

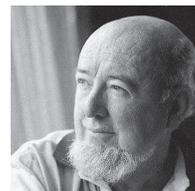


SOUTH AUSTRALIAN WRITERS' FESTIVAL 2005

It's On!

Some highlights of the South Australian Writers' Festival

Australia's most highly celebrated writer **Tom Keneally** will present this year's Anne Marie Mykyta Lecture, 'Writing in a Dangerous Age: The more conventional outlets die out, the more small presses and the internet take over, but it's hard to make a living out of an internet blog.' Tom will give practical tips on how to survive as a writer. Friday, 9 September, SA Writers' Centre. Free.



The **Montefiore Group** presents a musical tour of Adelaide past and present through the words of some of SA's best writers including Barbara Hanrahan, Max Fatchen, Gary Disher, Peter Goldsworthy, Angela Heuzenroeder, Anne Bartlett, Eva Sallis and Stephanie Luke. Enjoy a leisurely and luxurious lunch listening to beautiful (live) classical music and readings. Sunday, 11 September, Middlebrook Winery. Cost \$35.

A day of thought-provoking panel discussions with entertainment by three of SA's best musicians in the pleasant surroundings of Wirra Wirra Vineyards. Writer of *Strictly Ballroom* and *Lantana*, **Andrew Bovell**, will set the mood with his keynote address, 'The Night the Lights Went Out: How a writer responds in a politically and socially conservative climate'. Sunday, 18 September. Free.

Catch the **Writers' Bus** from the city to enjoy the final day at Wirra Wirra! Cost \$10. Contact the SA Writers' Centre or see the program for details. All events, including details of time and costs can be found in the **Festival Program** (enclosed).

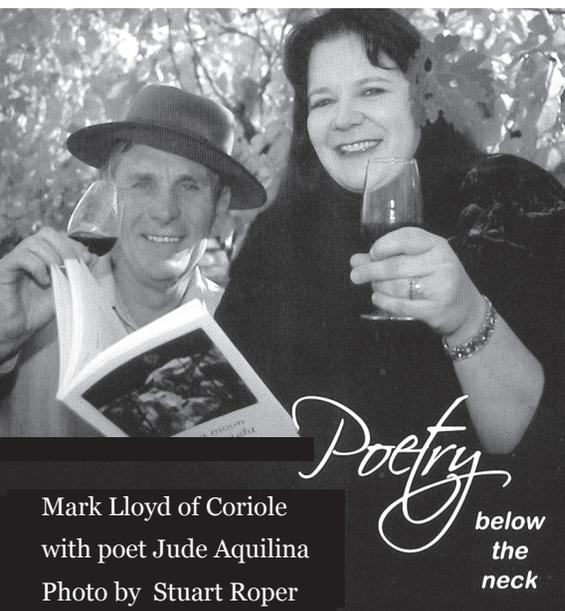
Poets & Pizza

7pm Friday 16 September

CORIOLE POET SERIES LAUNCH AT 'POETS & PIZZA'

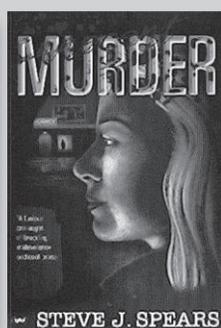
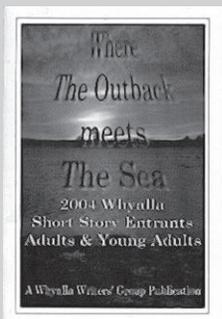
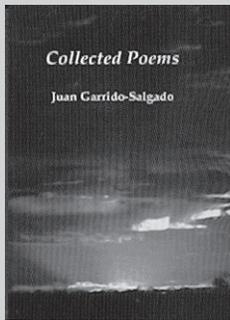
In a new partnership with emerging Australian contemporary poets, SA winery Coriole brings poetry to the table, via the wine bottle. Featuring a stimulating blend of lively words and substantial wine, the Poet Series aims to encourage the enjoyment of both. The project, believed to be unique in Australia, will introduce Jude Aquilina's poetry to a whole new audience. Six of her poems will appear on the back labels of Coriole's new Cabernet Barbera vintage (2004). Each year a new poet will be featured.

The wine will be launched and available for sale and tasting at POETS AND PIZZA: an evening of fine wine, gourmet pizza and mellifluous words at Coriole Vineyards, Chaffey's Road, McLaren Vale, on Friday 16 September, 7pm. The poets, Jude Aquilina, Louise Nicholas, Steve Evans and Rob Walker will entertain with humour, satire and a few poetic surprises. \$30 includes poetry, pizza and a glass of wine. Bookings on 8323 8305 or email: louise@coriole.com



Mark Lloyd of Coriole
with poet Jude Aquilina
Photo by Stuart Roper

Centre Information...



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.

So Very Resourceful

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

Author Donations

Lucy Clark, *Crisis at Katoomba Hospital*, Harlequin Mills and Boon (Medical) 2005; *Dr Cusack's Secret Son*, Harlequin Mills and Boon (Medical) 2005.

Juan Garrido-Salgado, *Collected Poems*, Five Islands Press, 2005

Roger Norris-Green, *Where the Outback Meets the Sea: 2004 Whyalla Short Story Entrants*, A Whyalla Writers Group Publication.

Wakefield Press, *State of South Australia: Trends and Issues*, edited by John Spoehr, 2005; *A Great and Glorious Reformation: Early South Australian Legal Innovations*, by Greg Taylor, 2005 and *Innocent Murder* by Steve J Spears, 2005.

John Wiley & Sons Ltd, *Literati: Australian Contemporary Literary Figures Discuss Fear, Frustrations and Fame*, by James Phelan, 2005.

Newsletter Folders

Thank you to the following folders who helped with the August newsletter: Betty Collins, John & Coie Dikkenberg, Jo Dey, Catherine Jones, Jo Vabolis, Tony & Lyn Brooks, Tim Earl, Helen Sanderson and Lindy Warrell.

