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.

My, how we’ve changed!

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)


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!

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.

Wheelchair/ lift access
is available at the 26 York Street rear entrance.
Alternatively, come in from Rundle Street via Buongiorno’s Cafe to reach the lift.
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 Wines 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 Caffe 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 justbin@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.

**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 or call 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 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, supervsors, 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

Member 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, 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 Rhythm 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 McInnes. 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 Guantamano 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 ka@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: hemuddclub@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 …**

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 Trouwutta: 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

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**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, which places the onus for the above entirely on the author and, in consequence, most fail.

This is NOT Vanity Press. SHP only publish works that have merit.

Contact SHP at: author@sidharta.com.au or visit our website for submission details at: http://www.publisher-guidelines.com and http://www.sidharta.com.au

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SPACE FOR IMAGINATION:  
THE VIEW FROM CHELTHENHAM  
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 Dragon’s blood trees, and a Flinders
world. I particularly liked the Bunya pines,
from all around Australia and all around the
Urrbrae, and at lunchtime could walk in
Precinct prepared for the Cheltenham Woodville
it caught my eye:

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 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 McLaren 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 ‘scallop’ 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 inspiration. 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

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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

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 $50. Entry fee $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 hawwc@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...


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.

Janean 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.


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 Leisavnicks 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.


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

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

Eva Sallis’ 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.


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 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 Andrecacchio.


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 four-W 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.).


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
Membership Application Form
SA Writers’ Centre Inc PO Box 43 Rundle Mall 5000 ABN 40 783 458 265 Ph (08) 8223 7662 Fax (08) 8232 3994 Email sawriters@sawriters.on.net

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