

For people who love writing and reading

Newsletter February – April 2007

THE YEAR AHEAD

Our program for 2007 was still being finalised at the time of writing, but we can give you a hint of what's coming up later in the year, and several workshops have been set for the first half of the year.

April kicks off with two workshops with award-winning local novelist, recent winner of the Ned Kelly Award, **Wendy James**:

Getting Started

Saturday, April 14, 10am to 4pm. \$50/\$45. Knowing where and how to begin is often the hardest part of writing, but at the end of this one day class you'll have characters, a plot -- and plenty of inspiration !

Making Stories

Saturday, April 21, 10am to 4pm. \$50/\$45. What next? Your work from the previous workshop will be developed with an emphasis on several vital elements of fiction: place, metaphor, and style.

Later in the year, Wendy will take two more workshops. Beginners and more experienced writers can attend the first, the second is for people who are getting close to a final draft, or are some distance from the first!

Writing Gym

Saturday, August 25, 10am to 4pm. \$50/\$45. These writing exercises will limber up the imagination. Bring plenty of paper -- and a towel!

Polishing For Publication

Saturday, November 3, 10am to 4pm. \$50/\$45. This oneday workshop will help you get your work polished and edited, ready for publication.

In May the focus will be on how to make money from writing, through journalism and reviewing, with:

Writing For Profit

With freelance journalist, Lesley Sly, on Saturday May 5, 10am to 4pm, \$50/\$45. Learn how to develop ideas, write in particular styles for particular publications, how to syndicate (sell the same story more than once), and earn money from writing about your interests.

The Art of Reviewing

With respected literary critic, Michael Sharkey. Sunday, May 6, 2-4.30pm, \$25/\$20. Sharpen up your critical facilities! Learning how to review other people's work can help to improve your own.

All workshops will be held at NEWC. Members are given priority in bookings for two weeks after workshops are announced (so, for these, until the first week of March).

Visiting Authors

Coming up later in the year: we will again be linking with History Week and running a debate with visiting and local writers on issues to do with writing history, plus workshops. We expect to bring eminent historian/author, **Henry Reynolds**; acclaimed novelist, **Roger McDonald**. And, author, journalist, broadcaster, biographer **Susan Mitchell**. More details in our next newsletter.

Manuscript Consultations

Director of Varuna – The Writers' House, Peter Bishop will be with us in October (4-6) to assess manuscripts. As one happy writer said of last year's consultations "It's the best \$25 I've ever spent!" Peter Bishop has guided countless manuscripts (by major authors) to publication.

Youth Online Expanding

After running a pilot program last year, we will be expanding our exciting Youth Online project this year, thanks to a grant from CASP – Country Arts Support Program, Regional Arts NSW. There will be two strands to the project – workshops online with schools, particularly in isolated areas, and a visit by performance poet, **Miles Merrill**, to schools and libraries in June. He will also be hosting heats of the NSW State Library's SLAM 2007 poetry contest while here.

AGM & Ordinary Meeting

Our *Annual General Meeting* will be held at NEWC on Wednesday, February 28, at 5.15pm. All welcome. If you wish to nominate someone for the board, of if you are interested in becoming a board member, send details in email. The AGM will be followed by an ordinary meeting, 5.30pm to 6.30pm, to discuss ideas and plans for the year. We look forward to hearing your ideas, and meeting new members, as well as old ones!

* More details about workshops will be on the website by end of February.

MONTHLY EVENTS

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.

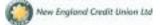
confidence, I am eager to get down and dirty with Harry.

- Elise Saville

WHAT WE DID LAST YEAR

I acted in Love Letters for the Armidale Playhouse, was in a doco on disability being made for ABC's Compass program, compered a concert at the NSW Parliament commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution. Read about the Borgias.

- Barbara Albury



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CREATIVE WRITING ADVANCED WITH WENDY JAMES

In November I attended my second Wendy James workshop. I need someone who writes a lot better than I do to look at my work. Wendy makes me feel comfortable and gives good, constructive advice. I had two short stories to take. It would have been three but "Harry the Earthworm" was still in my head. Wendy suggested some minor adjustments and said, "Now publish." PUBLISH! I dreamed of a national book signing tour and interviews on the ABC.