"Ode to the Spell Checker"

Eye halve a spelling chequer
It came with my pea sea
It plainly marques four my revue
Miss steaks eye kin knot sea.

Eye strike a key and type a word
And weight four it two say
Weather eye am wrong oar write
It shows me strait a weigh.

As soon as a mist ache is maid
It nose bee fore two long
And eye can put the error rite
Its rare lea ever wrong.

Eye have run this poem threw it
I am shore your pleased two no
Its letter perfect awl the weigh
My chequer tolled me sew!

Anonymous
sourced by Sivia Muscardin
SA Writers' Centre Librarian

The Short History of the Literature Board 1986-2000

'Australia is as good as its words.'

This slogan, used by the Literature Board in 1992, illustrates the Board's belief that Australian writers and their work are important—to the Board, to their readers and to their country. In collaboration with the Literature Board, Irene Stevens has written a history titled *The Short History of the Literature Board 1986-2000* and it is now available to read online at:

www.ozco.gov.au/arts_resources/publications/short_history_of_the_literature_board/

Stevens examines a challenging period in which the Australia Council underwent two dramatic restructures. Her work is an engaging and lucid overview of this era, providing information concerning the changes that have affected the Literature Board's decision-making process and funding priorities, along with examples of grants awarded, successes and failures and the Board's commitment to individual writers.

Self-published Authors

If you would like to deliver no more than five copies of your books to the SAWC, they will be on sale at the Wirra Wirra Vineyards on 18th September, 2005, as part of the SA Writers' Festival Bookstore.

Training Program

The Australian Copyright Council is an independent not for profit organisation based in Sydney. They will be in Adelaide, on 5 September, and their training sessions include a crash course in Copyright Essentials, Moral Rights and Recent Developments in Copyright. More information at www.copyright.org.au/training or call (02) 9318 1788.

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.

Poetry to the Rescue

By Louise Nicholas



Like many primary schools, the school at which I teach has a major focus on information technology. But like many junior primary school teachers, not just those of us who began teaching in pre-calculator days, I'd rather do a double yard duty than do time in the computer room. Even though some of the children know more than me, and can (and do) take over the teaching role, the fact remains: when the computer gremlins come out to play (and when do they not?), dividing one teacher into 27 children just does not 'go'!

More and more though—call it wisdom, Grumpy Old Woman Syndrome, or the need to take better care of my health now that my students, when they forget where they are, are more likely to call me 'Granny' than 'Mum'—I am able to slough off the stress and guilt and tell myself that there'll be time enough for computers later. (Heaven knows today's students will be hard pushed to avoid them.) And with this in mind, I cut the lesson short, leave my frustration to fester among the computer chips and traipse back to the classroom for another story.

Forget computer games, Gameboys and Tamagotchis. Most children love a good story. And nothing beats those little faces shining up at you when Andy Griffiths's runaway pram (with him in it) is heading for the intersection, or Lucy has found her way into Narnia via (of all things) a wardrobe. Even better, as a teacher entrusted with the most important job in the world, I can relax for a while, secure in the knowledge that many of life's lessons can be learned in books.

American poet Billy Collins instigated a programme in high schools in which every day begins with a poem. Read once, no discussion entered into. We, too, begin each day with a new poem. I've learned to gag the teacher in me who loves to point out the best path through the woods. Instead I let

the words work their magic. Occasionally I might ask, 'Which part did you like best?' or 'Which part of the poem can you still hear in your head?' And often as not they'll choose a particularly melodious line, or a word turned on its head and standing for something other than itself, or a part where they felt an emotional connection. But I resist any urge, as Billy so memorably says in his poem *Introduction to Poetry*, to 'tie the poem to a chair with rope/and torture a confession out of it'.

We do, of course, at other times of the day, read some poems again and again. Parents tell me that their children recite their favourite poems over the dinner table. And sometimes we talk about a particular poem and whether we agree with the point of view expressed. Or we take careful note of the poet's word choices and try to

I resist any urge ... to 'tie the poem to a chair with rope/and torture a confession out of it.'

emulate their skill in our own writing. But nothing gladdens this veteran pedagogic heart more than to hear, 'Read us a poem, read us a poem!' Or to see many children, even those with learning difficulties, rush for the poetry books at every opportunity; not to study the poet's form or to give it a good going over with a critical literacy head-set (and let's not get into that argument right now) but for the sheer pleasure of the words.

To avoid their 'You had it yesterday!' arguments, I now have several copies of Steven Herrick's *Poetry to the Rescue*. Occasionally though we still have to dig a copy out from beneath the lolly wrappers, maths sheets and lidless textas at the bottom of a book tray where it's been hidden to ensure first go next time. Elizabeth Honey's *Honey Sandwich* has

come in for a similar battering, though we know enough to check the room for much-loved grannies before we launch into her hilarious but highly irreverent 'Looking after Granny' poem.

We had only just discovered the pleasures of Michael Rosen's childhood poems in *Quick, Let's Get Out of Here*, especially those about his son Eddie, when we read Michael's 'The Sad Book' and learned that Eddie had died. That afternoon, we put aside our times tables

and read all the Eddie poems and thought of Eddie and the joy he'd brought us. Some of us wrote our own Eddie poems and others of us wrote to Michael Rosen and told him how much we cared; that we would never forget Eddie and would always think of him stroking the dead mouse and saying, 'Hello gerbils, hello gerbils, hello gerbils.'

And maybe that demonstrates 'critical literacy' of another kind. Critical to our ability to empathise with others, critical to the love of words, critical to a belief that spelling and grammar lessons do matter because words used well can reach beyond all manner of difference and show us the ways in which we are all the same.

Louise Nicholas is currently on the board of the SA Writers' Centre.

Books Alive: an affront to Australian authors

The ASA has expressed serious concerns about the current Books Alive campaign. Our press release is on our website and our views are contained in an article in *The Australian* of 29 July 2005, p. 16. Our views have been supported by major independent booksellers, individual readers and book reviewers.

