

# New England WRITERS CENTRE

For people who love writing and reading

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Newsletter  
November/December 2009

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Wednesday February 24, 2010

5.15 pm followed by ordinary  
meeting at 5.30 pm  
at NEWC, Neighbourhood Centre  
129 Rusden Street, Armidale

If you wish to stand for the board or  
nominate, email [newc@northnet.com.au](mailto:newc@northnet.com.au)

**ALL WELCOME**

## Congratulations to New England Writers

It was a great year for New England writers in getting published and winning competitions and fellowships to develop work or take it to completion. Our writers won around 16 percent of Varuna Publisher Fellowships awarded this year.

**Rebecca James** achieved spectacular success when an international bidding war landed her a \$1 million advance for her manuscript and the *Wall Street Journal* described her as the next J.K. Rowling. Ironically, she'd been rejected by every literary agent in Australia on the grounds that the book, *Beautiful Malice*, wasn't sellable as young adult fiction!

**Wendy James** - *Why She Loves Him*, short stories.  
**Big Leung** - *Traditional Chinese Medicine*.  
**Richard McLennan** - *A Journey too far*, short story.  
**Teresa van der Kraan** - *Never For Ever*, novel.

**Helena Pastor** - LitLink residency at Varuna; Australian Society of Authors mentorship. Also, Varuna Publisher Fellowship with Griffith Review.

**Su Dorland** - *Exam Stress? No Worries*, book/CD package.

**Robert Evered** - regional winner *Sydney Morning Herald* Young Writers competition.

**Sophie Masson** - *The Madman of Venice*; *The Hunt for Ned Kelly*; *The Phar Lap Mystery*; and *The Understudy* (to be published 2011); *The Case of the Diamond Shadow*, shortlisted for the Davitt Awards for the top crime books by women, young adult section; a number of short stories; six months writer's residency at the Kiesing Studio, Paris, by the Literature Board of Australia Council; elected to the management committee of the Australian Society of Authors.

**Susan McMichael** - a Publishers Fellowship from Varuna.

## WHAT WE DID IN 2009

*We offered a broad program with workshops:*

Getting Started - Making Stories, Write to Live - journalism, The Creative Journal, Voice Skills for Writers, Writ Large - Promotion, Writing Gym, Polishing for Publication, The Agent, Writing Novels For Teens & Children, Writing Space Writing Workshop for children aged 7 - 10.

*Plus:* the LitLink Manuscript Consultation program with **Peter Bishop**. In collaboration with Armidale Dumaresq Library, we held several public events there: A talk by Peter Bishop, "Ways to Publication", and celebrating Poetry Week we had a thought-provoking discussion called "Talking Poetry" with poets **Yve Louis** and **Julian Croft** about mentorship, their work, and issues in poetry. **Miles Merrill**, visiting as part of our Youth Online program to do workshops in schools, also hosted the State Library's SLAM 09 poetry contest at the Library. In collaboration with Poetzinc, we had an exchange of poets from Armidale with poets of the Hunter region. Our visitors read at The Trax Hotel in Armidale in November. Our **Youth Online** program took creative writing skills to 215 children and teenagers this year.

## PLANS FOR 2010

Funding permitting, we are planning an exciting program for 2010. We expect to have workshops on poetry and publishing including publishing on the internet, workshops for youth, and much else. Join NEWC and help decide the programs for the year. Membership is \$28.50 and details are on the back of the newsletter.

**THANKS:** to the board, our sponsors, members, and especially **Pam Summers** for her work on the newsletter, **Brian Neville** for his generosity in auditing for us, **Ingrid Kalf** for website design and maintenance, **Janice Burn** for her help this year.

## CHRISTMAS – NEW YEAR CLOSING TIMES

**Closing, Thursday, December 24**  
**Reopens 10 am, Wednesday, January 13**

### NEWS AND INFORMATION

*The Melting Pot* is described as an online portal where filmmakers can collaborate, network and discuss screen projects. Filmmakers can post their projects to attract resources, investment, marketing opportunities and like minded peers for collaboration. If a producer is looking for crew, a writer looking for a producer or a director with a creative vision to share, *The Melting Pot* is an access point to find the dream team. By registering on *The Melting Pot* you can post your projects, network, and throw your ideas around. Go to: [www.meltingpot.spaa.org.au](http://www.meltingpot.spaa.org.au)

Barbara Flowers, a member of the Australian Society of Authors, is conducting a survey of the various writing courses available within Australian universities and CAE/TAFEs. Go to [tinyurl.com/lc7nck](http://tinyurl.com/lc7nck).

