

New England WRITERS CENTRE

For people who love writing and reading

Newsletter
February/March 2010

WORKSHOPS IN 2010

An exciting program coming up this year, including an expanded Youth Online program, thanks to a grant from the **Copyright Agency Limited (CAL)**. Some workshops have been confirmed, others await funding outcomes or details are still being finalised. [See our website for more details](#). Members get booking preference for two weeks after events have been announced as confirmed. The following events have been confirmed:

Getting Started – Making Stories, a creative writing workshop for beginners, with **Wendy James**. Saturday, May 1, 10am to 4pm, \$60/\$50 members.

In collaboration with Poetzinc, we are bringing poet **Martin Langford** to Armidale to do a workshop at NEWC (**The Good Writing Workshop**), and workshops in schools and public events. See Page 2 for details.

Write For Profit – one day workshop in freelance journalism with **Lesley Sly**. Saturday, May 22, 10am to 4pm, \$60/\$50 members.

Retool & Remix – digital media workshop with **David Reiter** (pictured right), on Saturday June 26. This will take participants into the world of digital publishing – from creating blogs to using the internet to promote your work, and much more. David will also give a talk at Armidale Dumaresq Library on Friday, June 25, at 4pm. See page 2.

Fiction writing workshop with **Linda Jaivin** on Saturday, July 3, 10am to 4pm at NEWC; talk at the library, Friday July 2, 4pm. More details next newsletter and on website soon. Linda is the author of eight books, six fiction and two non-fiction, most of which have been published internationally, including the comic-erotic cult classic *Eat Me* and

her most recent book, *A Most Immoral Woman*. Linda is also a translator (from Chinese), essayist and writer on Chinese politics and culture, which she studied at university before spending nine years in Taiwan, Hong Kong and China, studying Chinese and then working as a journalist. She is currently working with the China National Peking Opera Company on a bilingual libretto for a new opera based on a story from a Ming Dynasty novel.

The Exercise Pen, with **Wendy James**, a one day workshop to stretch the imagination, learn techniques, and a lot more to help you to take a leap with your writing instead of reinventing wheels. Saturday, August 14, 10am to 4pm. \$60/\$50 members.

Final Draft – with **Wendy James**, a workshop for refining your work, the last stage that can make or break your chances of getting an agent and/or publisher, and of course an audience. This workshop is not just for writers at an advanced stage, but also for writers who want to know what work they'll need to do when they get to a more advanced stage. Saturday, November 20, 10am to 4pm. \$65/\$55 members.



David Reiter – digital media workshop.

Book Launch

Launch of *Heartscapes* by **Kaye Mill** on Tuesday, March 23, at ASCA House, cnr Markham and Barney Sts, at 6pm. A.J. Bennett will launch the book. See interview inside with Kaye.

**Please note our new email address:
newc44@dodo.com.au**

JOIN THE DIGITAL AGE

Have you heard about people who dream in code and wonder what you're missing? Are you confused about the difference between HTML and XHTML? Uncertain whether you should have a website, blog or a podcast to promote your latest work? Are you itching to team up with other artists to produce multimedia work? Then this is the workshop for you! Award-winning author and multimedia artist, **David Reiter** will provide an overview of digital projects that can be created from your desktop. He'll also cover the key issues involved with electronic publishing and distribution and demonstrate some of the channels available to text artists NOW for publication on the internet and on portable devices including laptops, media players and 3G phones. Get ready to create works for blogs, podcasts or CD/DVD distribution and learn the differences in audience expectations for screen-based channels. Come with ideas for your own digital project. If participants in the Retool & Remix workshop want to go further down digital pathways, we'll look at running a followup workshop later in the year - Creating Digital Projects.

* **DAVID REITER** is an award-winning author, multimedia artist and publisher with five digital works to his credit including his latest, the full-length DVD film *Hemingway in Spain* <[HYPERLINK "http://ipoz.biz/Titles/HIS-DVD.htm"](http://ipoz.biz/Titles/HIS-DVD.htm)>. As Director of IP, a Brisbane-based publisher, he set up IP Digital, an imprint at the cutting edge of digital publishing in Australia, and was a featured speaker at the Australia Council's Story of the Future seminar in Sydney.

MARTIN LANGFORD

In partnership with Poetzinc, we are bringing poet, Martin Langford (pictured right) to Armidale to do a workshop at NEWC, and two public events being organised by Poetzinc – for those events, please contact the number provided for further details, for the workshop book through NEWC.

Martin is the author of six poetry books, including *Sensual Horizon*, and most recently, *The Human Project*. Other publications include *Microtexts*, a book of aphorisms about poetics, and *Harbour City Poems*, an anthology of Sydney poems. He has directed the Australian Poetry Festival three times, and was, until recently, the NSW Poetry Development Officer.

Reviewers have said of his work: 'One of Australia's foremost poets – profoundly generous and important poetry' (Andy Kissane); 'Here is a book (*The Human Project*) with the courage of its convictions, and here is a poet who convinces us

that poetry matters' (Peter Kirkpatrick).



The Good Writing Workshop: At the start of the workshop, participants can introduce themselves with a piece of their work if they like. For the afternoon session, please bring along 10 copies of work you wish to have discussed – can be poetry or extract from other writing. The morning session will be a presentation by Martin on What Is Good Writing? (And bad writing and how you know when you've achieved what you set out to do). "Today, it is often said that there are as many criteria for good writing as there are readers," says Martin. He will present the results of his own meditations on what makes some works stronger than others. The workshop is focused on poetry, but writers of other forms are encouraged to attend to learn more about what good writing is, regardless of genre.

DATE: Sunday, May 2. 10am to 4pm.

VENUE: NEWC.

COST: \$75/\$65 members.