In summary, the Books Alive campaign spends \$2 million a year allegedly to promote reading but really to promote book sales. So far, so good. However, the money is administered by the Australia Council, the body with the responsibility for fostering the development of Australian creativity. Half of the 50 books on the Books Alive Great Reads Guide are from non-Australian writers. The ASA has no complaint with these writers or their books. Our complaint is that Australian taxpayers'

money is being spent by the Australia Council on the promotion of sales by non-Australian writers. We strongly feel this money should only be spent promoting the sale of Australian books.

Another problem with the list is that in the main it contains books that have already proved themselves as best-sellers. Even those Australian books included are well-known works that have already achieved considerable sales success. Why then is the Australia Council spending further money promoting these titles when there is almost nothing being spent promoting young and emerging writers (writers for whom the Australia Council insists the ASA provide mentorships, but what's the point if the Council won't promote them once they're published?), writers whose works may have been overlooked in the market but who deserve the attention of readers, or

indeed any works of poetry, science fiction, or history other than war history? The questions begin to multiply the more the Books Alive campaign is reviewed.

If you share the ASA's concerns and believe the Books Alive campaign is an affront to Australian writers, we urge you to contact:

- Senator Rod Kemp, Minister for the Arts, Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600 (email: senator.rod.kemp@aph.gov.au)
- Jennifer Bott, CEO, Australia Council, PO Box 788, Strawberry Hills NSW 2012 (email: j.bott@ozco.gov.au)
- Senator Kim Carr, Shadow Minister for the Arts, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600 (email: senator.carr@aph.gov.au)

Dr Jeremy Fisher
Executive Director

Australian Society of Authors
29 July 2005

In Response:

Dear Jeremy,
The Australian Government's brief to the Australia Council for Books Alive was to consult with a diverse group of book industry representatives—publishers, booksellers, libraries, government literacy advisers, etc.—to develop a national program to promote the intrinsic value of books, including (but not limited to) books by Australian authors.

The Australian Society of Authors (ASA) was a formal member of the Reference Group and in that role was one of the significant developers of Books Alive.

The Reference Group's agreed plan, signed off by the ASA, was to provide an incentive for Australians to engage in books and reading of *any* kind—existing and new, Australian and non-Australian—while providing a focus on a limited number of Australian authors each year.

During the development phases of Books Alive, the Reference Group also commissioned research to analyse book reading habits and barriers. Confusion about what to buy when there are so many choices on bookshop shelves was cited as

a barrier to buying more books. The Books Alive Great Read Guide directly addresses that concern by highlighting what book industry specialists (publishers, booksellers and—despite claims to the contrary—published authors) believe will offer many people 'a thumping good read'.

I believe the Reference group and the Books Alive team have realised the Government's brief extraordinarily well, and in so doing over the past few years they have directly promoted some 50–60 books by Australian authors.

It is false economics to suggest that about half of the Books Alive funds are spent on 'overseas' authors because half the 50 books in this year's Great Read Guide are by Australian authors. This is a national marketing campaign and significant funds are invested in television advertising where the only books to be featured or referred to in the television advertisements over the three years of the campaign are books by Australian authors. The only authors to tour to capital cities, regional centres and towns as part of Books Alive are Australian authors.

The Australia Council is justifiably

proud of the support it offers to develop and promote Australian writing, providing \$2 million each year in direct support to Australian authors through the Literature Board. The Board provides at least another \$2 million to support Australian publishers, writers' promotion and writer service organisations, including triennial funding for the Australian Society of Authors. These totals don't include the funds provided to performance companies that commission new plays and librettos as a part of their annual operations and are funded by other boards of the Council.

The generous additional support from the Australian Government for Books Alive helps us work with publishers and booksellers and other key partners to promote the value of books. Surely the ASA would agree that the increase in profile for Australian authors and the incentive to buy and read books in Australia is a good thing for all Australians, now and for the future.

Ben Strout,
Executive Director, Arts Development
Australia Council for the Arts

2 August 2005

Letters

To the Editor

Yaritji Green and the SA Writers' Centre should be congratulated for holding the inaugural National Indigenous Writers Festival. I was delighted to be able to attend the afternoon sessions on Saturday and Sunday and hear about the work of so many Indigenous writers.

Yaritji brought together a range of writers in different genres so that we could learn more and more about the sheer determination of so many Indigenous men and women determined to be heard, in spite of all the difficulties that have been placed in their way.

They had to compete with the Festival of Ideas. I hope the SA Writers' Centre is able to support this Festival on an annual basis.

I was so pleased to hear Lisa Bellear insist on the importance of facing issues. I could not agree more.

Erica Jolly

To the Editor

I didn't read *The Australian* article [14/7/2005] but I thought Rodney Hall's question was pretty thoughtless [*Southern Write*, August 2005], like the guy didn't really know what he was talking about.

Writers' Centres should have first priority on funding, ahead of literary magazines as well as artists because that way everybody who wants to be a writer benefits. I'd much rather see money going to Writers' Centres than obscure writers whose works will be gone forever after their 6 weeks on bookshelves!

Regards, Tarla Kramer

With Magic in My Eyes

Cornwall is a quaint and magical place with tiny lanes, windswept coasts, friendly people and the best pasties.

It was an honour being invited to Cornwall to speak and have my books with Cornish themes affirmed. I gave a talk to the Cornish Literary Guild on Cornish identity in Australian children's literature at the Cornish Studies Library in Redruth, spoke in schools to promote my work and attended the Cornish literature awards night in Truro. I found the school visits very interesting as I do that work here as well. Cornish students know little more about their Cornish heritage and language than students in Moonta, Kadina or Wallaroo. It was an interesting sensation telling Cornish folktales as an Australian. Cornwall has a program to promote Cornish identity and culture in schools. Almost every student could name a relative in Australia.

