafted letter had failed to surface after a series of attempts, a friend told him "Cheer up Arthur, at least you're educating the editors."

Cheltenham racecourse is worth a letter, an email or phone-call to the media, politicians or powers-that-be. It is a big area and the battle for it is going on right now. I believe its very size argues against compromise – with alternative plans that would see high-rise, high-density housing, a shopping centre, light industry, car-parking and a multi-function pokies palace.

I believe the zoning for the entire area must remain "Racecourse" or preferably "Open Space", with wetlands, arboretum, urban forest, and compatible activities such as water reuse and recycling. I will finish with a poem that goes with this kind of vision, called "Depth":

See the banksia brushes bounce/ from the
Little-birds-have-been-there/ leaving
Just a shape of weight/ the little
Birds that keep their comings
Past the corners of our eyes
Their goings and goings
Quicker/ black-and-whitely
Sideways down/ than ever
And every/ almost/ eyes can keep/ Up

David Mortimer is a poet and resident of Cheltenham. His poetry collection, Red in the Morning, will be launched 24 November at the SAWC. See page 7 for details.

The 2005 South Australian Writers' Festival is over. I went. I listened. I even asked questions. I enjoyed myself immensely: from the beautiful artwork of Sascha Hutchinson to the delicious brain-food-filled smorgasbord final day at Wirra Wirra winery.

The session, which I expected to like the least, 'Eat your words' at the Willunga Farmers Market, was the one I related to most strongly. I went because it was the only session I was able to coax my husband to attend. It was raining, but the forecast promised clearing showers and for fourteen years we had lived at Mc Laren Vale. We would have lunch to celebrate belatedly a wedding anniversary and look up old acquaintances.

The sincerity and practicality of the panel members' work impressed me. Also I will never be able to look at a photo of luscious, lascivious food from now on without thinking of Mark Lloyd's expression, 'Food Porn'. My question, asking if any of them would take up the topic of exposing the dangers of using Canola oil, may have surprised them. I worry, because this product is appearing in many more foods than just margarine and its use is often encouraged in recipes. It is much cheaper than olive oil. There is gathering evidence that it is linked to the eye condition Macular Degeneration.

Not wanting to appear too greedy I did not ask their opinion on the fraudulent 'scallops' being dished up in 'sea-food basket' meals. Two appeared on Bill's lunch plate. They are white medallion-shaped structures but without the red roe of a genuine, expensive scallop. They are made from a marine animal's flesh, but not one that lived in a shell. I have been told they are stamped out of stingray muscle. Such is the power of globalization. A rare, high order, slowly reproducing species is sacrificed for a rapid reproducing mollusc, the harvesting of which, is now, thankfully, regulated. There is a book in here somewhere but the research would be extensive.

The festival reinforced in me that all forms of writing have merit. The intimidation that has lived with me for so long is lessening;

especially on hearing the literary lives presented at the session, 'Yes, there is a career in writing'. Did the speakers' bravery, in relinquishing security for art, help make them so approachable?

Imaginative writing for me has always been a challenge. A long time ago, when we had to choose subjects for senior study, a wizened-up old prune of an English teacher said, 'You can't do English, Barbara. So you had better do Science. And be careful. Only the flirts do Science'.

My English marks were adequate for a pass grade, but in her eye no more. No one argued with her, particularly in matters such as this. She had many Tennyson Medals to her credit.

I did a Science degree and became a teacher. Of course I put many words together. They described obscure seaweeds, the genetics of fruit flies and the sex life of numerous animals, plus hundreds of sentences about education. Nevertheless such task-orientated products she would not have considered as 'writing'. The Festival showed this to be untrue.

In a strange way I did get my own back in 1985. I felt a strong vicarious pleasure when I received praise for producing the history of the school where she and I interacted for five years. She, however, was long dead. The rude signs that I made towards her in my mind were just for my satisfaction.

Then came retirement. Now I have the time to prove that old biddy wrong. The SA Writers' Centre provides the avenue for information. Membership of the Writing Right group gives me instruction, support and inspiration. The festival helped me to find courage.

I may not be published. I certainly do not believe I will be famous. Nonetheless I am learning, and having great fun. It sure beats the hell out of playing the pokies.

Thank you Festival organizers. Thank you presenters. Thank you writers and artists for revealing your work and ideas. So that we had the opportunity to listen and learn. It sure was a great week for a rookie like me.

Cheers,
Barbara Fraser

Literary Competitions...

