

## History Week 2007

Eminent historian, **Henry Reynolds**, and Miles Franklin Award-winning novelist, **Roger McDonald**, are coming to Armidale in September to join local historians/writers in our celebration of NSW History Week 2007.

Following our successful participation last year, we're looking forward to a great debate and fascinating workshops.

The following events are brought to you by the New England Writers Centre, UNE's Department of Classics, History and Religion, Arts NSW and the Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place.

**On Friday, September 21**, we have three of our four events:

**\*Drawing the Global Colour Line**, a seminar with Henry Reynolds, 9.15am, at UNE, free event, our members are welcome to attend.

**\*Aboriginal Massacres across the New England Region**, a discussion between Henry Reynolds and Aboriginal elders, 2-3.30pm, at the Aboriginal Cultural Centre & Keeping Place, \$5 including afternoon tea.

**\*The importance of national identity to Australian writing**, a debate with Roger McDonald, Henry Reynolds and local participants, 5.30pm (finger food) for 6pm start,

at New England Regional Art Museum. (Enter via Café). \$15 including finger food. To be chaired by Steve Harris. This promises to be a lively discussion, to be followed by audience questions.

**\*On Saturday, September 22**, 1.30pm to 4, a workshop, **Making Fiction Work in History**, with Roger McDonald at NEWC.

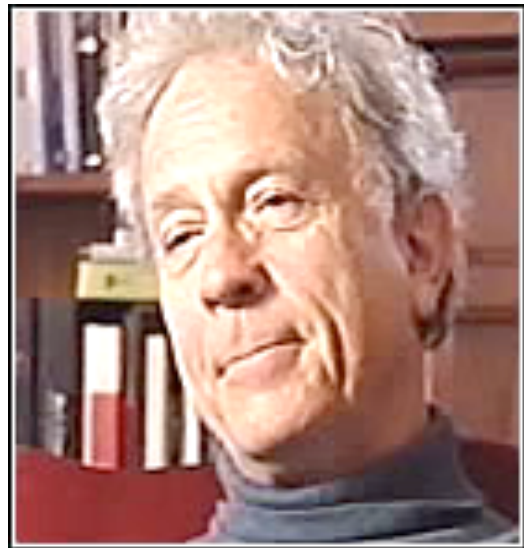
Further details will be announced in the September newsletter. However, members can book for the debate and the Making Fiction Work in History workshop, by phoning NEWC 6772 7210. As always, members are given preference in booking for a fortnight following the first announcement of events.

Workshops must be paid in advance to keep your reservation. They are held at NEWC, unless otherwise stated.

\* See page 4 for more workshops coming up.

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## Henry Reynolds



Henry Reynolds is ARC Senior Research Fellow, School of History & Classics, at the University of Tasmania. His research interests include Aboriginal-European relations, racial thought, frontier societies, and early colonial settlement.

Much of his work has focused on the frontier

conflict between European settlement of Australia and indigenous Australians. His books include *Frontier: Aborigines, settlers and land* (1987, 1997), *Dispossession* (1989), *With the White People* (1990), *Fate of a Free People* (1995), *Aboriginal Sovereignty* (1997), *This Whispering in Our Hearts* (1998), *Why Weren't We Told* (2000), and *Black Pioneers* (2000).

He has received numerous awards, including in 1982 the Ernest Scott Historical Prize for *The other side of the frontier: Aboriginal resistance to the European invasion of Australia* (1981), in 1988 the Human Rights Commission Award for Literature for *The Law of the Land* (1987, 1992), and in 1996 the Australian Book Council Award: the Banjo Award for non-fiction.

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## Roger McDonald



Roger McDonald was born in Young and grew up in country New South Wales and Sydney. He worked as a teacher, and an educational radio and television producer with the Australian Broadcasting Commission in Brisbane and Hobart, before taking up a position as an editor with the University of Queensland Press in 1969.

Roger McDonald is a poet, essayist and scriptwriter, but is perhaps best known as a novelist. His novels include *1915* (1979) turned into the acclaimed ABC TV series, *Slipstream* (1982), *Rough Wallaby* (1989), *Water Man* (1993), *The Slap*, *Mr Darwin's Shooter* (1998), and *The Ballad of Desmond Kale* (2006).