My book, *Across the Creek*, won the Cornish 2005 Holyer and Gof Awards – children's section. These awards are run by the Cornish Gorseth and aim to promote their culture and literature worldwide. (The Gorseth is a college or gathering of bards, based on those of Wales and Brittany, to promote the language and culture of Celtic Cornwall.)

The Gorseth was pleased with *Across the Creek* as an example of 'stories from the descendants of the Diaspora coming home'. Cornish Bard Ann Jenkin wrote: '*Across the Creek* enhances and enlightens our appreciation of Cornwall or Cornish



Rosanne Hawke with a pasty at Mousehole, Cornwall

concerns. The book makes a considerable contribution to our understanding of the life of the Cornish immigrants overseas. It is a delightful story enjoyed by children in both Australia and Cornwall.' I was assured that it was important for the growth of Cornish identity that descendants like me write about Cornwall.

I was also able to see Cornish landmarks that I had previously written about but not seen e.g. Land's End in *Wolfchild* and Perranuthnoe Beach, where Lord Trevelyan came to shore after the drowning of the Lost Land of Lyonnese. I saw the carving of the Zennor mermaid, mentioned in *Zenna Dare*, and also went to Mousehole (pronounced Mowzal), the home of the story of Tom Bawcock, written of in *Sailmaker*.

The Cornish embrace descendants (Cousin Jacks and Jennys) from all over the world as if we've only been away for a few years rather than 160. Four generations don't seem to matter. 'Where do your people come from?' I was asked. It was an amazing feeling to be treated as a home-comer, and I understand a little more how displaced indigenous people may feel when they find their family and land.

I am very thankful to Country Arts SA who provided funding under their Regional Arts Fund Quick Response program which went towards the airfare and also to ARTS SA who provided for the internal travel to Cornwall.

Rosanne Hawke has written 12 books for young people and lives near Kapunda. She has completed a PhD in Creative Writing and has researched Cornish identity in Australian children's literature.

FOOTSTEPS

New play about science by local writer

When Robert Miller, a chemist in a multi-national corporation tries to unwind by reading the biography of Richard Steiner, atom bomb scientist, the characters in the biography spring to life and take him on a stirring journey that gives him the courage to face his own moral dilemma.

Footsteps is a gripping play about one man's struggle to balance the ethics of both science and personal integrity.

Director Allen Lyne has assembled a very experienced and talented cast for this premiere production of Ross Barrett's play at the Bakehouse Theatre, 255 Angas Street Adelaide. Wed – Sat, Sep 21 – Oct 1, 8pm. Tickets \$15/\$12
Tel: 8227 0505 • Website: www.bearly.net

Opportunities...

Funding Available

The Arts SA September 2005 grant funding round is now open. Professional practitioners, groups and organisations can apply for Project Assistance for projects undertaken between January 2006 and July 2007 in the following categories: Emerging & established artists – artists' grants; Professional attachments; Established artists' fellowships for major projects; International – presentation and marketing; Artists in residence; Festivals, events and commissions. Forms and guidelines are available from Arts SA or downloaded from the Arts SA website: www.arts.sa.gov.au under Support and Funding, or call 8463 5444 or email: artssa@saugov.sa.gov.au Applications close 5pm Friday 9 September.

ABC Fiction Award

ABC Books is seeking an unpublished, quality fiction manuscript by an emerging writer that reflects the diversity of the Australian community and adds to our sense of identity. The winner receives a \$10,000 advance, publication through ABC Books, broadcast on ABC Radio and available as an audio book. Deadline: 26 September. Winner announced at Adelaide Writers' Festival 2006. More info at www.abc.net.au/abcfictionaward or call 1800 009 994.

Vanguard journal ...

publishes innovative contemporary prose, poetry, art and critical writing, and is currently seeking submissions from emerging writers. Guidelines from emailing uqvanguard@uq.edu.au. Entries for the Vanguard Literary and Arts Awards with a prize pool of \$6500 are sought. Deadline: 20 September. Entry forms at www.emsah.uq.edu.au/uqvanguard/

Varuna Awards for Manuscript Development

Five writers will be selected by senior editors of HarperCollins Publishers to work at Varuna for 10 days on manuscripts of fiction or literary nonfiction with the intention that their work will be developed towards publication. More info on this and other outstanding opportunities at www.varuna.com.au. Deadline: 30 October.

Rural Artists & Writers Wanted

Tom Hinchey has applied to Arts SA for support for a project concerning the historic township of Port Wakefield, nearby communities and isolated country folk. The project, entitled 'Wakefield's Children', seeks to establish an arts facility at Port Wakefield which would provide opportunities for people of the rural areas to advance whatever skill they have in their art form of interest. There is much more to the project than that stated above. A vision statement has been prepared for those interested. Email askertom@bigpond.com

Cardigan Press...

'engages in wanton solicitation and insists on a high thread count as it slips between the sheets ... for its fourth anthology of fast fiction to be published in March 2006. If you write short stories that inspire terror, mirth, Schadenfreude, explosions, the gift of tears or tinnitus submit your work. We like your kind.' Submission guidelines at www.renewal.org.au/cardigan Deadline: 28 September 2005.

ASA Member Offer

Generation Publishing is pleased to offer ASA members a free copy of the first issue of *Zack Magazine* covering politics, social trends, health and wealth, as well as art and culture, wine, food, music and travel. There is also a subscription offer of 11 issues of the magazine for \$50. To take advantage please email your mailing details to subscriptions@zackmagazine.com.au with the words 'ASA Offer' in the subject line.

ABR Reviewing Competition

Australian Book Review editors are offering a great opportunity for new and upcoming critics to hone their skills. First Prize in each category (fiction, nonfiction or children's literature): \$500 cash, publication of the review in *ABR*, one future commission and an Australian Oxford Dictionary. Reviews should be 800 words and of a book by an Australian or with Australian themes published from 2003 onwards. Deadline: 30 September. Entry forms from the August and September 2005 issues of *ABR* or from www.vicnet.net.au/~abr. Entry fee of \$15.

lip magazine ...