That daydream was fun while it lasted and now, back in the real world and with renewed

Wrote poems, short stories, reports and completed the first draft of a novel. Read poetry with Poetzinc at the Railway Hotel, and took advantage of the monthly last Thursday drop-in workshop at NEWC. Of the activities offered by NEWC, I attended Michael Sharkey's Editing, Susan Hampton's Structural Editing, and Wendy James' Beginners and Advanced Writers Workshops, also the debate, What is History?, and the seminar led by Ann Guthoys and John Docker, Personal Passions and Historical Writing. The meeting with Peter Bishop from Varuna, in October at the NEWC, was worthwhile. I found Australian Love Stories, selected by Kerryn Goldsworthy, and Collected Stories, by Isaac Babe, rewarding.

- Richard McLennan

I've finally got "Our Place in the Sun" in a presentable form: it's a discourse on me, my view of the world and what I take to be the essential mystery of things; whether it can have a life "out there" is something I haven't really tested as yet. As for reading I've been going hammer and tongs as usual; a couple of Philip Roth's recent novels provided a rich immersion in American life via New Jersey and I'm currently finishing Paul Bowles' *The Sheltering Sky*, with its questions of identity and exotic desert atmospherics.

- Dr Gregory Smith

I've had five articles published this year, two of them in New Zealand. One compared my experiences of hang-gliding and skydiving, and was published in *Fitness Life* Magazine. The other, entitled *Karma and Free Will, The Bitter-Sweet Blend In The Mixing Bowl Of Life*, was published in a spiritual magazine called *Rainbow News*. The other three were in Link Disability magazine.

- Adam Thomson

NEWS & INFORMATION

Just remember - don't close the door on your writing. Keep it in your mind even when you don't have time to write. When you are busy try to take a little time, even 10 minutes, just to write something. If you keep your writing in your consciousness in this way you will soon find you are writing despite yourself!

Extract from Jan Cornall's happy silly season email of December 17th.

The Prime Minister, John Howard, has announced a new annual prize for Australian history. The prize, which could go to a substantial written work or a documentary or film, will be worth \$100,000. Go to: www. dest.gov.au/panhistoryprize.

Australia is set to get its first national poetry centre thanks to the support of Australian copyright management company, Copyright Agency Limited (CAL). CAL is providing an initial sum of \$140,800 to assist the Poetry Australia Foundation in establishing the Australian Poetry Centre at historic Glenfern, East St Kilda. CAL is a not-for-profit, member-based organisation, whose role is to provide a bridge between creators and users of copyright material. The centre will: coordinate a series of programs including organising tours, workshops and promotional activities for Australian poetry; forge links with overseas poetry organisations and other writing organisations within Australia; work to improve the teaching of poetry in schools and tertiary institutions and assist in the publication of Australian poetry by developing a national system of distribution; pay particular attention to the needs of poetry organisations in regional areas throughout Australia. Details: HTUwww.poetryaustralia foundation.org.auUTH. or Renee Williams at

Copyright AgencyLimited, (02) 9394 7684 or HTrwilliams@copyright.com.auTH.

Sydney PEN @ the Ensemble - Lotte's Gift opens February 23 2007, Ensemble Theatre, 78 McDougall Street, Kirribilli. *Lotte's Gift* is the latest play by Sydney PEN panel member, David Williamson, who will introduce the play at 8 pm. Bookings: Ensemble (02) 9929 0644. Contact: Sydney PEN (International PEN Sydney Centre Inc.)14A Lonsdale Close, Lake Haven NSW 2263, 1300 364 997 Fax: 02 4392 9410 or sydney@pen.org.au or www.pen.org.au

Buzz Words is described as 'an online professional monthly magazine' targeted at writers, illustrators, librarians, teachers and editors. Each month the Australian e-zine features a free-entry writing contest – with prizes – and interviews with editors, authors, illustrators, agents, booksellers and publicists as well as writing markets, opportunities, competitions, courses, conferences, book reviews and valuable industry information all related to the children's book industry. Contact: PO Box 2116, Woonona East NSW 2517, (02) 4284 3020 or dibates@enter prisingwords.com. with the subject heading BUZZ WORDS' OFFER, or www.enter prisingwords.com.

