

southern

write

Newsletter of the SA Writers' Centre Inc

September 2007

New website @ www.sawc.org.au

Welcome to the new online presence for the SA Writers' Centre!
Thank you Katherine Phelps & Andrew Pam for redesigning the site.



1985–2007 and beyond ...

'Our Mini History' covers the last twenty years in bite-size chunks, or for more detail plus the pictures, go to 'Our History' under 'About Us'.

There is a new section called 'Author Profiles' which is under development. Please be patient as we build up the list gradually.

'Writer's Groups' and 'Links' are now easier to find and a comprehensive 'Search site' tool is under construction.

Thank you to Internode for their continued support in sponsoring the SA Writers' Centre website.



SA Writers' Festival



South Australian
**WRITERS'
FESTIVAL**
2007

A program has been posted to all our members. If you haven't yet received one, please contact the Centre for a copy or download it from www.onkaparingacity.com.sawf

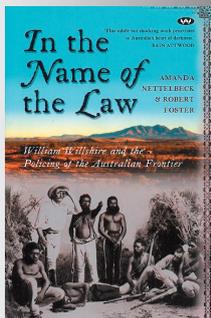
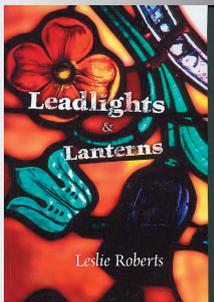
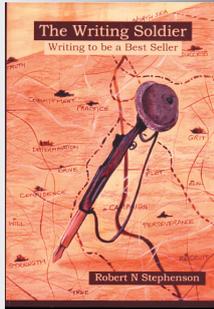
EXTRA ACTIVITIES

Sun 16 September – A bookstall at the Writers at Wirra Wirra day has been set up, thanks to Tony Brooks and the Friends of the Aldinga & Willunga Libraries. Writers wanting their books to be sold can leave 5 copies with the SAWC or drop them off at Wirra Wirra on the day. Please include a small sign with the book price.

Wirra Wirra Vineyards will have a display of mostly nonfiction book covers by SA authors. An 'I am a Writer' badge will be available from the information table at Wirra Wirra on Sun 16 September; any SAWC member is welcome to pick one up.

Words & Music at Middlebrook Estate – Katharine England & Mike Ladd read work from: Colin Thiele, Bill (Swampy) Marsh, Richard Tipping, Mike Ladd, Anne Bartlett, Barbara Hanrahan, Kate Llewellyn, Fabienne Bayet-Charlton and Gary Disher. Music to accompany the words, wine and food include: Mendelssohn, Rawley, Grainger, Haydn, Sawyer, Strauss, Natalie Williams, Bloch, Sculthorpe, Ann Carr-Boyd and Dulcie Holland, Bartok and Kreisler.

Centre Information...



So Very Resourceful

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

- Robert Stephenson**, *We would be heroes*, Altair, 2004; *The writing soldier: writing to be a best seller*, Altair, 2007; *Robots and time*, eds. RN Stephenson & SJ Cummings, Altair, 2005; *Tales from the black wood*, eds. RN Stephenson and K Massin, Altair, 2006; *Light bodies falling* by Sean Williams, Altair, 2007; *When I close my eyes*, by Kurt von Trojan, Altair, 2006; *Chrome* by SK Cooper, Altair, 2006
- Bruce Lindsay**, *Chamberlain, Australian innovator: the life and works of Alan Hawker 'Bob' Chamberlain*, Lindsay Family Trust, 2007
- David Conyers**, *The spiralling worm man vs the Cthulhu mythos*, co-written with John Sunseri, Caosium, 2007
- Adrian Flavell**, *Dan's days: aged 7; Dan's days: aged 9; Dan's days: aged 11 1/2*, Signatures series, Mimosa McGraw-Hill, 2007
- Peter Jans**, *Superfund: the dodgy investment*, Temple House, 2007
- Mike Dumbleton**, *Watch out for Jamie Joel*, Allen & Unwin, 2003; *Passing On*, with illus. by Terry Denton, Random House 2002; *Downsized*, with illus. by Tom Jellet, Random House, 2007
- Omnibus Press**, *Our Little Secret*, by Allayne Webster, Omnibus, 2007
- Leslie Roberts**, *Leadlights & lanterns*, Temple House, 2007
- Matt Smith**, *The lifted brow: journal of letters, arts, sciences, etc.* Vol. 1, January, 2007
- UQP**, *Old/new world* by Peter Skrzynecki, UQP, 2007; *Two kinds of silence* by Kathryn Lomer UQP, 2007
- Wakefield Press**, *In the name of the law* by Amanda Nettelbeck and Robert Foster, 2007.

Newsletter Folders

Thanks to the following people who helped fold the August newsletter: Matthew Smith, Tina Bettels, Barbara Brockhoff, Tony Brooks, Betty Collins, John and Coie Dikkenberg, Jeanne Mazure, Matthew Staker, Daniel Taylor, Lindy Warrell and Robert Vincent.

Thank you for PEN Donations

Thank you to all the members who donated books to Adelaide PEN. New and second-hand books are still welcome. Why not visit the Centre and browse through the books which, for a donation you can take home ...

PORT WILLUNGA RETREAT

For more information about staying at the Catherine Cleave writers' cottage down at Port Willunga, contact us on 8223 7662. Kaye Cleave is making this studio available free of charge, though a small key fee will be required by the SAWC.

Between Us Manuscript Assessment Service

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165 Belair Road, Torrens Park SA 5062

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www.users.bigpond.com/between

Wheelchair/ lift access

is available at
the 26 York
Street rear
entrance.