His account of travels with New Zealand shearers in the Australian outback, *Shearers' Motel*, won the 1993 National Book Council Banjo award for non-fiction and has been republished by Vintage. The internationally acclaimed bestseller *Mr Darwin's Shooter* was awarded the New South Wales, Victorian, and South Australian Premiers' Literary Awards, and won the National Fiction Award at the 2000 Adelaide Writers' Week.

His latest novel, *The Ballad Of Desmond Kale*, won the 2006 Miles Franklin Award. This novel, Roger's seventh, is set in Australia of the early 1800s and it centres on the rivalry between two men over the possession of sheep that produce the finest wool. It is both a love story of unusual interest and an epic novel of greed, ambition, conceit, and redemption. The novel is rich in its characterizations and the rawness of its settings, vigour of language, and vividness of personality.

### WRITING GYM WORKSHOP

With award-winning novelist and creative writing teacher, **Wendy James**.

Saturday August 25, 10am to 4pm, \$50/\$45 members.

Need some ideas to add zest to your writing? Don't know what to write about? These writing exercises will limber up the imagination. Bring paper, pen – and a towel!

The workshop is open to writers at any stage, in any style. We recommend that anyone wanting to do Wendy's November 3 workshop (Polishing for Publication), do this one.

See our website for more information about writers/events: [www.northnet.com.au/~newc](http://www.northnet.com.au/~newc)

**Newsflash:** Winner of the 2007 Australian Literature Society (ALS) Gold Medal for an outstanding literary work was **Alexis Wright** for her novel, *Carpentaria* (Giramondo), which also won the Miles Franklin Award this year.

## DROP-IN WORKSHOP

### January to November

On the last Thursday of each month from 1.30 – 3.30 pm at NEWC. You can drop in to read your work in progress and get feedback, or listen to and support others. Any style of writing is welcome – poetry, prose, drama – literary or genre. This event is free to members, \$5 per visit to non-members.



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## Youth Online & School Workshops

The first part of our Youth Online project was completed in June, the second part - internet workshops - begins at the end of July. In the first round tutors will do sessions with children at these schools in isolated areas of New England: Chandler, Wyaliba, Yarrowitch, Blackville, Mingoola, Premer. Further sessions will take place later in the year. Each tutor designs a writing project to be carried out in class, and then assesses the writing, and in a 45-minute live chat with the children, discusses their writing and answers questions.

In June, performance poet **Miles Merrill** toured the region as part of our Youth Online project. Miles gave workshops in performance writing in schools (Glen Innes, Guyra, Wollomombi, Rockvale, Armidale) to more than 330 children. He gave public performances at libraries, and in Armidale and Glen Innes hosted heats for the NSW State Library's SLAM Poetry 07 contest. He also did a morning workshop for Armidale Dumaresq Council's Together Together project.

*Report from Miles on the tour:*

**Travelling** around New England was more like visiting old friends than working. This trip was my fourth to the region and it was huge. Each year a new organisation adds its support to my tour. This year I was again lucky to be working with the New England Writers' Centre, local schools, The State Library of NSW and the local public libraries.

I really feel as though I'm making a difference in the lives of new and established writers with my visits; particularly in schools. At Glen Innes High School, I met Sam Withers who is taking up performance poetry as an English elective. He's one of six students in NSW to choose this challenging extension unit. His teachers believe he was inspired by my previous visits. He won the Glen Innes Poetry Slam heat and will fly to Sydney in December to perform at the State Library of NSW and represent Glen Innes in the State Final of the Australian National Poetry Slam 07.

At Armidale High School students were from grades 3-6. Many who knew me from a previous visit, suggested they each demonstrate their special skills. I'd forgotten about this exercise run for 20 or so students a year ago. Examples of special skills: to talk like a robot, whistle like a bird, and walk like a crab. I was happy to be offered their show.

One of my favourite workshops was with the Armidale Dumaresq Council's Together-Together project working with migrants on language skills. Even the people who had a limited vocabulary were able to participate when I got them to imagine an alien and then show the group what it looked and sounded like. The range of imaginary creatures was terrific. It's a joy to watch adults hopping around like chickens, howling, growling, rolling across the floor and whistling.