The Australian Writer's Marketplace is now online. Described as an 'online community for everything a writer needs to succeed in the writing business', you can check the blog, download templates, read articles and chat to publishers and writers on the forum. It is a guide to the writing and publishing industry with live updates and some 2,200 publication opportunities and contacts. Go to www.awmonline.com.au.

Absolute Write: www.absolutewrite.com. is described as 'a great site for submission markets, freelancing and forums for writers. It offers a free e-list for additional information about any genre of writing that interests you. They also have a 'Bewares and Background Check' forum.

Elizabeth Rogers has been announced as the new chief executive officer for Regional Arts NSW. Elizabeth has extensive arts management and arts marketing experience gained from some 20 years work in the field in both metropolitan and regional areas, including positions as the manager of marketing and communications with the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and as director of Canberra Arts Marketing. Elizabeth started at Regional Arts NSW in December. Full story: www.regionalartsnsw.com.au.

The report of the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee on the Copyright Amendment Bill 2006 has been released. The Copyright Amendment Bill was introduced into Parliament on October 19. It includes amendments relating to technological protection measures; enforcement, unauthorised reception of encoded broadcasts, time-shifting and format-shifting, non-commercial activities of libraries, educational institutions, cultural institutions, people with a disability, and parody and satire. The Bill and explanatory notes are available from the Parliament of Australia website: www.aph.gov. au.

The amendments made by the Senate to the Copyright Amendment Bill 2006 were agreed to by the House of Representatives on 5 December. For more information go to the Australian Copyright Council website: www.copyright. org.au.

Screenlinks Production Directory A complimentary service that lists film, television and digital media professionals, and resources based in the Mid North Coast and Armidale regions of NSW. The searchable database provides fast and easy access to highly skilled crew, facilities and services in the region. Website www.filmmnca.org.

Children's Writers & Artists' Year Book is described as "the comprehensive guide to markets in all areas of children's media, completely revised and updated. It contains information on a wide range of topics with the emphasis on giving the aspiring writer and illustrator knowledge of the children's market in all areas'. Contact Frances Derricourt, Allen & Unwin, (02) 8425 0148 or francesd@allenand unwin.com, 83 Alexander St., Crows Nest NSW 2065.

The Australian Writers' Guild (AWG) is waiving the standard joining fee for theatre writers who become guild members before the March 31, 2007 - a saving of up to 50% on first year membership fees. The AWG is the peak professional body representing theatre, film, television, radio and new media writers in Australia. On behalf of its members the AWG works to improve professional standards, working conditions and remuneration; protect creative rights; promote the Australian cultural voice and improve the status of writers in Australia. Members of the AWG have access to a wide range of services designed to assist writers in developing their careers. These include script assessment; mentorships; professional development; script registration; free legal and contractual advice; model contracts and information on standard rates; networking opportunities; subscription to Storyline magazine; regular e-news bulletins and generous member concessions. Go to www.awg.com.au or contact: membership officer, Rebecca Freeman, 1300 552 228 or admin@awg.com.au. or The Australian Writers' Guild, 8/50 Reservoir Street, Surry Hills NSW 2010.

COMPETITIONS

February 19: Third Kathleen Julia Bates memorial writing competition for an unpublished short story to 1,000 words, suitable to be read by children aged 7 to 10 years. Theme is open but the main character should be human. Contact: Di Bates, PO Box 2116, Woonona East NSW 2517 or www.enterprisingwords.com.

February 28: Two Fires Festival Poetry Competition: themes - *Identity and Environment*; maximum length 30 lines. First prize \$500, runner-up \$200. Entry fee is \$5 per poem. Contact: geemonga@bigpond.com or send SSAE to Two Fires Poetry Competition, P.O. Box 257 Braidwood NSW 2622 or www.two firesfestival.

March 2: Grenfell Henry Lawson festival of the arts literary competition. Sections for junior authors, under 18 years and also restricted section for authors who have not previously won a prize in any competition. Contact: (02) 6343 5132 or Gaynor England, co-ordinator, PO Box 77, Grenfell, NSW 2810 or wilgabar@westnet.com.au or www.henrylawsonfestival.asn.au.