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



Disclaimer

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

Stephen House @ sawc

In 2006 the Australian Hepatitis Council (Canberra) commissioned award-winning playwright / director Stephen House to research and create a play that would reflect the research brief they issued him. The result is a new play titled *Meeting Reg* about the past, choices we make in life and family. The AHC accepted the play in 2007 and subsequently funded a full production engaging House to direct his latest work. A 2008 national tour is currently being planned with Helen Geoffries, Rod H'ovell, Rob McPherson and Jessica Meils.

There will be five shows only at The Bakehouse Theatre
8pm Wednesday 3-7 October (Preview Tuesday 2nd)

Stephen has opened up four of his rehearsals for SA Writers' Centre members and friends to attend. Sessions are not interactive, more a chance to sit in-house and see rehearsals in progress. Held at the SA Writers' Centre, dates are as follows:

Friday 7 September 3.30 - 4.30,
Friday 14 September 3.30-4.30,
Friday 21 September 3.30-4.30,
Friday 28 September 3.30-4.30

'Commissions provide a challenging opportunity to respond to a project that has chosen the playwright as the storyteller and theatre as a method of information sharing. It is a little like inventing a theatrical puzzle based on an important request and then working it out in a way that sees all parties satisfied with the outcome.'
Stephen House 2007

Biography: House has had 15 plays and 3 short films produced. He is commissioned often, and his work has been produced and toured nationally and internationally. He has won many awards including prestigious AWGIE awards from the Australian Writers Guild in 2002 & 2004. He has received international literature residencies from the Australia Council for Canada and Ireland and in 2007 an Asia-link literature residency to live and work in India. 2005 - 2007 House saw 4 new commissioned plays produced: *Miss Blossom Callahann, A Thing Called Snake, Vin, and Just Like That*. Many of House's plays have been profiled by and are available through the Australian Script Centre. In 2008 he will direct his latest written play *Limitations* which will premiere at the Bakehouse Theatre and a new production of *Vin* premiere in Perth.

one book one salisbury

Come and join
the City of Salisbury's biggest book club!

Call into your local City of Salisbury Library branch to borrow a copy of the following books, then meet the authors during the month of October. For more details call the library 8406 8233 or pick up a festival program.

• **Original Face**

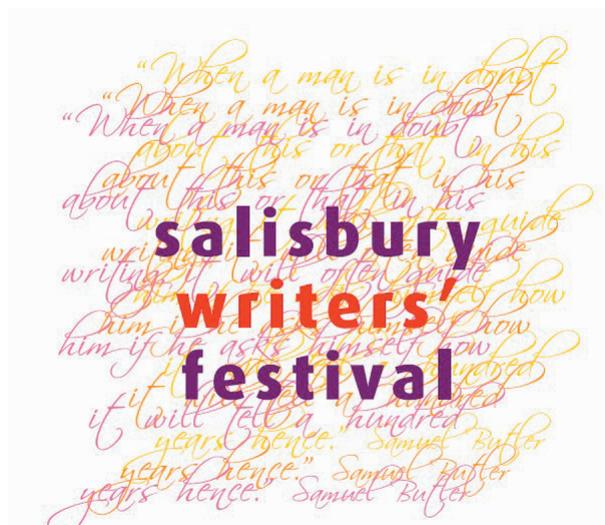
by celebrated Adelaide author Nicholas Jose

Part thriller, part ethnic noir, it offers a highly coloured portrait of the energies that make up life in a contemporary Australian city.
2.30-4pm Thursday 25 October 2007, Ingle Farm Library

• **Half the Battle**

by Adelaide author & English teacher Don Henderson.

Half the battle is about having a go. Sean's parents have separated and he has moved to the city with his father. His school—Port Road High—start up a year nine footy team and he reluctantly becomes involved. It's about battles on and off the field — Time TBA.



Throughout the month of October

there will be workshops and panel discussions at Salisbury and Mawson Lakes.

Come along and listen as writers, historians, teachers musicians and publishers talk about **short story writing, contemporary song writing, family history, getting published, poetry, science fiction and the career writer**. You'll also hear local writers talk about themselves and their work—the stories behind the stories, behind the names.

Opportunities

The Eccentric City

Seeking contributions for the world's first dedicated eccentric newspaper is focussing on eccentrics and eccentricity, the outlandish and the angles! No payment is offered but international distribution ensures promotion. Submissions to eccentriccity@hotmail.co.uk; guidelines at www.eccentriccity.co.uk

Bluepepper

<http://bluepepper.blogspot.com> always welcomes submissions of quality poetry, prose or reviews. Max 1500 words or 3 poems. Email Justin Lowe: eroica@optusnet.com.au

\$10,000 Rodney Seaborn Playwrights

Judges are looking for playwrights requiring development \$\$ for production, workshopping, restaging, publishing or touring. Previous winners incl: Stephanie McCarthy, Jon Misto, Katherine Thomson, Don Reid, Debra Oswald. Enquiries: (02) 9416 8660 priscillayates@hotmail.com Deadline: 29 October 2007.

Cut Short

CAE 2007 Short Story Competition has an open theme to 1500 words. A pool of prizes for first, second and third, including \$400 for the winner. Entry fee: \$5. For details and an entry form, send a SSAE to Short Story Competition, CAE, 21 Degraives St, Melbourne, 3000 or go to www.cae.edu.au/pwe. Deadline: 8 October.

shortstoryradio.com

Writers are invited to submit unpublished stories to be recorded and broadcast on the website. Stories are available for six months (40,000 visitors since 2006 incl. fellow writers and English Language students) Writers can receive a profile in Our Writers section. www.shortstoryradio.com

Popular fiction magazine

Seeking contributions of popular fiction from writers and illustrators for the first edition: short stories to 5000 words in the following genres: spy thriller, detective mystery, retro science fiction, western, Australian outback, gothic, historical adventure, etc. line drawings and comic strip stories of between 8 and 12 pages. More details at www.rmsed.com.au

Tasmania: Island of Residencies

Residencies for 2008 March - Nov are open to writers who have published work on any subject, in any form including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, writing for children and/or young adults, and writing for the stage. Details and applications: www.tasmanianwriters.org/residencies. Deadline: 30 November 2007.