*Writing Raw* is described as a free literary e-zine dedicated to new and emerging writers of fiction, poetry and assorted writings. Their stated goal is to serve the literary community with the opportunity to have their work online and out in the world. They say that in this world of disappearing literary magazines, *Writing Raw* is providing the blank pages for writers to fill. They offer the [www.WritingRaw.com](http://www.WritingRaw.com) forum, an opportunity to meet other writers, share experiences, post announcements of upcoming releases and read interviews. They invite writers to contact them on how to put a free banner, announcement or link to their site. Contact: Weeb, [WritingRaw.com](http://WritingRaw.com)

*Australian Book Contracts*, (fourth edition) called by Tom Keneally his 'contractual bible', has recently been released. Described as the definitive guide to Australian publishing contracts, it is compiled by the Australian Society of Authors and is priced at \$29.95 including postage and packaging. Contact: Tim Sinclair, communications officer, Australian Society of Authors, PO Box 1566, Strawberry Hills, 2012 or 98 Pitt Street, Redfern 2016, (02) 9318 0877, fax (02) 9318 0520, [tim@](mailto:tim@)

[asauthors.org](http://asauthors.org), <http://www.asauthors.org>

The Australian Writers Guild has launched a new two-level script assessment service for writers working in film and television. Tier one is suitable for first-time and emerging writers. Tier two is recommended for more established writers. Go to: [www.awg.com.au](http://www.awg.com.au) or (02) 9319 0339



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### WORKSHOP FEEDBACK

#### Writing Gym – Wendy James

Very happy to provide feedback on Wendy's workshop. I enjoyed the session immensely. It was the first time I had been involved in an activity of this type. Very nerve-wracking to read out your own work but by the end of the day I really enjoyed it. The feedback is very good and just the exercise of listening to others is also useful for your own writing. I would like to participate in further activities and would also very much like to have some personal feedback on a short story I have written, no doubt we have all been tinkering!! Seems like a huge investment to begin writing a book without some initial feedback to ensure we are on the right track. If there are any opportunities for this type of feedback session it would be wonderful. I look forward to further workshops, also very handy if they are on a weekend for the workers.

- Anne Radburn

What an inspirational day! Wendy's workshop took us through creative and fun exercises to develop beginnings, characters, plot and much more. It was all I anticipated. Thanks Wendy.

- Ann Lax

## **Polishing for Publication**

- **Wendy James**

Wendy was a good leader and seemed to know a lot about publishing and refining a piece of writing. It was good to go into everyone's writing in depth; it also worked well that everyone who attended had completely different genres and styles of writing. With more people or less time it would have been a rush; as it was the length was perfect. Everyone seemed to find it helpful to read their work out loud to a group.

- **Jennie Del Mastro**

Seven enthusiastic writers attended Wendy James' workshop on preparing writing for publication on Saturday, October 24. Two of the participants had travelled from other towns to take part. Each of us was writing in a different genre including science fiction, romance, fantasy, short story, historical fiction and true to life contemporary fiction. It was interesting to hear and discuss excerpts from each work. Wendy as always had got us thinking about many aspects of writing and we all went away with suggestions to bring us closer to publication. Many thanks to you Wendy.

- **Helen Evans**

## **Youth Workshop** - **Susan McMichael**

I really enjoyed this workshop and found it interesting and helpful. It was great to get feedback and ideas about my own work and get suggestions on how to get published.

- **Claire Austin-Miner**

I liked getting to hear what other people were writing and it was good to get feedback about my own writing. It was good to be able to ask questions and get tips on writing, editing and publishing the stories.

- **Fiona Backhouse**

## **The Agent Workshop** - **Pippa Masson**

Thank you to Pippa Masson for an invaluable workshop. Pippa's comprehensive overview covered what agents look for, how to structure a proposal and write a synopsis, and the role of the agent throughout the writing and publishing process. We all left the workshop blown away by Pippa's extensive knowledge, practical advice and indefatigable willingness to answer all our questions. This was the most useful and inspiring writer's event I have ever attended. "

- **Anna Thomson**

This workshop was one I made every effort to attend. I have had a couple of 'problems' cleared up – now can restart again!

I'd like to know how to self publish – I have no great confidence that anyone else will!

Clear and concise lecture.

- **Fleur Hunt**

A very enjoyable workshop. For me there was a gain of much needed knowledge which hope I will be able to use to good effect.