 **7 November 2005**
Gwen Harwood Poetry Prize. Submissions of a single poem or a linked suite to 100 lines. 1st prize \$1500. Entry fee \$12.

 **25 November 2005**
Whyalla Writers' Group Short Story & Poetry Competition. Theme: Voyage of Discovery. 1. Short story, adult, max 1500 words, 1st Prize \$250; 2. Poetry, adult, max 40 lines, 1st prize \$250; 3. Short story, 12-18yrs, max 1000 words, 1st prize \$100 + book voucher; 4. Poetry, 12-18yrs, max 25 lines, 1st prize \$100 + book voucher. Entry fee \$7 & \$5.

 **30 November 2005**
Society of Women Writers (Tas.) Writing Competition. 1. Short story to 3000 words. 1st prize \$500. Entry fee \$5. 2. Poetry to 100 lines. 1st prize

-  indicates a competition listed for the first time
-  indicates a competition with sections for young writers
-  indicates the SA Writers' Centre holds the entry forms

As a service to members, the SAWC holds entry forms and guidelines. Call in and collect copies for 20c each or send one business-sized stamped self-addressed envelope, plus one loose 50c stamp for every TWO competitions requested.

If you have any queries about competitions and/or vanity publishing please contact the SAWC. There are some basic guidelines available.

\$500. Entry \$5. More info at www.lilydaletas.net/comgrps/SWW/

 **30 November 2005**
Libbon Writing Competition. Short original fiction, max 2500 words. Winners receive cash and publication. More details at www.libbon.co.uk

 **2 December 2005**
Inner City Life Literary Competition. Categories: 1.

Short Story, max 500 words; 2. Poetry, max 20 lines. Entry \$5. 1st prize \$100 + book voucher and winners will be published in *village voice*. More info, email nswwc@nswwriterscentre.com.au or call 02 9555 9757.

  **16 December 2005**
Hal Porter Short Story Competition. Any style, 1st prize \$1000. Max 2500 words. Entry \$5.50. More info at

www.egipps.vic.gov.au, email pedrom53@bigpond.net.au or call 03 5152 6731.

   **30 December 2005**
Holonovel 2006: United Federation of Planets Sci Fi and Fantasy short story competition. Categories: Best senior (over 18) and Best youth (under 18 as at 20 Oct 2005). Max 3000 words. Free entry. More info at www.ufpofsa.org or visit the SAWC on the last Sunday of every month, 4-6pm.

 **31 December 2005**
Page Seventeen Short Story & Poetry Competition. 1st prize \$100. Entry fee \$5 or 3 for \$12. Open theme. Short story max 3000 words, poetry to 50 lines. More info at www.pageseventeen.com.au or send SSAE to PO Box 566, Cockatoo, 3781.

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Congratulations...

David Adès' poem, 'The Seduction of a Poet', was published in *Four W 15*, Nov. 2004. His poems, 'Oops' and 'Spring Tide', appeared in *Micropress Oz*, vol. 12, iss. 9, Oct. 2004 and his poem 'Possibilities' in *Micropress Oz*, vol. 13, iss. 1, Feb. 2005. His poem 'Counting the Days' was the Friendly Street website poem of the month for May 2005 and was also published in *Poetry Monash*, June 2005. His poem 'Cold Front' was published in *Tamba # 36*, June 2005.

Bett Angel-Stawarz was happy to receive two Highly Commended awards for her Haibun, 'Mum', in Yellow Moon competition 18, Seed of Pearls and for 'Tragedy' in the Nature Section.

Jude Aquilina's poem, 'Stingray', was used in the Year 7 Basic Skills Test. The following poems were accepted or published in the following journals respectively: 'The Call'; 'Beauty and the Breast'; 'A Rough Meal ...' in *Quadrant*; *Pendulum* and *Positive Words*.

Janeen Brian's story, 'Below and Beyond' has been included in the anthology, *Stories for 8 year-olds* by Random House. *By Jingo!*, a picture book of short, quirky animal poems, illustrated by Dee Huxley, will be published by ABC Books.

David Diss recently published *Dizzy*, an autobiographical book, which was launched in the UK.

M.L. Emmett's poem, 'Suburban Sex', was published in the September edition of *The Mozzie*.

Fiona Johnston's poem, 'Tapa', has been chosen to be included in *The Best Australian Poems 2005* (Black Inc.), edited by Les Murray and to be published in October.

Jill Gloyne's poem, 'I am Orange', received a Highly Commended in the 2005 *New England Review* Poetry Competition and her short story, 'The Boy on the Beach', won second prize in the Yarram Community Learning Centre's Annual Literary Competition. Her poem, 'The Crab', has won second prize in the Society of Women Writers of Victoria Biennial Literary Award.