The Arabesques Print Review ...

seeking unpublished submissions of original poetry, literary criticism, interviews, fiction, nonfiction, stories, essays, translations, social and political commentary, art works and photographs. Max five poems, two stories or essays. Email submissions to: submissions@arabesquespress.org Include contact details and a short bio note to 400 words. Next issue is *Rumi in Love: A tribute to Contemporary Love Poetry*. Deadline: 30 September, 2007

More Sweet Lemons

Seeking submissions of poetry, short stories, book chapters, essays, memoirs, brief dramas, folklore and English translations celebrating Sicilian culture, writers and immigrant experiences for a sequel to the anthology *Sweet Lemons: Writings with a Sicilian Accent* (Legas, 2004). Email editor before submitting max five poems and/or up to 5000 words of prose to deliadesantis@yahoo.com. Deadline: 30 November, 2007

Cordite 26 – Innocence ...

is now online! 'The biggest news of all is that, having surveyed the web's range of social connection tools, *Cordite* has taken the unprecedented step of joining Facebook! If you're a member, simply search for the Friends of Cordite Group. Of course, this whole Facebook thingo might be over in a matter of seconds, but who wants to be the only one who wasn't there when it WAS happening? Huh?' The Editors, *Cordite Poetry Review* at www.cordite.org.au or email to submissions@cordite.org.au

www.thereadingstack.com

Visit this new free book review e-zine focussing on Australian authors and join the mailing list and/or view a sample. The e-zine will be issued monthly.

National youth arts & culture website

Australia Council for the Arts is recruiting for a paid, part-time SA or TAS based arts reporter to write for theprogram.net.au. The role description may be found at www.theprogram.net.au/jobs

Thylazine Foundation ...

seeks submissions of prose (nonfiction or fiction 500 - 1000 words) with the purpose of initiating positive personal and social change ... where unnecessary suffering for all beings will be a thing of the past. Open to all Australian artists and writers who care about a world in crisis and who seek to empower themselves and others. Previously published work is acceptable with appropriate acknowledgments. Include a photo and 300-500 word biography via email. Enquiries to Liz Hall-Downs: world@thylazine.org

Launch Pad ...

where young authors and illustrators take off is now accepting fiction, nonfiction, poetry, book reviews, and artwork by children aged 6-12. We encourage children to submit a few illustrations with their written work on the following themes: Animals, The Ocean, Fairy Tales & Fantasy, Heroes, Mysteries, Sports. Guidelines at www.launchpadmag.com. Email submissions and enquiries to editor@launchpadmag.com

The Holding Redlich AFTRS AWG Pitching Competition ...

provides upcoming producers and writers the opportunity to pitch their project to an audience of international executives, broadcasters and key local industry. If you have a brilliant idea, but haven't shared it with the world yet and want to take your dream all the way to the Cannes Film Festival - register for an AFTRS Pitching Workshop. Workshops (Adelaide 15 - 16 Sept, 2007) with 5 semi-finalists travelling to Melbourne to pitch at Australian Writers Guild National Screenwriters Conference, where two finalists will then be selected to go into the Holding Redlich AFTRS AWG Pitching Competition at the SPAA Conference, Gold Coast, 15 November. Deadline: 3 September. Details: www.aftrs.edu.au/go/full-time-courses/producing/short-courses.

What's On



POETICA

Presented by Mike Ladd, Saturdays at 3.05 pm, repeated 3.05pm Thursdays. Program details for September:

1st National Poetry Week: a selection of poems from recent Australian collections.
8th Necessary Evil: the poetry of Craig Sherborne.

15th Jack: a verse novel by Judy Johnson, set in Torres Strait in the 1930s.

22nd Les Murray: the Bunyah poems, recorded on location at the Murray's farm.

29th Shadows at the Gate: a feature on the poetry of Robyn Rowland.

Details at www.abc.net.au/rn/arts/poetica/

The John Bray Oration 2007

Censorship and Secrecy: Threats to an Open Society in an Insecure Age presented by Dr Barry Jones AO, writer, lawyer, social activist, former politician and one of 'Australia's Living Treasures'. 4 September, 5.45pm Union Hall, University of Adelaide. Gold coin donation. Bookings: 8303 6356 or gaynor.tyerman@adelaide.edu

AWG Screen Stories

Preview screening of *December Boys* followed by an interview with writer Marc Rosenberg, Thursday 6 September, 5:45pm Mercury Cinema, 13 Morphett Street Adelaide, \$7 AWG or \$10 Non-members.

POETRY BOOK LAUNCH 6 SEPTEMBER 2007

SAWC members & friends are invited to the launch of

Not about Frogs,

a collection of poems by Betty Collins.

The book will be launched by Dr Graham Rowlands and will take place at the SAWC on Thursday 6th Sept at 5.30pm for 6pm.

Come and hear this witty, seasoned poet read from her work and help her celebrate this long-awaited book.

National Screenwriters' Conference

19 – 21 October 'Holding Onto Your Vision' Hosted by the Australian Writers' Guild and with the generous support of Film Victoria. Leading screenwriters & industry professionals discuss innovation, creativity and partnerships in film, TV and new media as well as pitching, micro-mentoring and the business of writing. Details at www.awg.com.au

AWG Young Writers' Night

Do you have a knack for creating short films, animation, theatre or thrillers and looking for opportunities? Bring a pen and paper and let some professional creators give you tips and tools to develop your talent. Monday 10 September, 6:30 – 8.30pm. SA Writers' Centre. Gold coin donation. Bookings: Miriam Katsambis on 8232 6852 or sa@awg.com.au

One Book One Burnside ...