(Life in Perspective) is calling for Australia's young writers, aged 13-30, to submit current and original written and artistic work on ideas, experiences and inspirations of a personal, cultural, political or global nature that matter to Australia's young women. Max 3000 words. Include a brief bio. Further info at www.lipmag.com or email to: editor@lipmag.com or post: Editor, lip magazine, PO Box 1070, Dickson ACT 2602.

HarperCollins MobileReader

is an innovative program, which enables consumers to receive chapter samplers of new books, as well as information about authors and their previous books, all on their mobile phone. By visiting www.harpercollins.com.au, readers can register to have MobileReader's offerings sent directly to their mobile phone, giving them easy access to up-to-the minute information on books before making a purchase.

Online Books

While Holdfast Books at Glenelg is closing, it will continue to offer an online book-buying service, which gives an automatic 15% off the RRP. You can browse the online shop by clicking the 'buy online' button at www.holdfastbooks.com.au.

Positive Words ...

a monthly creative writing magazine, is seeking submissions of poetry and short stories for future issues. Work on any theme is always welcome with special themes included each month. The theme for October is Holidays. Contributors receive a complimentary copy of the magazine. *Positive Words* features a selection of poetry and short stories from writers throughout Australia and overseas as well as informative articles, tips to improve your writing, daily writing topics and a special section for young writers. For information send SSAE to the Editor. The magazine is available by mail order at a cost of \$4.40 per issue. Interested contributors or subscribers wishing to receive a sample/back copy of the magazine should send \$2.00 in unused stamps to the Editor, Sandra Lynn Evans, 466 Old Melbourne Road, Traralgon 3844, Victoria.

New writing competition ...

for short original fiction under 2500 words. The top ten winning stories will be published in the second issue of *Libbon* magazine, out January 2006. There are cash prizes for the winning three authors. Deadline: 30 November, 2005. Full details on www.libbon.co.uk or email enquiries@libbon.co.uk

www.thestylefile.com ...

set up by the Australian Society of Authors, displays the work of 98 of Australia's most talented book illustrators to publishers in Australia and overseas. The next round of submissions opens in December 2005. Emerging and published illustrators are encouraged to submit work for consideration from all areas of book illustration: children's, medical, cartoon, comic, adult, nonfiction, botanical, historical, and Indigenous. Book designers are also very welcome to apply. For info contact: Ann James (03) 9696 0947.

Cock ...

is an anthology of Australian speculative fiction, which asks what does it mean to be a man? What makes them, what drives them, what destroys them? Open to female writers as well. Max 10,000 words. Payment \$30. Deadline: 16 December. Full details are at www.cock-anthology.com

Bliss for Women

BFW sensuality boutique is holding its inaugural erotic short story contest. Stories must be 2000 words or less and deal with women's sexuality in a positive way. Open to anyone in Australia over the age of 18. First prize is a \$250 gift voucher from *Bliss*. All winning entries and up to five highly commended entries will be published on the *Bliss* website. Full guidelines and an entry form at www.bliss4women.com, emailing competition@bliss4women.com or by sending an SSAE to Short Story Competition, Bliss for Women, PO Box 12015 A'Beckett St, Melbourne 8006.



Workshop for Short Films

The Australian Writers' Guild and Media Resource Centre are pleased to announce the second 'Taking Control Initiative'. If you have an idea for a short film and would like to be involved in an innovative workshop run by award-winning film maker Vicki Sugars to develop your concept or be advised of development and funding opportunities, contact Gabrielle Aujard at AWG (SA) 8232 6852 for more info or email: sa@awg.com.au

Poetrix Issue 25

A special issue celebrating 25 *Poetrixes* and nearly 1000 poems. Closing date extended to 12 September. *Poetrix* publishes poems by Australian women poets, any subject, no set theme. Send max. of 6 poems with SSAE to PO Box 532, Altona, North Vic 3025. Guidelines at www.sherryclark.com

ParentingExpress.com ...

will feature creative nonfiction, memoir and poetry about experiences of giving birth, raising children, living with children and being a parent. They are looking for honest material that 'tells it like it is' - the good, the bad and the ugly! Submissions accepted till 15 December. For guidelines, email wordscope@hotmail.net.au

GC O'Donnell Essay

A prize of \$3,500 will be awarded to the author of an essay displaying original thinking on a topic of the author's choice regarding copyright and the protection of the interests of authors. The competition is open to any interested persons, including authors, lawyers and students. Deadline: 14 October, 2005. More info at www.copyright.org.au/U26021

Island of Residencies Program

The Tasmanian Writers' Centre invites Australian & international writers to apply for 3 or 4 week residencies (including air travel, accommodation for the duration of their residency in Tasmania, \$400 as a workshop fee, \$100/wk towards living expenses). Deadline: 30 November, 2005. For an application form email director@tasmanianwriters.org or phone (03) 6224 0029 or visit www.tasmanianwriters.org/island_of_residencies.htm

New Poet's Publishing Program

Five Islands Press, in association with the Poetry Australia Foundation Inc is again offering the possibility of first publication to six new poets. If you would like to participate in this scheme, submit your manuscript (40 x A4 pages of poetry, plus a brief biography and list of previous publications. Books will be published simultaneously and authors are expected to attend launches and readings in capital cities throughout Australia. Deadline: 9 September, 2005. For more info, contact Ron Pretty, (03) 8344 8713 or email rpretty@unimelb.edu.au

Writer Wanted ...

for help in writing an autobiography about life in an orphanage and beyond. A genuine person required, who will follow the project through to completion. Payment offered. Call 'Blue' at Kemp Nursery 8339 2025.

Writer Wanted

'I am an emerging actor looking for an emerging writer keen for experience. My proposal is a fee of \$250 to write three 2-minute monologues. If there is anyone interested please email me on josicat@yahoo.com or call 0408 840 697.

Seaview Press Interviews

Susan Rintoul or Bill Phippard
of Seaview Press

will be available on the first Friday of the month— 2 September, 7 October, 4 November and 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

What's On...