March 14: Henry Lawson Society of NSW Inc Literary Awards (Gulgong). Categories: primary and secondary school students as well as adult written sections. Contact: Cheryl Peters, secretary, Henry Lawson Society of NSW Inc, 147 Mayne St, Gulgong, NSW 2852.

March 23: A Brush with Verse - Tenterfield Art

Prize - for art inspired by poetry. \$1,500 worth cash prizes plus Shire Acquisition Award up to \$1,500.(conditional). Any style of verse. Competition for original verse and appraisal service & online publishing opportunity also on offer. Details: www.tenterfield.nsw.gov.au/ artprize contact: (02) 6736 1305, forrestto@ bigpond.net.au or ysanz@bigpond.net.au for poetry appraisals.

March 31: Short story suitable for children aged 8 – 12 years. Nairda Lyne Award, FAW-Tasmania, Box 234, North Hobart, Tasmania 7002 or www.tawtas.kingston.org.au/ competitions.html.

March 31: Woorilla annual poetry prize: Open Section: Prize \$1000, Youth Section: Prize \$100. Contact: Woorilla Magazine, 255 Macclesfield Rd, Macclesfield, Vic 3782.

April 6: Romance Writers of Australia (RWA)*Valerie Parv Award* for romance writers unpublished in book form. Conditions: http://www.romanceaustralia.com/contests.

May 22: The Grampians Writers Group Literary Awards prizes in short story (to 2500 words) and poetry (20-60 lines) section. Contact: jamalloy2 @bigpond.com or Rhonda at 5352 1100.

May 25: 2007 Shoalhaven Literary Award for short stories. 1st prize \$1000 plus 2 week residential at the Arthur Boyd Bundanoon Centre at Shoalhaven. Contact: Shoalhaven City Council arts development manager, (02) 4429 3541, fax (02) 4429 3166 or baptist@shoalhaven.nsw.gov. au or www.fawnswshoalhaven.net.au.

June 1: Bush Lantern Award for Written Verse 2007, Bundaberg. This competition is held in conjunction with the Bundy Bush Poetry Muster, held in July. Contact: The co-ordinators, Bundaberg Poets' Society Inc., PO Box 4281, Bundaberg South 4670, or John & Sandy Lees (07) 4151 4631 or lees@interworx.com.au.

June 30: Avoca Press Short Story Competition for Seniors, 50 years or over on January 1, 2007. Contact: www.avocapress.com.au or competi tions@avocapress.com.au or Avoca Press, PO Box 6790, Baulkham Hills BC, NSW 2153 or 0425 330 303.

August 17: The Coves historical writing

competition awards a prize for an unpublished piece of historical fiction or unpublished historical non-fiction to 2000 words. Contact: Irina Dunn, executive director, NSW Writers' Centre, (02) 9555 or nswwc@nswwriterscentre.org.au.

PUBLISHING/FELLOWSHIPS/ OPPORTUNITIES

The Australian Society of Authors (ASA) is offering 20 mentorships for talented writers and picture book illustrators in 2007. Applications will be accepted in the genres of fiction. literary non-fiction (autobiography, biography, essays, history, literary criticism or analytical writing), poetry, young adult writing, children's writing and picture book illustration. Successful applicants will have the opportunity to work closely with a mentor of their choice for 30 hours over one year. Contact: Jill Diamond (02) 9318 0877 or jill@asauthors.org. or http://www. asa uthors.org. **Deadline April 2.**

Tiger Talk, papertiger: new world poetry #7 – poetry at the end of the world. An invitation to submit poetry – including multimedia. For submission guidelines contact: editor@paper tigermedia.com go to www.papertigermedia. com.

UNE Australian Historical Association: 2007 Regional Conference, *Engaging Histories* – call for papers. Papers, panels and other forms of presentation are especially invited. The conference will be held September 23 – 26, Drummond and Smith College/Duval College, Armidale. Contact convenors: Dr Erin Ihde or Dr Frank Bongiorno, fbongior@une.edu.au or eihde2.@une.edu.au. or www.une.edu.au/ campus/confco/aha2007/ or (02)6773 2088 or (02) 6773 2176 or fax 6773 3520.