A citywide book club where everyone reads the same book through September to November and the first book is *A Private Performance*, a sequel to Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* by SA author Helen Halstead. Burnside Library will screen the most recent P&P film, followed by a quizz night, readings by the Independent Theatre Co., Meet the Author and a garden party. For information on events and the new classics collection at Burnside call 8366 4280 or go to www.burnside.sa.gov.au

New Venue

The next meeting of the Hills Poets will be on Sunday 9 September, 3.30 - 5.30 pm. Bridgewater Inn, Mt Barker Rd, Bridgewater in the cellar of the hotel. Call Jill Gower on 8339 5119 for more details.

Australian Poetry Slam 07

Two SA poets could win \$500 and fly to Sydney for the Australian finals with thousands of dollars up for grabs. Give it a shot! See australianpoetryslam07.org for the rules and heats remaining:
3 Sept, 6.30pm, Tea Tree Gully,
5 Sept, 6.30pm, Hindmarsh Library,
6 Sept, 7pm, Enfield Library,
11 Sept, 7pm, Yankalilla School Community Library,
21 Sept, 6.30pm, Hub Library, Aberfoyle Park,
28 Sept, 6.30pm, Seaford Library.
<http://www.paroxysmpress.com>

Young Writers & Zine Makers

Want to create zines, critique, publish and meet guest writers? A new writers' group run by young people meets the last Thursday of the month, 5.30 - 7.30pm, Unley Library. Contact Sandra 8372 5114 or via www.unley.sa.gov.au

Boolarong Press - WEBINAR

This seminar-on-line is delivered through the internet and telephone. Titles include: 'How to publish your book' and 'How to set up a book using Microsoft Word' and 'Book printing for self-publishers' Register at www.boolarongpress.com.au/content/whatwedo/webinars.asp.

TAFESA Professional Writing Course

Two information sessions are scheduled for 6-7pm, 10 September & 22 October at the Adelaide Centre for the Arts, 39 Light Square. Kate Deller-Evans will explain course curriculum, entry requirements, selection criteria, career pathways, etc. Details at www.tafe.sa.edu.au/aca

Rosebud Writing Workshops

One-day workshops: 11 September, 10-4pm, Short Story & Novel Writing
14 September, 10-4pm, Poetry
Weekend workshop: 22 & 23 September, 10am-4pm Short Story; 10am-3pm Novel Writing. Rosebud Writing Studio, 17 St Ninians Rd, Clarendon. See SA Writers' Festival 2007 program or go to www.rosebudwritingworkshops.com
Bookings: sue@rosebudwritingworkshops.com or M: 0407 711 667.

Free poetry writing workshop

Gawler poets have received funding from Council on the Ageing (COTA) to run a FREE Intergenerational Poetry Writing Workshop with Mike Ladd, poet and ABC POETICA broadcaster at the Prince Albert Hotel, 109 Murray Street, Gawler, 11am–1pm Sunday 28 October. Register interest at the monthly Gawler poetry readings, or phone Martin or Cathy on 8522 4268.

Judy Lawrence will be guest speaker at the Gawler poetry reading, Sunday 30 September and will speak about the Pietermaritzburg Babies Project and the devastating impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in rural parts of South Africa. Details: Martin or Cathy on 8522 4268.

A & Rrrrrrr

Responses to the *Sydney Morning Herald* article:

'Bookshop chain puts bite on small publishers' [08/08/2007] by Susan Wyndham

www.smh.com.au/news/books/bookshop-chain-puts-bite-on-small-publishers/2007/08/07/1186252708854.html

AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF AUTHORS [8/8/2007]

The Australian Society of Authors today condemned Angus & Robertson booksellers for its proposed imposition of a 'pay to display' fee on over 70% of the membership of the Australian Publishers Association.

"This is an outrageous insult to Australian authors," Executive Director Dr Jeremy Fisher said. "Only yesterday the Australia Council highlighted the parlous state of Australian literature in education. Now, the private-equity owners of Angus & Robertson, Pacific Equity Partners, are trying to bully their smaller suppliers into paying for the 'privilege' of shelf space in Angus & Robertson-owned stores. They are hurting not only these publishers but also their authors. Angus & Robertson is stealing money from Australian authors, whose average income is only \$11,000. Why, that's an amount which is probably even less than the daily income of the directors of Pacific Equity Partners."

In a pro-forma letter to its suppliers, Angus & Robertson makes the extraordinary statement that "over 40% of our supplier agreements fall below our requirements in terms of profit earned". It seems they only want to stock books from publishers (and authors) with guaranteed saleability. If this is their attitude, the ASA calls on all book buyers to boycott Angus & Robertson-owned stores because their proposed policy is such an insult to Australian authors.

Note: A & R franchisees are not subject to the company policy. The ASA does not call for a boycott on Angus & Robertson franchisees.

Tim Sinclair
Communications Officer

IMPRINTS BOOKSELLERS [14/8/2007]

All I can say is thank god for the Independents - I'm sure I speak for all of us when I say our primary reason for stocking a title is to promote and make available to our customers titles which we know will be of interest to them, and loyalty to Australian authors and publishers. Bottom line is the profit we make—which is probably why most of us don't make one. It is a difficult climate that we work in, most of the larger publishers aren't interested in publishing new works by unknown authors unless the title has 'blockbuster' potential, which is why it is so important that the small to medium size publishers and distributors not only survive but flourish!

My understanding is that Angus & Robertson are not only requesting the one-off annual payment but also increased discount—most Independents work on 40%, the Chains 45% to 47%. In one report that I read A&R are requesting up to 50%. Without publishers such as Giramondo (*Carpentaria*), Text, Black Inc, Wakefield Press and Scribe and distributors such as Tower Books, I very much doubt that we would have access to any new Australian authors of quality fiction or poetry.