We are fortunate to be able to attend a workshop such as this as there are so many sides to the business of writing and this helps one understand the nitty gritty and practical applications involved.

- **Mary Watson**

Thank you for organising the workshop with Pippa Masson on Saturday. This was the first writer's meeting I had attended (I heard about it from ABC radio) and I was very impressed with the day. Pippa and the group gave me support and encouragement to have a go at a dream and I thank you all for that.

- **Mandy McKeesick**

## **There's even more for Booklovers at Dymocks**

**Open 7 days**  
with more books & more time to browse



169 Beardy Street (the Mall), Armidale NSW 2350  
**Phone: 02 6771 4558 Fax 02 6772 9687**

## **WHAT WE DID THIS YEAR**

I was thrilled to get a Publisher Fellowship from Varuna. It isn't a guarantee of publication, but Text will look at the Manuscript first when it is finished.

The space and time to write at Varuna are just wonderful: I have several sections of the novel which will benefit from not being able to answer the phone and being away from the email.

Another exciting event occurred earlier in the year when I came second in the Jean Ringland Memorial

poetry competition run by the dangerously Poetic Poetry Group out of Byron Bay.

- Susan McMichael

In our July/August issue we reported that Helena Pastor had won a NSW Varuna Residency and an ASA mentorship. To cap those achievements she has now also received one of the new Varuna Publisher Fellowships. She tells us:

I was very pleased to receive one of the new Varuna Publisher Fellowships with Griffith REVIEW. The fellowship includes a residential week at Varuna (or a phone consultation ... but I'm definitely taking the residency option!) and when my project is ready, Varuna will forward it to Griffith REVIEW for consideration. There's no promise of publication, but the publishers involved have shown their interest and will be the first to read the work. It's a step in the right direction.

I am currently at Varuna on a two-week LitLink residency and it's heaven. Absolute heaven, especially for mothers like me. My fellow housemates and I write hard during the day, then spend the evenings eating gourmet food (prepared by the lovely Sheila), drinking wine, and playing ferocious games of Scrabble. I can't wait till I return next year.

- Helena Pastor

I published *Exams Stress? No Worries!* and am currently on a very steep learning curve on dealing with media interviews.

- Su Dorland

I took a trip to Borneo, trekking along the Death March route from Sandakan to Ranau with a group of 20 led by historian Lynette Silver. It was challenging both physically and emotionally as we trekked up to nine hours a day for six days through jungle, up mountains, through plantations, across scrub and waded some days for hours up rivers. Near Ranau we took part in the unveiling ceremony of a memorial to the POWs from Australia and England who died along the track or at the site of the last jungle camp in 1945. The names of the 183 men who reached that camp out of the 1,047 who set out, are on the memorial and my father's name is one of those.

I was especially pleased to be able to go on this trip as it will help me with my writing. I am attempting to write an historical novel about my family and my father during the years 1941 to 1945.

My reading has nearly all been war related. But at the airport in Singapore I bought *The Good women of China* by Xinran. Amazing stories in it.

- Helen Evans

I met with Peter Bishop earlier this year in Moree. This was only an hour's drive for me instead of five hours to Armidale – thank you for that.

Peter read some of my work in 2008 and I continued on. He thought it was interesting and would possibly be of interest educationally including young people, as history without all the heaviness of text books and dates. As a story of life so different to what children and their families experience today.

To all those friendly people I met last year at NEWC and others I didn't meet this year, and to Peter Bishop, the happiest, healthiest and successful times ahead for all of you.

- Fleur Hunt

My latest book, a Shakespearean mystery novel set in Venice in 1602, *The Madman of Venice* (Hodder Children's Books) came out this year, it's been published in Australia and the UK and will appear next year in the US and Germany.

I've had three novels accepted by Scholastic Press Australia this year - *The Hunt for Ned Kelly* - a historical novel which will be the launch title in their revamped *My Australian Story* series, and will be published in February 2010; *The Phar Lap Mystery*--a historical novel in the same series, to be published in October 2010; and *The Understudy*, a mystery novel set in Dickensian London, in the theatre world, to be published in March 2011. I've had several short stories and essays published in various outlets during the year too, as well as continuing to blog once a month on the group writers' blog, [www.writerunboxed.com](http://www.writerunboxed.com)

In July, I was awarded a six-month writer's residency at the Keesing Studio in Paris by the Literature Board of the Australia Council for the Arts, I will take up this residency next year.