The frost on the ground and the warmth of all the people I met on this trip made me feel very much at home. I always get a chance to meet with one of my favourite poets when I'm in Armidale and get feedback on my latest work. Michael Sharkey, and his partner Winifred, make a great dinner and provide intense conversation. Visiting their house is where I get my mentoring on this journey.

The State Library poetry slams were a great outlet for local talent. In fact this visit was punctuated not by my performances but by my amazement at local performers and writers in all the venues. The line between me as a visiting performer and me as a visiting audience member has almost disappeared! Lesley and Janice at NEWC once again hosted a tour that had me looking in the real estate agent windows! Thanks to all those I met and traded ideas and creative outlets with.

*Youth Online is sponsored by Regional Arts Fund NSW, Arts NSW, New England Credit Union, New England public libraries, with Bigpond ADSL provided by Telstra Countrywide.*

## WORKSHOPS COMING UP



### **WRITING A LIFE** biography, memoir, autobiography - with Susan Mitchell

Susan Mitchell will run this one-day workshop and will also talk about her many books at a public event. Bookings for both are essential.

\* **Lunch with Susan Mitchell** will be on Saturday, August 18, 1pm, at Caffiends on the Mall. \$15..50 includes lunch. If you are intending to go to the lunch, please book as soon as possible (with us), as we must have enough advance bookings for this event to go ahead.

\* **The workshop** will be 10am to 4pm on Sunday, August 19, at NEWC. Cost:\$65 (\$55 for members). It was full at the time of writing, but you can put your name on the waiting list and you might get a place if there are cancellations.

Susan describes her workshop: This will cover all the major areas necessary to write in what has become the most popular area of nonfiction I will concentrate on developing your knowledge and practice of six major skills.

- interviews
- research
- selection of material
- storytelling
- point of view
- style

Please bring along pen, paper, and, if you have one, a small tape recorder and a clean tape.

\*Susan has written many books including *Tall Poppies*, *Icons, Saints & Divas*, *The Scent of Power*, *Margaret Whitlam A Biography*, and this year continues her theme of writing the lives of the wives of prime ministers with *Sonia, Tamie & Janette – Stand By Your Man*. She is also well-known for numerous television programs, including *Susan Mitchell In Conversation* (ABC TV).

### **Manuscript Consultations - October**

This is filling up fast – if you want to secure a place phone us soon. Director of Varuna – The Writers’ House, **Peter Bishop** will be with us in October (4-6) to give one-hour manuscript consultations.

As one happy writer said of last year’s consultations: “It’s the best \$25 I’ve ever spent!” Peter has guided countless manuscripts (by major authors) to publication. This is available only to members, for \$25. You can join (\$27 per year) to become eligible.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO: People taking part in this event will need to send (to Peter Bishop c/-NEWC, at PO Box 1219, Armidale NSW 2350) about 20 pages (double-spaced) of material that you want to discuss, plus a brief description of yourself as a writer, what you hope for and fear!

Send this to NEWC by September 28.

### **Polishing for Publication - November**

POLISHING FOR PUBLICATION: Saturday, November 3, 10am to 4pm. \$50/\$45. This one-day workshop with **Wendy James** will help you get your work polished, edited, ready for publication. If you’re not quite at that stage, the workshop will help to get you thinking in the right directions. Book early to avoid disappointment.

\* WORKSHOPS MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE TO SECURE YOUR PLACE.

### **Feedback On Workshops – ‘An Enjoyable Learning Experience’**

I can't tell you how thoroughly enjoyable and privileged I felt to participate in the workshops *Writing for Profit* by Lesley Sly, and *The Art of Reviewing* by Professor Michael Sharkey. The workshops were timely as I was in the process of assessing someone's writing. Lesley’s and Michael's decades of experiences in the area have convinced me of the importance of 'caring about writing, learning from others, and lots of reading' as Lesley suggested, or 'reading widely, knowing the subject, and doing research' as

emphasised by Michael.  
Thanks Lesley and Michael for your valuable guidance, timeless effort, and sense of humour. I have a surge of energy after the workshops and I'm taking a fresh look at writing!  
They are highly recommended for their excellent work!