'Commercial viability' in A&R terms means the majority of these publishers would not survive. One of my concerns is if that A&R succeed in their demands others will follow. If, as reported, their business is operating at a 'cash loss' (whatever that means) I suggest they examine the internal structure of their stores.

Gayle Miller
Co-owner Imprints Booksellers

BRISBANE WRITERS FESTIVAL

12–16 September 2007, www.brisbanewritersfestival.com.au

MOSTLY BOOKS — BOOKS AND COFFEE

... meet and chat with South Australian authors over coffee on the first Thursday of each month.

6 September @ 7.30pm: Terry Krieg, author of *Walking on Eyre*, an account of the circumambulation of Lake Eyre in 1982.

4 October @ 7.30pm: Pam Smith, one of the authors of *Valleys of Stone: the archaeology of the Adelaide Hills*.

Tickets \$7 at Mostly Books, Mitcham Shopping Complex. More details at www.mostlybooks.com.au or call 8373 5190.

Please note: the Mostly Books Knitting Group is on the last Tuesday of each month from 2–4pm.

Making Sense of Freelancing

Four workshops starting September 27.
Do one or all four.

Be inspired.
Achieve excellence.
Write articles editors want.
Learn from award-winning journalists.

Cost \$198 per workshop or
\$633.60 (save 20%) for all four.

Visit www.makingsense.com.au
Or telephone Sharon on 0414 43 93 47.

Buy any book on 5 September & help support Indigenous Literary Day

All Australians can help raise \$100,000 for remote Indigenous communities by buying a book on the inaugural Indigenous Literary Day on 5 September. Over 200 booksellers and publishers will donate 5% of their day's profits as part of the major new campaign.

Working in partnership with the Fred Hollows Foundation and with the support of the Australian Publishers Association and the Australian Booksellers Association, Indigenous Literary Day aims to raise funds to buy books and resources for remote Indigenous communities.

Raising awareness of illiteracy in these areas is critical, as many Indigenous Australians struggle to read everyday items like newspapers, medication labels and bank statements, and literacy rates in these communities have been found to be worse than in many third world countries.

The idea for Indigenous Literary Day grew from the success of the 2006 Australian Reader's Challenge (ARC) in which over 14,000 participants, including schools, libraries, booksellers and publishers raised \$80,000.

For a list of participating publishers and booksellers and more information on Indigenous Literary Day please visit:
www.worldwithoutbooks.org

YOUTH PROJECTS

The SAWC has been fortunate to have two of its members volunteer to develop youth projects to cater for our younger members. If you want to know what is available for young writers, Doreen Spurdens and Alisha Pearson have produced *Opportunities for Young Writers*, a listing of Australia-wide writing competitions for children, teens and young adults. Contact the SAWC for a copy.

Youth 8–12 years

Doreen has been working with schools, libraries and parents to encourage those in the upper primary school age group, resulting in two Young Authors' Nights:

- Thurs 6 Sept, Noarlunga (bookings closed).
- Wed 3 October, Salisbury East for Northern writers.

Students will read their own work in small groups facilitated by published children's authors. Keynote speakers will be Jeri Kroll (south) and Peter McFarlane (north). Nominations should be sent to Doreen @ SAWC.

Youth 16–25 years

Alisha has been developing networks with tertiary institutions and secondary schools. Anyone interested in coming along to a young writers' group for 16 to 25 year-olds should contact Alisha @ SAWC. The group will meet early evenings.



Norfolk Island Spring Book Festival

30 September to 07 October 2007

A boutique Book Festival that is intimate & friendly
Meet and dine with our celebrity authors
Don't miss out, book early!!

Stimulating program including fun social activities:
Presenter sessions, Island tours, Welcome and Farewell dinners, fantastic Entertainment and much, much, more!

from
\$1166
p/person ex Brisbane

from
\$1226
p/person ex Sydney

Book Festival Package \$295 is additional to above holiday package prices. Ask about our special bonus if buying 7 night package and Book Festival package together through The Travel Centre. Please note prices may vary and are subject to change.

Norfolk Island Spring Book Festival
Freephone 1800 1400 66

PO Box 172, Norfolk Island 2899, South Pacific
Freephone 1800 1400 66 Fax 0011 6723 23205
travel@travelcentre.nf www.travelcentre.nf

Featuring ...

Judy Nunn

From stage actor and international television star, to blockbuster, best-selling author, Judy Nunn's career has been meteoric



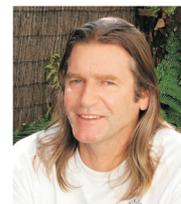
Manny Noakes

Leader of the research team that developed the Total Wellbeing Diet. Author of No 1 selling book "The CSIRO Total Wellbeing Diet" book



Graham Reid

award winning New Zealand journalist and freelance travel writer.
"Postcards From Elsewhere"



Susan Duncan
"Salvation Creek"

Michael Morel
"Confidence for Life Manual"

and more!

Congratulations...

Janeen Brian's poem 'Flood' received a Highly Commended in the Ipswich Poetry Feast. 'Fun-time rap!' a poem, was published in *Comet Magazine*. 'The Not-so-long walk', a story, was published in *School Magazine* (Countdown). 'Home among the trees', an article, was published in *Explore Magazine*.

Owen Carmichael's short story 'The Pink House' was a finalist in the 'Slippery When Wet' competition.

Robert Cettl's book, *Film Tales—Movie Trivia in the Age of DVD*, was published last month.

Dawn Colsey's haibun, 'A different path from Basho's Narrow Road,' received the Haibun Award in the Remembrance Poetry Contest, 2007, conducted by the Kaji Aso Studio in Boston, USA.