September Poetica

On Radio National 729AM, presented by Mike Ladd, Saturday at 3.05pm. Repeated 9.05pm Thursday. Program details:

- 3rd Round the Nation: contemporary poetry releases from every state and territory.
- 10th On the Road, Part 1. Samuel Wagan Watson and Martin Harrison on the poetry of place.
- 17th On the Road, Part 2. Samuel Wagan Watson and Martin Harrison, cont.
- 24th Vicki Viidikas: an exploration of her poetry and life through the voices of her friends.

Playwriting Seminar

As part of Adult Learners' Week (1 - 8 September), Ross Barrett, playwright and well-respected mentor, will present a full-day playwriting seminar from 9:30am to 5pm on Saturday 3 September at the SA Writers' Centre. Price is \$10 for a whole day of fun and learning. Inquiries to Meg Roberts at mvrobert@ozemail.com.au

Lizard Lounge

Free Speech: Poetry, Spoken Word and Music Fusion, 7.30 till late, Sunday, 4 September. All welcome. Relaxed, friendly vibe. Free entry. Read an original or cover a favourite. Also *Poetry and Spoken Word Poetry Evening*, last Thursday of every month, e.g. 22 September, guest poets to be announced. Basement, 9-11 Hindley St, Adelaide. Contact Lauren for more details, 8212 0620.

Writers' Workshops

Transform inspiration into good writing with writer/facilitator Jan Cornall 12 -14 October. More info at www.jancornall.com or email whwwn@jancornall.com

All welcome to the launch of
Avenues of Runaways
a poetry collection by
Aidan Coleman
launched by
Peter Goldsworthy
at the SA Writers' Centre
6.15pm, Thursday, 29 September

SAWT script-in-hand

Heather Nimmo, the distinguished playwright, has generously offered her play, *Banana Split*, as a contribution to the 20th birthday celebrations of the popular Sunday with SAWT script-in-hand performances at the Bakehouse Theatre. Directed by Catherine Fitzgerald and featuring William Allert and Michaela Cantwell, this hilarious comedy is a perfect antidote to the winter blues. The \$6 admission charge includes soup and rolls, a talk by the playwright about her work and a performance of her play. 1pm Sunday, 4 September in the Bakehouse Theatre, 255 Angas Street. Everyone welcome! Enquiries: 8255 1078 or email: theatre@chariot.net.au

Friendly Street

The next meeting will be 6 September at the SA Writers' Centre. Guest Reader is Tasmanian poet Sarah Day. For further details ring Gaetano 0438 823 147.

The Hills Poets ...

meet every second Sunday of the month from 3.30 to 5.30pm at the Crafers Inn, Crafers. The next meeting will be on Sunday 11 September. New poets are always welcome to come and join us. For enquiries please ring Jill Gower on 8339 5119.

'Manning Clark House ...

exists to celebrate Manning and Dymphna Clark's lives and achievements by supporting their social concerns, particularly in relation to Australian, European and North American history, literature, environmental studies, music and art. MCH organises public lectures, conferences, seminars and debates, supports relevant cultural occasions ... and appropriate research. You are especially invited to the first public meeting of the SA Chapter of Manning Clark House at the SA Writers' Centre Sunday 18 September, 4-6pm. Guest Speaker: Ms Denise Schumann. RSVP to 8431 6054/ 0415 052 174. Further info at www.manningclark.org.au

Advertisers' Big Book Club

Digger (Picador/Pan Macmillan) is the story of a foreigner arriving unannounced and ill-equipped in a mining town, one that boomed and died before the Great War began. Welcome to Kookynie, where

13 people and a pub are surrounded by ruin, mine waste, waterless scrub ... and the world's purest gold. Meet author Max Anderson at any of the literary events from 22-30 September: Wudinna, Berri, Adelaide, Tintinara and Bordertown. For full details go to www.libraries.sa.gov.au

Books in My Life

Friends of the State Library continue their popular series with guest speaker, publisher and managing director of Wakefield Press, Michael Bollen. He describes his role as a link between the various people involved in the publication of books; he also edits and is heavily involved in the commissioning and acquisition of new titles. Cost \$6.50. 1pm, Wednesday, 5 October, the Institute Building, cnr North Tce and Kintore Ave. Call Helen Williams for info 8207 7255 or email friends@slsa.sa.gov.au

Writing and Yoga Retreat

28-30 October. A 3-day retreat at Glenroy Homestead (80 kms east of Adelaide). Author and journalist Sarah Armstrong and yoga teacher Kathryn Riding will help you find your unique writing voice and unearth the characters and stories that already lie within you. Cost: \$760 per person. More info at www.glenroyhomestead.com.au or call 0419 807 718 or email info@glenroyhomestead.com.au

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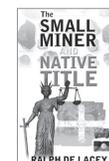
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Congratulations...

Bett Angel-Stawarz was pleased to receive a commendation for her cinquain, 'Sunflower' in the last Yellow Moon competition.

Ashley Arnold's short story, 'Ascorbic', has been published at *Ticonderoga Online* (<http://ticonderogaonline.org>).

Adrian Flavell had the following poems published: 'the party' in *Reid's Magazine* (Vol 1, No 2), 'fish wit' in *Egg Poetry* (3), 'Shallows' in *tamba* (36) and 'closing time', 'the rose', 'office play', 'American River - Kangaroo Island' and 'Mistaking Love...' in *Beyond the Rainbow* (20).

Rosanne Hawke's book, *Across the Creek*, won the children's section of the 2005 Cornish Holyer and Gof literature awards.

Patricia Irvine's adaptation of JM Coetzee's memoir, *Boyhood*, will go to air on ABC Radio National's First Person at 10.45am Monday to Friday 12-23 September. The reader is JM Coetzee and the producer is Mike Ladd. Patricia's poem, 'The First Poem of the Financial Year', appeared in the

Accounting, Auditing & Accountability Journal Vol. 18 No. 3, 2005.