- Dr Big Leung



## WORKSHOP FEEDBACK

Attending Lesley Sly's 'Writing for Profit' workshop has given me confidence to submit work for publication. The following article is an extract from one of my submissions:

### POLLY'S MERRY-GO-ROUND

Some little boys, play with their toys, others just love to be bad.  
Boisterous and rough, they can't get enough, of making everyone mad.  
While most little girls, hair up in curls, play dress ups and cuddle their dolls.  
Others it seems, go to extremes, and stand up for rights at the polls.  
There's one little girl, has heads in a whirl, my goodness this just can't be so.  
Nit picked and harried, bad hair and not married, no children? That *is* a no, no!  
Can't give *you* a go, to run this here show, you know *nothing* of family matters!  
Red hair and a will, to move things until, it all hits the fan and it splatters.  
The one Mr Measly, was sure he could easily, run where the others had failed.  
'No, someone with guts, don't care if he's nuts,' the public clearly had waited.  
As long as he's fair, of *our* country he'll care, our people must be number one.

No long waiting lists, teeth will be fixed, our health will be fast forward run.  
Our critically ill, they no longer will, bash at the hospital door,  
For months, sometimes years, 'til somebody hears, their plight cannot be ignored.  
For too many, too late, they just cannot wait, for procedure to lengthen their life.  
However, instead they're ending up dead, with sorrowing family and wife.  
To whom will we turn, when our orchards all burn, no factories to keep families fed,  
Come sit round the table, as Dave did with Mabel, we'll work on Australia instead.

- Jeanette Duncan

## NEWS & INFORMATION

Vincent in Brixtona, by Nicholas Wright is an award winning play about the artist Vincent van Gogh. Brixton 1873; a brash young Dutchman rents a room in the house of an English widow. Three years later he returns to Europe on the first step of a journey which will end in breakdown, death and immortality. A mesmerising story about passion and creativity, August 23 to September 10. Preview: Wednesday August 22, 8pm; Opening Night: Thursday August 23 at 8pm then Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm, (no performance Friday, September 7). Sundays at 2pm, mid-week matinees, Tuesday, August 28 and Thursday September 6 at 11.30am. \$16 full/ \$13 concession/\$8 students. NERAM Packsaddle Studio, Kentucky Street Armidale. Bookings: Dymocks, 6771 4558.

Arts Hub reports that the program that enabled writers Geraldine Brooks, Peter Carey, Doris Pilkington Garimara, Kate Grenville, Thomas Kenneally and Tim Winton to champion Australian writing in Asia will be terminated in June. The Asialink Literature Touring Program no longer has the funds to continue. "Unfortunately the key supporter of the program, the Australia Council, has decided not to continue its funding and the program is unviable without these core funds," Asialink said in an announcement. Full story on the Arts Hub website: [www.artshub.com.au](http://www.artshub.com.au).

Lightning Bug is an online resource for young adults interested in writing. It is intended to help writers craft a narrative, is useful for confident literate young writers, or those less sure of their writing abilities. Go to: [www.linghtningbut.com.au](http://www.linghtningbut.com.au).

Random House and Harper Collins have launched their own online browse programs. They enable you to search and browse titles on line. The program, called *Browse Inside* (Harper Collins) displays the front, back and last few pages of available titles. Random house has said that their *Insight* program was likely to be available in Australia in the future.

## COMPETITIONS

**August 1:** Max Harris poetry award 2007, prize \$3,000 and two unpaid commended entries will receive University of South Australia Max Harris Poetry Award Certificates, to be presented in October. Go to: [www.poetryandpoeticscentre.com](http://www.poetryandpoeticscentre.com).

**August 8:** The National Poetry Competition: First prize \$300, \$5 entry fee. Contact Pam Bayfield (02) 9999 2983 or go to [www.womenwritersnsw.org](http://www.womenwritersnsw.org).

**August 8:** Society of Women Writers NSW Inc national poetry competition. Max of 40 lines, prizes \$300, \$200 and \$100. Contact: Pam Bayfield, 158 Elanora Rd, Elanora Heights, NSW 2101.