Dave Diss's letter 'Obligations', on the Dr Haneef fiasco, appeared in *The Advertiser*, 1/8/2007 uncut, amazingly, as 'Resign, Andrews'; his letter 'Bush's stalwart ally' appeared in the *Fiji Times*, 13/7/ 2007, as 'Loyal Fan'.

Margaret Fensom's poem 'Boxes' was published in *The Independent Weekly* 14-20 July 2007.

On 19 July, **Dr Nicholas Fourikis** addressed the Wagner Society SA. His topic was 'The Gang of Three: Wagner, Schopenhauer and Nietzsche'.

Barbera Fraser won first prize in the Henley writing competition for 'Treasures of Charles Sturt Council' in the 'Masters' (i.e. old persons) category.

Jill Gloyne has had her poem 'Alphabet' accepted for publication in *Blue Dog* Vol. 6, No. 11. She also received a Highly Commended in the Grampians Writers Literary Awards for her short story 'The Empty Years' and a Commended for her poem 'Haiku for Lease' in the same competition.

Jill Gower had her poem, 'Water Colours', published in *The Mozzie*.

Dorothy M Heinrich's book, *Ada's Story: from the Brands to the Brentson's*, won the TT Reed category of the 2006 Family History Award. 'The book captured the judges hook, line and sinker ... for its wonderful narrative style'.

Max Merckenschlager's poem, 'Snowy Mountain Magic' is this year's winner of Bundaberg's Bush Lantern Award.

Marianne Musgrove has sold the US rights, Italian translation and audio rights to her first children's novel, *The Worry Tree*, and was awarded Arts SA funding to undertake a mentorship with Ruth Starke to write the second draft of a new novel.

Derek Pedley's biography of bank robber Brenden Abbott was shortlisted in the Best True Crime category of the Crime Writers' Association of Australia's Ned Kelly Awards. *Australian Outlaw—The True Story of Postcard Bandit Brenden Abbott* was also republished in the UK as *The Outlaw's Story* by John Blake Publishing and distributors.

Leslie Roberts's book of verse, *Leadlights and Lanterns*, was published by Sid Harta, 2007.

Graham Rowlands published his poem 'Air' in *The Mozzie* and his poems 'Happenings' and 'Written Off' in *Poetry Monash*.

At the Marion heat of the National Poetry Slam **John Sabine** earned second place and a spot in the state final with 'Rumination Could Be Your Ruination' and, although not eligible there for a prize, he scored equal first at the Adelaide heat with 'The Magpie'.

Marlene K Tribbeck's article 'To Bee or not to Bee' was published in the June/July 2007 - No. 181 edition of *Grass Roots* magazine. The article is about keeping bees in the back yard.

rob walker's poem 'jazz channel' was published on Justin Lowe's bluepepper po-blog while 'dunes, perlubie beach', 'catsyntax' and 'scrotal ultrasound' appeared on David Barnes' all-new Poetry Down Under Numbat Website. He read 'Camellia in the Bush' at the Jah'z Café Adelaide Launch of *Famous Reporter* #35. The National Library of Australia now archives rob's poetry website (www.users.bigpond.com/robwalker1) 'to retain and provide public online access to it in perpetuity.' His latest chapbook *phobiaphobia - 'poems of fear and anxiety'* was released by Picaro Press and is available via his website. rob will be performing with Yahia al-Samawy and the Zephyr String Quartet at Resonance: 'Folk Music from around the world and New Music inspired by the poetry of Yahia al-Samawy and rob walker' @ Nexus Cabaret on 26th October. (Bookings through Bass.)

Professional Writing is pleased to announce joining TAFE SA's Pathways to University with its Advanced Diploma of Arts now counting towards a range of University of South Australia bachelor degrees.

Kate Willson's first children's novel, *Race for Home*, was published by Ginninderra Press and launched 26 August at the Burnside Council.

AUSTRALIAN POETRY CENTRE is looking for volunteers ...

Launched in June this year, the Australian Poetry Centre (APC) is committed to strengthening the presence and profile of Australian poetry, and to promoting its writing, reading and appreciation. APC is developing a volunteer program.

If you would like to contribute your time and skills contact Kay Rozynski, Volunteer Co-ordinator, 03 9527 4063 or email kay@australianpoetrycentre.org.au or go to www.australianpoetrycentre.org.au/

Literary Competitions...

7 September 2007

The Literature competition section of the Bundaberg Arts Festival consists of Poetry: Traditional Rhyming Verse, \$300 prize. Free Poetry, \$300 prize. Short Story 3,000 words max, \$400 prize. \$5 Entry. For full details and entry form contact Merle Beran on 07 4153 5417 or email meab@bigpond.com

21 September 2007

EJ Brady Short Story Competition. Major prize \$1000 for word limit 2500. \$500 for word limit 700. Entry fee \$10. Details at www.mallacootaarts.org

21 September 2007

Rolf Boldrewood Literary Awards. a) Prose to 3000 words. Australian theme. b) Poetry in any form or style to a max of 80 lines on Australian theme. Entry fee \$10.

28 September 2007

Katharine Susannah Prichard Short Fiction Award. Short Fiction: 1000–3000 words. Two categories a) Mundaring Community Bank Open Awards. First prize \$600. b) Shire of Mundaring National Young Writers Awards. 20yrs and under, first prize \$75. Under-13yrs, first prize \$25. Send entries to: KSP Short Fiction Awards, 11 Old York Rd, Greenmount, WA 6056. Enquiries: (08) 9294 1872 or go to <http://kspf.iinet.net.au>. Awards presented at Katharine's birthday celebration 2 Dec 2007. No entry form required.

28 September 2007

The Examiner Port Stephens Literature Awards 2007. \$1300 in prize money. Adults: Short stories up to 2500 words on any theme. 1st \$450, 2nd \$250 and 3rd \$100, plus \$100 Tanilba House Award. Four \$50 most highly commended prizes. Children: - Short stories up to 500 words on any theme. 1st prize of \$60, and 2nd prize of \$40. Two sections: Authors 6 - 12 years and Authors 13 - 16 years. Conditions from SAWC.