MEAP Careers News and Reviews has a news and reviews section and are looking for writers who are willing to review films, DVDs, books, plays/any type of performance art, and art and museum exhibitions etc. Contributors will receive entry/tickets/merchandise free. Contact: Christine at advertiser@meapcareers.com.au or www.meapcareers.com.au.

REGIONAL FUND (RPF). The ABC Radio Regional Production Fund commissions work

from experienced radio producers and talented content providers who live outside the major capital cities. (Residents of Darwin and Hobart are eligible to apply.) They are looking for documentary features or series, music segments, drama, comedy, serials, short stories, history, poetry, discussion programs or creative broadcast events. You might have an idea for a complete and delivered program which fits within an existing ABC Radio format, an original script, a collection of oral histories or a series of songs. Contact Deb Leavitt on leavitt.deborah @abc.net.au or www.abc.net.au/radio/rpf/

Writers' World is a new website described as "...an initiative for Australian writers to succeed in their craft.". They will be offering a short story of the month" competition. Each winning entry and runner-up will be published in the free online Writers' World, The Written World monthly newsletter. In addition, at the end of 12 months' competition, each winning entry will also be published in the Writers' World – Best New Australian Authors book to be released at all leading book stores. All unsuccessful entries will be offered an honest, but encouraging critique of their work; winners will receive prize money, as well as publication. Writers' World also has a bookshop – books reviewed and considered helpful to writers are available for purchase, and an Australian feature book section, in which new Australian authors will be featured, along with reviews and details about the author. Contact: Anthony Santoro, Writers World, 0414 673 006 or anthony@writersworld.com.au

World Interplay: call for playwrights & tutors July 3 – 17, Townsville. The world's largest international festival for playwrights aged 18-26 is calling for applications from tutors and playwrights for its 2007 intensive forum. Every two years, 50 of the world's best young playwrights gather in Townsville for two weeks of dramaturgy, script development, workshops, seminars and artistic and cultural exchange. An all-inclusive fee of \$550 covering accommodation and meals will be required for successful playwrights. Registration is free for tutors. Contact: (07) 3854 0261 or info@worldinter play.org or www.worldinterplay.org. Closing June.

New Matilda is an on-line magazine on politics and social issues, seeking suggestions for articles. Contact: writeforus@newmatilda.com or www. newmatilda.com.au.

The NZ SF Conspiracy II will be providing an opportunity for five unpublished authors to pitch their books. Details www.conspiracy2.org.nz/ pitching.html.

The Great American Poetry Show is a hardcover serial poetry anthology, open year round to submissions of poems. Contact: info@tgaps.net. Chatroom: www.tgaps.net.

Manifesto Magazine is, at present, an on-line publication (planning to go to print this year), looking for submissions on topical issues. Contact: Hiran Perera, hperera@manifestomag-izine.com or www.manifestomagazine.com.

The Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards needs judges for its 2007 competition. This is the biggest poetry writing competition for school students in Australia. Judges are paid and the role includes a trip to Gunnedah north-west NSW to attend the National Award Presentations. Judging usually takes about four weeks and will begin around July. Contact: Barbara Guest, project officer on 0267 40 2233 or dorothea mackellar@bigpond.com.

Medley Mag is a new online magazine. It is described as 'a youth-driven celebration of cultural diversity, which bridges cultural, socioeconomic and geographic boundaries to community involvement.' Contributions for publication are required from young people, aged 12 - 25 years. Ccontact.Georgina, info@medley mag.com.au or www.medleymag.com.au.

CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS/ FESTIVALS

Northern Rivers Writers' Centre 2007 workshop series – *Aspects of the Novel*, held over six Saturdays, commencing February 3. Participants can select to attend individual workshops or the entire series: February 3, Getting Started, February 24, Character Building, March 24 Dialogue, Plot, Pace and Structure, date tbc. Imagery and Style, date tbc Rewriting and Editing. Contact: Northern Rivers Writers Centre, PO Box 1846 Byron Bay, NSW 2481. 1info@ nrwc.org.au or (02) 6685 5115.