In March I was elected onto the management committee of the Australian Society of Authors, and subsequently elected as the Deputy Chair. In this capacity I've been taking an active part in campaigns like the fight against parallel importation, the Google settlement debate, copyright matters of all sorts and much more. I urge all members of the NEWC to become ASA members - over its 40 years the Society has fought long and successfully for authors, extracting such things from governments as PLR and ELR which make such a difference to authors' incomes.

- Sophie Masson

The launch of *Why She Loves Him* was great fun - blissful weather, a good crowd, and wonderful to see some familiar faces from NEWC.

On the writing front, I've spent this year writing a new novel, editing an older one – *Where have you*

been? - which comes out in February next year; researching and helping edit Dr Anne Pender's forthcoming biographical study of Barry Humphries. It was a very interesting experience being on the other side of the manuscript, so to speak. Continuing to enjoy teaching at The NEWC - I think I learn as much as the class, really - and am always inspired and energised afterwards.

- **Wendy James**

This year NEWC's Monthly Drop-in Workshop gave me support with poetry and prose writing. A *Voice Skills for Writers* workshop with Chris and Judith Ross-Smith was an excellent introduction for reading to an audience. This led me to join the Armidale Communicators Club that meets twice a month (6772--1825). The Manuscript Assessment Consultation with Peter Bishop was encouraging with regard to my prose writing. Earlier in the year I read some novels by Virginia Woolf and found *The Waves* particularly rewarding.

- **Richard McLennan**

I am a frustratingly slow reader (frustrating for me...). As a result, I make my way through less reading material than I would like. I have only recently read *The Steele Diaries* written, as members will know, by Wendy James. Within the first ten pages, I noticed I was responding to that aspect of her story so often emphasised by teachers of creative writing – the sensual. In doing so, thanks to Wendy, I have added movement to the five senses we should transmit to the reader.

There is always something to learn from reading the work of others. I've just read *The Author's Craft* by Arnold Bennett, published in 1914. What writers do hasn't changed a lot over the centuries. He makes interesting comment about our role as observers and what that means. Other recent reads: *Carry Me Down* by M J Hyland, *The White Tiger* by Aravind Adiga, *Memoirs of a Survivor* by Lessing, *What Came Between* – a collection of short stories by Patrick Cullen and poems by Nizar Qabbani.

Of my own work: my manuscript has recently been under the critical eye of five carefully chosen and willing readers. This can be a tricky stage, but I have the support of people who give honest, specific feedback that helps me see the work afresh – its merits and its weaknesses, what it's already doing for them and what it can yet do; what must yet make it to the page for the reader. This is so important after a long incubation period, and development in a 'protected' space.

At the base level, my concern, now I have a truly substantial manuscript, is to refine it into the actual novel that I want readers to hold, the one that will

give them the experience I want them to have. I can't guess when the final full stop will find its mark, but I have a sense the work will let me know.

- **Kristal Yee**

## COMPETITIONS

**December 15:** Stage script competition. Play exploring scientific/technological stories, themes, issues, events. No science fiction. go to: [www.cnsi.uscb.edu/stage](http://www.cnsi.uscb.edu/stage).

**December 18:** Hal Porter short story competition, prize of \$1000. Contact: [pedrom53@bigpond.net.au](mailto:pedrom53@bigpond.net.au)

**January 31:** Fellowship of Australian Writers Q Inc. Lovers of good writing competition. Open Theme, maximum 40 lines. First Prize: \$250, Second Prize \$100, two runner up prizes of \$50. An FAWQ entry form must accompany each submission. Contact: FAWQ, P O Box 6488, Toowoomba Qld 4350 or download entry form from [www.fawq.net](http://www.fawq.net), or email [svskow@gmail.com](mailto:svskow@gmail.com)

## PUBLISHING/FELLOWSHIPS/ OPPORTUNITIES

The Copyright Agency (CAL) is allocating \$100000 annually to a fund to support Australian creators and those working in the creative industries. The Creative Industries' Career Fund provides grants of up to \$5,000 to individual creators and those employed in the publishing or visual arts industries who wish to undertake training, travel or any other activity that will contribute to their career development. Rounds of funding occur quarterly. Details: [www.copyright.com.au](http://www.copyright.com.au) or contact Zoë Rodriguez, [zrodriguez@copyright.com.au](mailto:zrodriguez@copyright.com.au)

Annual award of £ 26,000 to enable a fiction writer who wants to write in English about the far east to spend a year in the UK at the University of East Anglia in Norwich. Details: [www.uea.ac.uk/lit/awards/wong](http://www.uea.ac.uk/lit/awards/wong)

**Closes: December 31**

Synaptic Graffiti Collective seek submissions of Video Poetry for the DVD anthology, *Memory*. They are looking for works that correspond with broader social movements/events, as well as those exploring the links between memory and identity, and memory and place.