- ☺ 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.

30 September 2007

The Best of Times Short Story Competition First prize \$300, second prize \$100. For humorous short stories up to 3000 words. Stories that have won a prize or certificate in previous Best of Times competitions are ineligible. \$6 entry fee. Cheques/money orders are payable to Chris Broadribb. No entry form required. Include a cover sheet with your name and address, title and word count. Send entries to Chris Broadribb, PO Box 116, Burwood NSW 1805 or email to cabbook-4@yahoo.com.au Competition website: www.geocities.com/spiky_one/comp4.html

30 September 2007

Peter Cowan Writers' Centre 2007 Julie Lewis Biennial Literary Awards. a) Short story: 1500 – 2000 words. b) Poem to 50 lines. Theme: Life in the suburbs. Winners will be published on website at www.iinet.net.au/~nwacowan and may be included in an anthology. Entry fee \$5. First prize \$400.

30 September 2007

The Margaret Dooley Young Writers' Award. First prize \$1500 for writers under 40yrs who will carry on the contribution to Eureka Street in the fields of ethics and journalism. The competition encourages reasoned ethical argument based on humane values. Send entries of 2000 words or 800 words to dooleyaward@eurekastreet.com.au. Guidelines at www.margaret-dooleyaward.com

30 September 2007

The Vera Newsom Poetry Prize. First prize \$300 for original, unpublished poems. Max 32 lines each, one side A4 paper without author's name. No entry form but details on separate cover sheet. Entry (Australian residents only): \$5 per poem to Youngstreet Poets, PO Box 71, Avalon, NSW 2007.

30 September 2007

Fellowship of Australian Writers 2007 Marjorie Barnard Award. Short story, max 3000 words. Original and unpublished. Prize \$500. Entry fee \$10. Awards will be presented at FAW Annual Luncheon in December and published in Writers' Voice and on the FAW website. Enquiries to fawns@bigpond.com. Send entries to the Competition Secretary, PO Box 488, Rozelle NSW 2039.

2 October 2007

Gwen Harwood Poetry Prize. Poetry: a single poem or a linked

suite of poems, max 100 lines. One entry per person. Entry forms at www.islandmag.com. Judges: Mike Ladd and Jennifer Strauss. Winning poems may be published in *Island* magazine at \$60 per poem. First prize \$1500. Entry fee \$15.

28 October 2007

The United Federation of Planets Fan Club Inc. Sci-fi or Fantasy Story Competition, max 3000 words. Email submissions in MSWord 2000 or less to holonovel@ufpofsa.org. Winners presented with a prize at the Sunday 16 December clubs shore-leave from 4pm.

31 October 2007

Positive Words End-of-year Short Story & Poetry Competition. Entry fee \$2.50. Short stories to 500 words. Poetry to 32 lines. Original winning entries will be featured in January 2008 edition of Positive Words. First prize \$50.

31 October 2007

The QLD Premier's Drama Award. Development funding will be given to draft scripts discussing social, economic and political themes that contribute to the debate of life in Qld. Three finalists will be selected for workshops with leading industry professionals. The winner will have their play produced with the Qld Theatre Company. Entry form at www.qldtheatreco.com.au or call (07) 3010 7607.



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Letters to the Editor

Dear Bronwen [9/8/2007]

I read your article in the last newsletter regarding the richness and availability of stories and memories amongst the aged in our community. I am personally very interested in this venture ... If you are looking for participants for a focus group or interest group please let me know because I am interested.

Bruce Parsons

'Retire and create'

In September 2004 I started a creative writing group in the retirement village where I live. A long desire to write overcame the hesitation of a small group of women and we began to meet fortnightly to write and share our writings.

In December, 2005 we launched our book, *Creative Writing Bouquet*, an illustrated collection of group work. The book was popular and sold out quickly. Money from sales, over \$2000, went to the village care fund for residents.

As our members were all in their eighties and nineties I felt it was important to dispel any stereotype of age being a barrier to creativity. 'Creative writing springs from creative imagination,' I told them. 'It is sometimes an untapped power perhaps

because imagination has been devalued either by you or other people.'

I set homework which they did diligently, then read their pieces in class. Their work often brought spontaneous laughter for humour bubbled up from their work. Our oldest member, in her nineties, showed a talent for comic verse. One piece was so good I emailed it to the U.K. magazine *People's Friend*. They emailed back—Doreen had won a prize and could they have her address? Since then one of her pieces appeared in the Queensland magazine, *Footprints*, and the editor has asked for permission to reprint other pieces from *Bouquet*.

We learn a lot about each others' lives through our writing and reading, and there is inevitably a bonding as we relate to both good and painful memories that emerge through our stories. One of our writers told of a visit to a London church where the names of airmen who died in the Second World War are set out in open books and placed in glass cases for viewers to read. This was deeply moving for she recognised the name of a young airman whom she had known first as a little boy in School, then as a teenager and later as a handsome young man in the dark blue uniform of the Royal Australian Air Force. In graphic prose she traced his story

even to her vision of a blazing plane shot down and plunging into the sea. We were silent and moved by this true story.

Until recently I led the group, preparing work and suggesting topics for writing. I now relinquish my role every other meeting to another member. The fun continues.

Dorothy O'Neill

Dear Editor [7/8/2007]

Bronwen Webb's 'Board's Eye View' brought back memories of my very first engagement as a writer at Perry Park Aged People's Home, Port Noarlunga ... There must have been a dozen women and men, two to one, between the ages of 65 and close to 90, mostly from the British Isles. Discussing topics to write on I suggested autobiographical stories ... A sense of achievement at an age when most achievements lie in the past can be a vital boost to mental and even physical health. A sense that every life has its worth and influences the future is an insight that often only comes by writing it down. Good luck to Bronwen Webb in reviving writing sessions in aged-care facilities and retirement villages. A fascinating view of Australia's grassroots history could be a secondary outcome if the programme would become ongoing.