**August 15:** John Marsden prize for young Australian writers under 25. Two categories: under 18 and 18 – 24 with prize money of \$4,500. Winning entries will be published in December issue of *Voiceworks* magazine. Contact: Rohini Sharma, Express Media, 247 Flinders Lane, Vic. 3000, or (03) 9663 4155 or [artisticdirector@expressmedia.org.au](mailto:artisticdirector@expressmedia.org.au) or [www.expressmedia.org.au](http://www.expressmedia.org.au).

**August 17:** Cooee Festival poetry competition. Categories include traditional form poems, outback, humorous, open, high school and primary school. Contact: 02 6847 2045.

**August 31:** The Iremonger award for writing on public issues. Prize: \$10,000 cash, guaranteed publication, royalties on book sales, and editorial support. Contact: Pedro Almeida, publishing assistant, Allen & Unwin, 83 Alexander St., Crows Nest, NSW 2065 or [www.allenandunwin.com/awards/iremonger.award.asp](http://www.allenandunwin.com/awards/iremonger.award.asp) or [pedroa@allendandunwin.com](mailto:pedroa@allendandunwin.com).

**September 28:** The Examiner Port Stephens literature award 2007, \$1300 in prize money, Adults: 17+, short stories up to 2500 words, any theme, Children: two sections: 6 – 12 years and 13 – 16 years up to 500 words, any theme. Contact: Geoff Walker (02) 4982 4095, Literature Competition, 6 The Parkway North,

Mallabula, NSW 2319.

**September 30:** Tom Howard Poetry contest, all genres accepted. Cash prizes total \$3,500. Go to <http://tomhowardpoetry.bravepages.com> or <http://www.geocities.com/raster330>.

**October 31:** Gippsland Wattle bush poetry award. Contact: Gippsland Bush Poets, PO Box 453, Vic. 3841.

## PUBLISHING/FELLOWSHIPS/ OPPORTUNITIES

Interactive Publications invites qualified readers of fiction, non-fiction and children's work to add their name to their freelance register. People currently on the register should update their details. For further information go to <http://www.ipoz.biz>. Send a covering letter and resumé to [info@ipoz.biz](mailto:info@ipoz.biz) or ring 07 3122 1312 for further information. Dr David Reiter, director, Interactive Publications Pty Ltd, Treetop Studio, 9 Kuhler Court, Carindale, Qld 4152, or phone (07) 3122 1312 or (07) 3395 0269 or 0412 313 923 or fax (07) 3324 9319.

The Australian Writers' Guild with the support of the Copyright Agency Ltd cultural fund, has announced the nation's richest playwriting prize. The \$40,000 Richard Wherrett prize will be shared evenly between the winning playwright and the production company that first produces the play in Australia. For more information go to [www.awg.com.au](http://www.awg.com.au).

The 2007 young playwright's award is offered by the Sydney Theatre Company (STC) and the Sydney Morning Herald. Every entrant is awarded a certificate of participation and invited to view the staged readings of the winning scripts at STC. Two winners (one junior, one senior) receive a significant opportunity to participate in a workshop with a professional director, dramaturg and cast which culminates in a staged reading at the STC. The two young playwrights also receive \$1,000 courtesy of The Sydney Morning Herald. Application forms: [www.sydneytheatre.com.au/education](http://www.sydneytheatre.com.au/education). **Closing early August.**

2008 Calibre Prize for Outstanding Essay - \$10,000. Australian Book Review (ABR) and Copyright Agency Limited (CAL) invite entries for the second Calibre Prize for an Outstanding Essay. Essayists must reside in Australia or be Australians living overseas. The guidelines and application form are available on the ABR website [www.australianbookreview.com.au](http://www.australianbookreview.com.au). **Closing: August 31.**

## ONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS/ FESTIVALS

The Byron Bay Writers Festival, July 23 – 29, will bring the movers and shakers of Australia's media to the stage this year, in a program that aims to explore just who is shaping our vision of the 21st century in a world dominated by pop-ups, scrolling headlines, viral marketing and SMS. The line-up includes renowned journalists David Marr, Paul McGeough, Fran Kelly, Chris Masters, Jennifer Byrne, Eric Campbell and Paul Sheehan. Michael Gawenda returns from Washington to attend the Festival and join in an extraordinary conversation with The Chaser writer Charles Firth, about living and reporting in the United States. Topics under the microscope will range from national identity, whether the media is dumbing us down, the consequences of whistleblowing and the ethics of journalism. Tickets: Jetset Byron Bay Tel 02 6685 6262 go to [www.byronbaywritersfestival.com](http://www.byronbaywritersfestival.com).