The video can consist of any combination of media including: spoken word, music, text, still and moving images. Video poems with a strong filmic

quality are preferred. Submission guidelines:  
<http://www.myspace.com/synapticgraffiti> or:  
[synapticgraffiti@scart69.net](mailto:synapticgraffiti@scart69.net) or Sara Moss & Scart  
0404061699

**Closes: February 28**

The Mick Dark Watermark Fellowship for Emerging Nature and Environmental Writers - The Fellowship offers three weeks residency in the Camden Haven on the mid north coast of NSW with mentorship from Ian Templeman AM, poet, editor and publisher, and three weeks writing residency at Varuna in the Blue Mountains. The Fellow will be one of the writers invited to attend the 2011 Watermark Muster to read from work completed or in progress. Travel and accommodation will be paid. Go to: [www.watermarkliterarysociety.asn.au](http://www.watermarkliterarysociety.asn.au)

**Closes: March 1**

The ASA (Australian Society of Authors) offers mentorships each year for talented writers and picture book illustrators in the areas of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, young adult, graphic novels, children's writing and picture book illustration. Information for applicants for the 2010 round will be on the website early next year. Contact: Tim Sinclair, communications officer, PO Box 1566, Strawberry Hills 2012 or 98 Pitt Street, Redfern 2016 or (02) 9318 0877 or fax: (02) 9318 0530, [tim@asauthors.org](mailto:tim@asauthors.org) or <http://www.asauthors.org>

*Melaleuca* is a free e-zine of Australian poetry, delivered monthly through your email. They accept submissions. Contact: Phillip A. Ellis, editor:  
[phillip.a.ellis@gmail.com](mailto:phillip.a.ellis@gmail.com)

In 2010 *First Edition Book Sales* will begin selling independent Australian books directly to the public. These may be small press or self-published books to be included in their catalogue. Details: [www.firsteditionbooks.com.au](http://www.firsteditionbooks.com.au)

*Favourite Shorts* The Armidale Playhouse Inc is inviting submissions of short stories and/or play scripts to be considered for their 2010 season of "Favourite Shorts". This annual event is now into its fourth year bringing the works of both published and unpublished Australian writers to the stage using directors and actors from the Armidale district.

Each week of the two-week season of "Favourite Shorts" has a different program thus doubling the amount of plays and short stories that can be performed.

All actors, directors, lighting and stage crew are

amateurs, in that they are not paid for their time and expertise. However, many do have formal qualifications or are working towards them. The Armidale Playhouse Inc will not be providing performance payments to successful writers. They do offer a free double pass to those who wish to travel to Armidale to see a performance of their short story or play.

After each performance the audience is requested to select a favourite item and after the final performance the favourite for that week is announced in a short informal presentation. All successful writers will receive their own pair of "Favourite Shorts" and a participation certificate. They request permission from all successful writers to film the performance of their short story or play. An Armidale-based professional production unit will be filming performances, DVDs will be available for sale a few weeks after performances conclude.

Submissions of play scripts and short stories up to 30 minute duration can be sent via email to [scripts@armidaleplayhouse.org.au](mailto:scripts@armidaleplayhouse.org.au) or to Favourite Shorts 2010, Armidale Playhouse Inc, PO Box 368, ARMIDALE NSW 2350 Diana Helmrich BSc, Producer - Favourite Shorts 2010, President Armidale Playhouse Inc [www.armidaleplayhouse.org.au](http://www.armidaleplayhouse.org.au)

\*To estimate the duration of your short story or play script it's about 10 minutes per 1000 words.

**Closes: December 18**

*Five Bells*, the newsletter of the Poet's Union invites submissions on any theme. Go to: [fivebells@poetsunion.com](mailto:fivebells@poetsunion.com)

*WeekendNotes* invites submissions from freelance writers to email newsletters. Contribute anything from one article a year to one article a week. Go to: [www.weedednotes.com/contact/](http://www.weedednotes.com/contact/).

Foliage Oak invites previously unpublished quirky writing; preferably flash fiction (less than 1000 words) and short creative non-fiction. Poetry will also be considered but preferably not rhyming. Go to: [www.foliageoak.uamont.edu/guidelines](http://www.foliageoak.uamont.edu/guidelines).