Doug Gregory's poems, 'The Awakening' and 'Dinner for Two', from his latest collection, *A Candle for Tomorrow*, have been selected for publication in the November issue of *Positive Words*.

Sally Hunter co-authored the obituary

for her father, Ronald Hunter, which appeared in *The Advertiser*, 9/7/ 2005. It was titled 'Lifetime Mission for Humanity'.

Gwenda Jeffrey was awarded a cheque and a Highly Commended Certificate for her story, 'The dint in the doona', in the City of Onkaparinga's *Southern Write* Short Story Competition.

Susan Leisavnieks won second prize and a silver medal for her poem 'Dancing' in the International Poetry Contest (US), July 2005. The poem is also being included in the *Eternal Portraits* anthology of poetry. Her poem, 'Can You Hear A Memory', is being included in 'Circle of Poets' (US) anthology, *Poetry Vibes*, 2005.

Margaret Lloyd from the Sand Writers Group is self-publishing her first novel, *The Long Grass*, to be launched in December.

David Mercer's short story, 'On Beagle-hole Beach', was read and recorded in September for replay nationally on the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia network.

David Mortimer's poem, 'Flooding and Zoning', was published in *The Peninsula* in October 2005.

Alma Iris Ramirez's story, 'Tableau in Red', will appear next month in www.bonzer.org.au

Suzanne Reece has had her poems 'Curiosity' and 'Grandma's House' published in *The School Magazine*.

Graham Rowlands's poem, 'Bonking' was published in *The Best Australian Poems 2005* edited by Les Murray (Black Inc.).

Eva Sallis's novel, *The Marsh Birds*, won the Asher Literary Award. Her chapbook translation of (South Australian writer) Yahia' al-Samawy's poetry entitled *Two Banks with No Bridge* was published by Picaro Press.

Angela Schoen's poem, 'Neujahr' was selected for publication in *Nationalbibliothek Deutschsprachiger Gedichte* Bd. VIII, 2005.

Anne-Marie Taplin has a short story, 'An Autumn BBQ', appearing in issue two of *Page Seventeen*.

Chris Tugwell's play, *X Ray*, was part of the 2005 Darwin Festival in August and was chosen as the highlight of the festival by ABC Radio. *X Ray* will also be produced by a company in New Mexico (US) this November with a Los

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

Angeles season to follow. The feature film version of *X Ray* just received 'next' draft funding from the SA Film Corporation. The film is being produced by the Adelaide Motion Picture Company and will be directed by Mario Andreacchio.

Zenda Vecchio's short story, 'The Bear', won second prize in the short story section of 2005 Sutherlandshire FAW Regional Annual Literary Awards and will be published in *Writers' Voice*.

Margaret Visciglio received a commended in the Laura Folk Fair for a short story called 'Leaving the Bear'.

Kurt Von Trojan's story, 'Celeste', was published in issue 1 of *Short Stories Australia*.

rob walker's 'Redback Spider (male)' will be published in *fourW sixteen* (AUS), 'sparrow in an airport', 'Orange man' and 'microworld' were added to *The (new) Breath e-zine* (Canada) and his 'speech of parts' appears in the newly-released *Best Australian Poems 2005* (Black Inc.).

Dirk Zadra's English short story, 'Midge', will be published in the *Tarralla* Anthology, December 2005.

Wirra Wirra Short Story Competition

2005 • Overall winner of the \$1,000 prize & trophy: 'Dancing with Etti' by **David Adès**. Highly Commended: \$200 book vouchers from Wakefield Press: 'Decisions' by **Anna Solding** and '...Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness' by **Julia Archer**.

Short List: 'The Space Between' – **Heather Butterworth**, 'Sam's Decision' – **Carolyn Crowhurst**, 'Between the Phone Calls' – **Jacquelyn Cleary**, 'Nine Dragon Town' – **David Bradbury**, 'The No-name Menu' – **Sally Ashton**, 'Springboard' – **Julia Archer**, 'The Baltic Estate' – **Jennifer Palmer** (winner of the last Wirra Wirra Competition), 'The End of the Beginning' – **Meredyth Cilento**, 'First Names Only' – **Ross Duffy**, 'Emerging' – **Michael Butler**, 'A Rose in Bloom' – **Fiona Bascur**, 'Doing Laps' – **Fiona Bascur** and 'Sanguo Di Terra' – **Margaret Visciglio**.

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