Patricia Irvine, Jude Aquilina, Kate Deller-Evans and Indigo wrote poems for 'Poetry Below the Neck', an exhibition of poems on blue bottles, which were displayed at the Helpmann Academy's Maestros and Apprentices Ball and as part of SALA week.

Heather Taylor Johnson's poem, 'Eve's Earthly Sin', has been accepted for publication by *Polestar*.

Simon Kleinig's article, 'The Barossa Range, South Australia', was published in *Wild* magazine No.97, Winter 2005.

Brennan O'Shea's story, 'Looks that Kill', was published in the current issue of *LiNQ*.

Ioana Petrescu's poems, 'Lecture, Toccata and Fugue with Rice', and 'Gnomes' were published in *Southerly*, Vol. 64, No. 3, pp 54-56.

Graham Rowlands' poem, 'An Old Bigger of Sixty', was published in *The Canberra Times* (2/7). With Erica Jolly he launched Juan Garrido-Salgado's *Collected Poems* (Five Islands Press).

Ray Stuart's second poetry collection, *High Mountainous Country—No Reliable Information*, is to be published by Forty Degrees South, with an initial launch in Hobart, 29 September, 2005. Follow-up launches are planned for Adelaide, Canberra and Brisbane.

Zenda Vecchio's short story, 'Butterflies', was recently published in *tamba* (36).

rob walker has had the poems, 'Wandering, mitchell park 2000' and 'Al Zheimer', published in *Plum Ruby Review*, (US) *Positive Words* (AUS) and *Australian Reader*. His bush poem, 'The Legend of the Blinman Blowie', has received a Commendation in the SA State Written Bush Poetry Championship section of The South Australian Stumpy Awards, 2005. He'll also be reading recent work at the SA Writers' Festival event 'Poets and Pizza' (Coriole Winery, 7pm, 16 September.)

Kate Willson's short story, 'Twelve Years On', has been accepted for publication in *Reid's Magazine* and 'A Race For Home' has been shortlisted in the Ginninderra Press 2005 Short Stories for Children Competition.

Cathy Young has been awarded an 'Arts, Women of Achievement' Award 2005 from Zonta International, the Zonta

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

Club of Gawler and Barossa, for service to Literature and Arts. Zonta's aim is 'Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide'. Also Radio National's Poetica, will broadcast five poems on the program 'Situations Vacant: The Poetry of Work'.

Stumpy Festival results

Rita Gade took out the 2005 SA State Written Bush Poetry Championship with her poem 'Quorn's Black Galah'.

Maurice O'Brien took second place in the 2005 SA State Written Bush Poetry Championship with his poem 'On Radji Beach'.

Nancy McLean's poem 'Stars In The Wilderness' and **Brian Martin's** poem 'Vic' tied for first place in the Murraylands Poetry Awards.

Ilona Merckenschlager was awarded second prize for her short story, 'Scars', in the Open Prose Awards.

Max Merckenschlager's poem, 'Resthaven Residents', took first place and his poem, 'Rainforest Fungi At Dusk', was highly commended in the Open Poetry Awards.

Mary Bradley was awarded second prize for her poem, 'Cruising The Fleurieu', in the 2005 Open Poetry Awards.

Ginninderra Press

is proud to celebrate
the launching of their latest
South Australian titles
at the SA Writers' Centre

Birds Dare Not Whisper,
a poetry collection

by **Alice Shore,**
to be launched by Dawn Colsey.
2pm Saturday
10 September 2005

followed by the launch of

Children of the Gate
a collection of short stories

by **Zenda Vecchio**
to be launched by her son
Matthew Vecchio
3pm Saturday
10 September 2005

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Literary Competitions...

9 September 2005

Bundaberg Arts Festival Literary Section Competition. Traditional Rhyming Verse, 1st prize \$300; Free poetry 1st prize \$250 voucher + \$50 cash; Short Story, 1st prize \$400. Entry forms at www.artsfestivalbundy.org.au

16 Sept 2005

EJ Brady Short Story Competition. 1st prize \$1000. Max 2500 words. Entry fee \$10. Very Short Story category, max 500 words, 1st prize \$200. EJ Brady was a balladist and journalist and 'dabbled in revolution, dynamite and conspiracies'. Australian Anarchism Reader. Info at www.mallacootafestival.org

16 September 2005

Southern Cross Literary Competition. Entry fee \$10. 1st prize \$500. A. Short story to 3000 words. B. Work of fiction to 10,000 words. Info at www.ballaratwriters.com

23 September 2005

Katharine Susannah Prichard Short Fiction Awards. Open section, entry fee \$5, 1st prize \$300. Shire of Mundaring National Young Writers Awards, free, 1st prize \$75. Max 3000 words. Details (08) 9294 1872 or email kspfi@inet.net.au

30 September 2005

Biggest Little Short Story

☺ 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 (to cover photocopying and handling costs). The closing date for each competition is placed at the beginning of each entry.

Competition. Open theme to 500 words. 1st prize \$200. Entry fee \$5. Entry forms at www.ozemail.com.au/~rmdalv

30 September 2005

Cut Short, CAE Short Story Competition. 1500 words max. Entry fee \$5. 1st prize \$400 + a short course to the value of \$125 + State Library of VIC foundation membership for one year. Winners will have work published on the CAE website. More info at www.cae.edu.au/pwe

30 September 2005

L. Ron Hubbard's Writers of the Future Contest. Opportunity for new/amateur writers of new short stories or novelettes of science fiction or fantasy who have not been professionally published (ie. payment and 5000 copies/hits). Max 17,000 words. Also Illustrators of the Future Contest. An opportunity for new/amateur science fiction

and fantasy artists worldwide. No entry fee. \$1000 1st prize awarded every 3 months with an annual grand prize of \$4000. More info at www.writersofthefuture.com

1 October 2005

Copper Triangle Writers' Group Literary Competition. Prose and Poetry. Open age. Entry fee \$5 or 3 for \$10. Theme: Through a child's eyes. 2000 words for short stories or 60 lines for poems. Prizes: winners trophies and highly commended certificates. For entry forms send SSAE to PO Box 205, Moonta 5558.