Lolo Houbein

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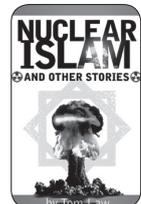
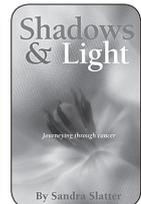
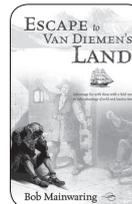
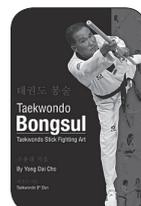
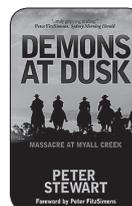
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Board's Eye View

by Ashley Mallett



THE POWER OF WORD ASSOCIATION

“Write it as you say it,” the *Adelaide News*’s Chief of the Chief of Staff Doug “Stainless” Steel said, dragging on a cigarette. Stainless wasn’t exactly a wordsmith in the Shakespeare mould, but you were never in doubt as to how he wanted you to craft a piece of writing. His advice made sense. Shakespeare probably knew all about that hundreds of years ago. He didn’t use big, flowery words, just simple everyday language of his time. He wrote it as he said it and, given that his work has endured over the past four hundred-odd years, William Shakespeare must have said it pretty well. Writing shouldn’t ever be a cloned thing: we all have our different styles and ways of going about our craft.

Word association was the best thing to happen to my writing. I didn’t care much about verbs and nouns, pronouns and adverbs; I figured that if the sentence sounded okay it worked. But the association of words was a real trigger, something to fire the imagination. My first job on *The News* was to write a piece on the desecration of Cheltenham Cemetery. Tombstones were upended and vandals splashed paint over graves, ornaments and pathways. It was a right mess. I couldn’t help myself with an ending which went like this: “Cheltenham Cemetery has a skeleton staff of seven.” It was mischievous, even naughty, but the last line survived two editions of *The News*, so the sub-editors weren’t quite up to scratch for half of that day. I had made my point ... corny as hell, but something started for me in working the words. Mind you, I did need a more subtle use of this powerful literary tool. Word association is a vital tool for the writer. We all do it, sometimes inadvertently, but switched-on writers do it all the time.

They search for appropriate words, ever seeking to improve the text. When a writer reads a piece it is a good idea to look at a sentence and see just how that group of words might be re-arranged to make it better. I tell my biography students at the Adelaide Centre for the Arts TAFE Professional Writing course I oversee that they should search for words that are associated to better fashion their sentences. Good word association helps make the prose come alive, live and have impact. It is all part of enjoying the process. Think of the finished piece of writing as a film: if we attend to the detail of every single frame, the outcome—the final cut—will be okay.

Examples “So, with the help of a taxi driver, Jean Marie Barette found lodging in a reasonable hotel in Knightsbridge and slept dreamlessly until noon.” (*The Vatican Trilogy*, Morris West, William Heinemann, Australia, 1993).

Easy here to see the associations ... taxi and found, lodging and hotel, slept and dreamlessly.

“... I vividly recall the stigma of apartheid. Black people were downtrodden: their collective spirit cowered to the inhumane whip of apartheid. Separate toilets, buses, beaches, the group Areas Act, carrying the pass which designated a black person as ‘second class’ were all huge burdens: psychologically and practically too heavy a cross to bear.”

“Ali Bacher has finally pulled the shutters down on window dressing.”

Ashley Mallett,
Sunday Mail, Johannesburg, March 1989.

There is stigma and apartheid, spirit, cowered and whip. Black, ‘second class’, burden, heavy, cross.

“His (West Indian great Garry Sobers) immense power is concealed, or lightened by the spectator’s eye, by a rhythm which has in it as little obvious propulsion as a movement of music by Mozart (who could be as dramatically strong as Wagner!)”

The Lion of Cricket, Neville Cardus,
Wisden cricketers’ Almanack, 1969.

Word association: Power, concealed, lightened, rhythm, propulsion, movement, music, Mozart and Wagner.

“And wherefore should these good news make me sick?

Will fortune never come with both hands full,

But write her fair words still in foulest letters?

She either gives a stomach and no food;

Such are the poor in health; or else a feast,

And takes away the stomach; such are the rich,

That have abundance and enjoy it not.

I should rejoice now at this happy news;

And now my sight fails, and my brain is giddy:

O me! Come near me; now I am much ill.”

The Second Part of King Henry IV,
(Scene 1V), William Shakespeare.

The word association here is magnificent: fair and foulest, words, letters, stomach, food, poor in health, stomach, food, health, feast, rich and abundance, happy, rejoice; sight, fails, giddy, ill.

It is a good idea to always look over our finished product. Leave it for a day or so, then re-visit the work. Go through the paragraphs and try to improve every single sentence by use of word association. Most of our work may be fine. Sometimes when I speak I tend to go off at a tangent, so if I’m writing as I speak, I have a need to revisit the writing often and re-jig slices of the action to get things back in focus and maintain continuity. When we go through the process of writing and re-writing and editing, to the stage where we are totally satisfied with our work, there is always that underlying thought that we could do it better. Whether it is the Gettysburg Address or Shakespeare’s *Othello* or the opening paragraphs to our own 5000-word biography, every piece of writing can be improved, no matter how brilliant it might be. Being aware of the power of words in association is an uplifting, inspirational journey as we seek to improve our art along that long and winding pathway to better writing.

Ashley Mallett has written for newspapers and magazines and is the author of 23 books. He is currently on the Board of the SA Writers’ Centre.

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