In conjunction with the UTS Centre for New

Writing, the NSW Writers' Centre is holding its first ever Contemporary Australian Fiction Festival on Saturday, March 24. For details (including the first paragraph competition: a competition to produce the best opening paragraph of a novel. Limit 50 words) call (02) 9555 9757 or www.nswwriterscentre.org.au.

ACT Writers Centre Workshops: Crime Writing with Shane Maloney, February 24 from 10 - 1and 2 - 5 pm. Removing Writer's Block with EFT, Honour Leigh, March 11. Nothing but the Truth: The Craft of non-fiction, Mark Tredinnick, March 24 and 25. Writing Plays for Young People, Sue Murray, April 21. Writing for the national and international theatre market: a practical workshop, Timothy Daly, April 28, from 10 am – 4 pm. Details: Pat Stone, Act Writers Centre, Gorman House Arts Centre, Ainslie Ave, Braddon, ACT 2612, (02) 6262 9191, fax (02) 6262 9191,

admin@actwriters.org.au or www.act writers.org.au.

Kids Workshop with Matt Ottley, *Every Picture Tells a Story* for young writers, painters and drawers aged 7-12, Saturday March 10. Contact: Northern Rivers Writers Centre, PO Box 1846 Byron Bay, NSW 2481 orsusie@nrwc.org.au or (02) 6685 5115.

Two Fires Arts & Activism Festival, to celebrate and extend the legacy of the poet, conservationist and reconciliation activist, Judith Wright, Braidwood, March 30 - April 1, theme: *Taking up the Challenge – Identity and Environment*. Contact: : geemonga@bigpond.com or SSAE to Two Fires Poetry Competition, PO Box 257 Braidwood NSW 2622 or www.twofires.com.

Writing for the national and international theatre market: a practical workshop with Timothy Daly, April 28, 10 am – 4 pm. Contact: ACT Writers Centre, Gorman House Arts Centre, Ainslie Ave, Braddon, ACT 2612 or (02) 6262 9191 or fax: (02) 6262 9191 or admin@actwriters.org.au, or www.actwriters.org.au.

Romance Writing in Paradise, June 2 – 10, described as 'a writing workshop wrapped up in a holiday in Fiji'. Venue: Daku Resort, Savusavu, Details: www.dakuresort.com or Delia Rothnie-Jones (02) 9969 4753 or paradisecourses@iinet. net.au or Writing in Paradise, 1 Morella Road, Mosman NSW 2088. Jan Cornall's 2007 courses: Jan Cornall workshop: In Search of Ghosts – Yerranderie NSW, May 4 – 7. Write a character based short story over four days, writing and walking around the historic township of Yerranderie, NSW. Details www.intotheblue.com.au or jnana@ozemail.com.au.

Desert Writers, June Walk 'n Write in the MacDonnel Ranges and haiku inspired walking and writing – Japanese Inn Daylesford, Vic, May. Details: www.jancornall.com or whn@jancornall. com or 0415921303.

The Somerset Celebration of Literature Writers' Festival, March 14- 17, Somerset College, Mudgeeraba, Qld. More information: (07) 5530 4624 or events@somerset.qld.edu.au or www. somerset.qld.edu.au/confl

Swancon 2007, April 5 – 9, described as Australia's longest running speculative fiction convention. More information: www.swancon. com/node/6.

Convergence 2, the 46th National Science Fiction Convention, June 8 – 11, 2007, Rydges, Melbourne. Contact: convergence@natcon.org.au or www.natcon.org.au/2007.

World Interplay Festival, July 3 – 17, described as the largest festival for young playwrights, aged 18 – 26. Contact: info@worldinterplay.org or www.worldinterplay.org.

Byron Bay Writers Festival, July 26 – 29 (please note dates changed from previous years), with workshops from Juy 23. Contact: Rebecca Park, communications & members services manager, Northern Rivers Writers Centre, Byron Bay Writers Festival PO Box 1846 Byron Bay, NSW 2481 info@nrwc.org.au or (02) 6685 5115 or www.byronbaywriters festival.com.

Contemporary Australian Fiction Festival, NSW Writers' Centre, 10am-6pm, March, 24 Cost of ticket: \$25 for members, \$20 for members' concession, \$30 for non-members. Contact: (02) 9555 9757.

REMEMBER AGM FEBRUARY 28, 5.15 pm.