19 October 2005

Yellow Moon, Nutshell 18. Categories: A. Cinquain, 1st prize \$70; B. Poem to 24 lines on the subject of wood, fire, earth, metal, water, 1st prize

\$80; C. Humorous/nonsense poem to 24 lines, 1st prize \$70; D. Tetractys, 1st prize \$60. Entry fee \$5. Conditions and guidelines available at www.yellowmoon.info.

20 October 2005

Wannabee Annual Poetry Competition. Open theme to 30 lines. Entry fee \$6.60. 1st prize \$300 + publication on Wannabee's website. More info at www.wannabee.com.au

24 October 2005

Gawler Poetry Competition. No entry fee. Sections: Adult, 1st prize \$100; Youth (to 17 years), 1st prize \$50; Junior (to 12 years), 1st prize \$20.

30 October 2005

Yellow Moon, Search for a Sonnet. Sections: A. Shakespearean, B. Petrarchan. 1st prize \$100. Entry fee \$5 or 3 for \$12. Guidelines at www.yellowmoon.info

31 October 2005

Positive Words Christmas Short Story and Poetry Competition. Stories to 500 words, poetry to 32 lines. Sections for juniors and young adults. Entry fee \$2.50. For entry form send SSAE to Sandra Lynn Evans, 466 Old Melbourne Rd, Traralgon 3844, VIC.

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Markets - Mentors - Motivation

by Diane Beer



Just like tired marriages, writing groups sometimes need to put passion back into writing. When our group, Writing Right, went into a slump last year, we started to look at markets, mentors and motivation. And please forgive us for bragging, but we are really excited about the result. Membership leapt from 4 to 45 in less than 12 months. But the major result is in the publishing success rate.

THREE books published. EIGHT have signed contracts to be published this year. SEVEN further books have gone to publishers. And THREE have finished their books and are now editing. All in one year. That represents: 21 positive results with EVERY writer reaching set targets well before expectation.

There are no secrets for this magic. Set TARGETS, learn MARKETING, use MENTORS and MOTIVATE each other to reach targets.

Individual targets were recorded at the first meeting and reviewed each time we met. Most far exceeded targets within the first six months and we are celebrating.

Success attracts success—success leads to confidence—confidence leads to goal achievements. And if that sounds like the start of a motivational talk—it is. Because motivation is possibly the greatest asset for a successful writer.

Motivation is the driving force that makes us write a poem, polish a story or finish a novel. Motivation makes us go to writing groups, send our work to publishers and sit at the computer. Motivation is what gets us started and we all know that's the toughest part of any work. Deadlines and targets are great motivators. So we set targets. Motivation creates strong characters and successful writers.

TARGETS

Ironically, most of us set ourselves modest targets. So there was no evidence when we set targets for the year in January that targets would be achieved by July. We believe that positive feedback and encouragement feeds the passion to write and most of us need that type of support. Monthly meetings are like deadlines, they are ideal for meeting targets, but seeing a mentor between meetings boosts extra enthusiasm.

Getting together at the SA Writers' Centre each month is twice the enjoyment if meetings have a mood of success.

Not everyone has to achieve a huge amount of work. Reading about writing skills, talking about writing, critiquing others' work all add up to advancing skills towards an achievable target.

Meeting in the SA Writers' Centre has another bonus, everyone 'feels' they ARE writers just by being there and it puts a stamp of professionalism on the atmosphere of the meeting. This is an important aspect of taking our writing seriously and treating the craft with respect.

MARKETING

All aspects of writing come under the heading of marketing: Checking to see if the plotting, characterization, conflict, pacing, point of view and hooks in a story are the first steps in marketing. Studying the library and book-store shelves is part of understanding the market. Studying publisher websites and reading guidelines is an aspect of marketing. Sharing information at a writing group is learning about marketing. Marketing goes beyond just knowing the publishing markets: it also means recognizing the marketability of one's work and writing to the market, rather than spending years playing with a piece of work and not knowing where it will go when it's finished.

MENTORING

A mentor doesn't have to be a top writer. A mentor can be a kindly enthusiast who cares if your work is reaching a target, or a writing buddy with whom you can exchange work and discuss progress. A mentor is rarely a relative, mate or friend—they will generally say, '... it's lovely dear.' A good mentor gives constructive criticism.

Writing Right has set up a Link Line at www.yahoo.groups.writingright.com as part of the mentoring process.

The odd thing about the line is that whether the genre is romance, historic, erotica, science fiction or practical 'how to' writing everyone can give a good critique because they are looking at the structures of writing. And some members have gone way out of their comfort zone critiquing erotica! Email gives us fast access to information about writing and

publishing whenever needed instead of waiting for monthly meetings. A monthly newsletter provides additional professional information about writing markets and skills. The easy communication enables us to build friendships and confidence in the dauntingly painful process of having work critiqued.

Enthusiasm, generated by success, made it possible to have a workshop weekend this year. We camped overnight at a Youth Hostel (fairly old youths!) and were able to saturate ourselves in writing craft without day-to-day distractions.

Writing in isolation can lengthen the process of writing, especially for new writers who haven't developed the disciplines of writing and established regular working patterns.

So we look at mentoring in the broadest sense with meetings based strongly around mentoring. This means understanding what each other is doing and where we need help. One may need help with editing, another with finding a publisher, another with plotting.

The growing strength of the group has enabled us to start a Short Story contest which closes on 1 November 2005, and this will lead to the printing of an anthology which will be launched at a conference in Kapunda in March next year. Kapunda writers are organizing the conference and Writing Right will support their planning.

We raise our bubbling glasses to all our successful writers.

Diane Beer is one of the coordinators of the writing group, Writing Right. If you would like more information contact her on mobile: 0401923538 or email: dyo2@ozemail.com.au