*Voiceworks* magazine invites stories, poetry, images and non-fiction from under 25s. Go to: [www.expressmedia.org.au](http://www.expressmedia.org.au).

*Southerly* described as Australia's oldest literary magazine accepts high quality submissions all year round. Short fiction up to 5000 words, 3-10 pages of poetry. Visit <http://www.brandl.com.au/southerly/> for details.

Copeland Publishing is looking for new writing for its parenting magazines and its national website. For guidelines go to: [www.webchild.com.au/index.php](http://www.webchild.com.au/index.php) or [sean@sydneyschild.com.au](mailto:sean@sydneyschild.com.au)

## CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS FESTIVALS

The Australian Performing Arts Market (APAM) takes place in Adelaide from February 22-25 contact: [info@pwa.org.au](mailto:info@pwa.org.au)  
The National Play Festival 2010 runs from February 15-20, Brisbane. Contact: [info@pwa.org.au](mailto:info@pwa.org.au)

Wilderness Writers is described as a superb writing and walking trip in the undiscovered Tasmanian Tarkine Wilderness over New Year December 28 – January 3. Supported walking with qualified guides and writing tutor Jan Cornall. Go to: [www.intotheblue.com.au](http://www.intotheblue.com.au) 0415929768

Galle Literary Festival, January 27 – 31. Details: [Http://www.galleliteraryfestival.com/](http://www.galleliteraryfestival.com/)

Sunshine Coast Literary Association Workshop: The Architecture of the Novel, some ideas on how a plot comes into being- presented by Steven Lang, contact: [info@scliterary.org](mailto:info@scliterary.org)

*Metro Screen*: Introduction to screenwriting – Starts February 4, six Thursday evenings. Develop an understanding of effective storytelling, dialogue and industry standard formatting. Accreditation: Statement of Attainment from the Certificate IV in Screen and Media CUF40107 for one unit of competency: CUFWRT302A Write simple stories. Contact: [metro@metroscreen.org.au](mailto:metro@metroscreen.org.au). or Metro Screen, Paddington Town Hall, Cnr Oatley Rd & Oxford St, Paddington, NSW, or PO Box 299 Paddington NSW 2021, (02) 9356 1818 or fax (02) 9361 5320

*Playwriting Australia Survey*: tell them what you think and win! They need your input. Tell them which Australian city you think is the cultural capital. Where would you most like to visit for a weekend of culture? What was the theatre highlight of 2009? They want to find out about attitudes to culture around the country and they need you to take just five minutes to complete their survey. Thirty lucky winners will each receive a double festival pass to see every performance in the National Play Festival 2010, and one lucky winner will earn themselves the grand prize of a return trip for two to Brisbane as their special guests for the festival, with return airfares and accommodation on

them! Go to: [www.pwa.org.au/survey](http://www.pwa.org.au/survey)  
Australian Performing Arts Market (APAM), February 22 – 26, is described a one-stop opportunity to experience the best in contemporary performing arts from the Australian region. It is held alongside the Adelaide Festival and Fringe and includes the *Spotlight* showcase, *Searchlight* pitch sessions, *On Display* booths, a keynote address, forums, workshops and networking functions.

## Australian Publishing Report

University of Melbourne book industry study researcher Leslyn Thompson has reported in *Bookseller + Publisher* magazine that the Australian book publishing industry (estimated at more than \$2 billion in publishers' sales) posted another highly productive year in 2008.

This increase is despite the developing global financial crisis and the attack on the industry by Coles, Woolworths. and Dymocks, who seek to remove the restrictions on the parallel importation of titles – restrictions which also operate in every other major publishing market but are not under challenge anywhere but in Australia.

Thompson's research shows that despite this uncertain environment, data drawn from publishers' submissions to the Global Books In Print database indicate that Australian publishing output was up 12 percent in 2008 over calendar year 2007 in terms of new titles.

The data includes the output of self-publishers and hence is more accurate as a measure of total publishing output than the figures previously released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics between 2000-2004.

The total number of "publishing entities" remained steady at about 4,000. Only 8 percent (just under 300 publishers) were large enough to publish more than 10 titles each. However, these publishers accounted for nearly 70 percent of total new titles.

Source – *ASA newsletter*.

## Message To Members

Members who wish to offer voluntary time to NEWC, to help out in the office and with distribution of newsletter can receive reductions on the cost of workshops. If you are interested, please phone or email us.

We would also like to hear from members about our program next year – what sort of workshops would you like to attend?