Metro Screen is offering an introduction to DVD Studio Pro, a powerful tool for all aspects of DVD production, from authoring through to burning. This weekend course will teach you how to produce creative DVDs for your next short film, documentary, showreel or funding application. Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday day, 9.30am – 5.30pm, August 10 – August 12, 15 places. Location: Metro Screen, Paddington Town Hall. Cnr Oxford St and Oatley Rd Paddington, NSW. Contact: metro@metroscreen.org.au.

Armidale International Film Festival: August 3 – 5, 13 award-winning films from Europe, South America, Asia and the Middle East over one weekend at the Belgrave Cinema. Tickets available at the Belgrave. Contact Caroline Downer on 0438 959 067 or caronige@aapt.net.au

NSW Writers' Centre is hosting the Steve Kaplan Writing Seminar August 25 & 26 (Saturday/Sunday), 9.30am - 5.30pm. Comedy workshop for writers of comic television, film, theatre and radio. For the past 15 years, Steve Kaplan has coached and developed the best writers of American television - from the writers of *Sex and the City*, *Seinfeld*, *Big Love*, *Ugly Betty*, to name just four, to the industry's top stars such as Jack Black, Nathan Lane, Nia Vardalos, Kathy Griffin and Nora Dunn. This is a two day weekend course which is said to offer proven, practical methods that help you reveal and understand comedy structure and character. Venue: The Entertainment Quarter, 207/122 Lang Rd, Moore

Park, Sydney. Bookings & Info: (02) 9572 7222 or annie@epiphany.com.au or <http://www.epiphany.com.au>.

Poets On Wheels 2007, described as 'Australia's best known poetry touring project,' will be touring the North Coast by train for a week starting August 29. The poets will be performing and running workshops in a range of venues from pubs to schools. Contact: Les Wicks, leswicks@hotmail.com or Poets Union, PO Box 91, Balmain 2041.

International Intensive Practical Methods of Theatre Training August 27 - September 1, Donetsk, Ukraine. Participants: actors of dramatic, physical, musical and dance theatres, dancers, choreographers, directors, stage designers, playwrights, scriptwriters. To register, send your CV and a brief letter of motivation to info@iugte.com or iugte@london.com. Places are limited. Or got to <http://www.iugte.com/projects/PracticalTheatre.php>. The registration will be closed once the group is full. Accommodation in Donetsk is provided.

Annual international conference-festival, Theatre Methods 07, Between Tradition & Contemporaneity, July 30 - August 2, Bovec, Slovenia. Go to: <http://www.iugte.com/projects/accommodation.php>

Film Festivals: Tenth Auburn International Film Festival for children and young adults, September 17-21. The Fifth and the last Experimental International Film Festival, September 22-33, 5<sup>th</sup> Short Soup International Short Film and Food Festival January, 2008. Also Certificate IV in Screen now enrolling, commences July 16. Subjects: directing, screenwriting, cinematography, sound, editing, producing with storytelling a major focus. Contact: Metro Screen, Paddington Town Hall, Cnr Oatley Road and Oxford Street, Paddington or PO Box 299, Paddington, NSW, 2021 or (02) 9361 5318, fax (02) 9361 5320 or enews@metroscreen.org.au.

Australian Copyright Council 2007 Training Program. Each year, the Australian Copyright Council (ACC) offers a week-long training program in most capital cities. The 2007 program includes the topics: moral rights, copyright essentials, recent developments in copyright, governments, educational institutions, websites, galleries and museums, managing digital licences and libraries. Go to [www.copyright.org.au/training/training2007.htm](http://www.copyright.org.au/training/training2007.htm).