Must be booked, and paid in advance. Phone 6772 7210. Email newc44@dodo.com.au

For the following two events, inquires to Poetzinc on 6772 6767 or mob. 04 05290499:

* Seminar: **Love, Land and Language** – directions in contemporary Australian poetry. Monday May 3, 7.30pm in the Jacaranda Room, Hughes House (at the rear of Kent House in Faulkner Street). No need to book, just \$5 at the door.

* Railway Hotel, Tuesday May 4, from 7pm - Martin Langford will read from his new poetry collection **The Human Project**. Gold coin entry.



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Phone: 132 067
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KAYE MILL'S HEARTSCAPES

Local poet Kaye Mill has published a new collection of poems and gives an insight into how it came about:



How did it all begin?

It really started when I was at the Armidale Teachers College. There were some inspirational and encouraging teachers and tutors. I had a couple of poems in the Armidale Teachers College Anthology 1960/1961. Those two years were productive - I also wrote a play and a short story.

Since then, notably, there has been *Between the Pillow and the Road* and *A Practised Escapologist*.

Where do you find inspiration?

Often when I'm walking in the morning I write in my head – sometimes just a line, which might or might not lead somewhere. My time for putting thought to paper is late at night when everything else has closed down.

Tell us about this publication.

Heartscapes is the third in the series *Matilda Poets*. It is published by Blue Tongue Press and edited by Yve Louis. The first was by Yve herself, *Notown* and the second was by Merle Goldsmith, *Pebbles on the Roof*, both published in 2009. Yve then invited me to be the next Matilda poet in this project in which she features women poets of the New England, celebrating their creativity.

Where did the title of your book come from?

It describes landscapes and emotions and escaping into the landscape. Michael Sharkey put it this way “Whether by design or not, the title of this collection suggests the elusiveness of identifying where the heart is. ‘Home’, where the heart first fixes its co-ordinates, may be where it grows till departure or escape extends its boundaries”.

What advice would you give to aspiring, young poets?

Read as much as you can of all genres. Write as often as you can. Listen to other people reading their work and get feedback on yours. Get together occasionally with friends to write critique and encourage each other – this can be quite inspirational. Kill your darlings – sometimes the piece or phrase you are most in love with might not be the deathless art you thought. Less is most likely to be best.

What does the future hold?

I intend to write as long as I breathe.

- Pam Summers

GLITTERING PRIZES - ROBERT EVERED

Towards the end of last year we brought you the news that member Robert Evered had been announced the regional winner of the Sydney Morning Herald Young Writers' Competition. We asked Robert to talk us through the experience, finishing with his trip to Sydney to receive the award:

At first, I was unwilling to enter the Sydney

Morning Herald Young Writer of the Year competition. Forced to enter by my English teacher, I wrote a humorous piece which, much to my surprise, was unanimously declared the regional winner. I thus wrote two more pieces of questionable quality and was flown to Sydney with my parents on September 23. Courtesy of our hosts, we stayed at the Holiday Inn Old Sydney in the Rocks. The following morning I attended a workshop at the nearby Museum of Contemporary Art, where I met the other 11 finalists. It was certainly helpful to meet with such like-minded people; I was blown away by the quality and depth of many of the works entered, and I began to question the validity of my own writing - the effect was rather cathartic!

On the 25th we appeared at the same venue in full school uniform and made public readings of our pieces in front of an artwork of our choice. This was also a rewarding experience and was the first time I had read prose in front of anyone, not to mention in a public space! Afterwards we attended the official lunch of the competition, accompanied by our parents and teachers. We were addressed by Markus Zusak, bestselling author of *The Book Thief*, which was very nice, before our awards were presented. Although I did not win (indeed, 11 of us didn't) the entire experience was quite rewarding, and I returned to Armidale with a nice big stack of books.



THE LIBRARY LIFE - IAN GREENHALGH

Armidale has one of the busiest library services in the State. Pam Summers asks our Head Librarian, IAN GREENHALGH (pictured upper right) how it works and what the future holds for our library:

Let's get the question which is on everyone's minds out of the way: Does Armidale/Dumaresq Library resemble the ABC series 'The Librarians' in any way?

I hope my diplomatic silence on this matter does not imply any resemblances. I enjoyed the greater intensity of Series two, however.

Where does the funding for the library come from?
Most of the funding for the library is provided by Armidale Dumaresq Council. There is some subsidy provided by the State Government, equivalent to less than ten per cent of our annual budget. Part of the State Government's assistance comes as professional advice and training opportunities through the State Library, and the great enabler of all that we do is the wonderful State Library Act of 1939.

Has your funding kept pace with inflation?

Yes, our funding for library stock on the shelves has kept pace with inflation.

How do you decide where to allocate your resources – eg. print as opposed to audio visual media?

Council has adopted a Collection Development policy which acts as a general guide to allocation. We also keep an eye on rates of usage of material types within the general framework of that policy's vision: "We will help to foster continued excellence for our community's cultural, spiritual and social development and economic growth with organised access to wide-ranging resources, in order to help provide a quality living environment for all of our citizens." That is, we may increase the proportion of some well-used parts of the collection, but not at the expense of a well-rounded rich variety of stimulating titles across the board.

What changes have there been in the numbers utilising the library in the last five years?

Between June 2003 and June 2008, the local government area population has increased by 2.3%. Over the same period, visits have increased by 18% and loans by 37%. We are now the third busiest library service in country NSW (in loans per capita), and the sixth busiest in the State.

How has the role of the librarian changed in the last five years or so?

The impacts of technology continue to grow, so we need to be aware of those dimensions, not only for day-to-day user assistance, but also to adopt new services for the community's benefit – for instance, we have only recently installed a wireless internet service (accessible during library hours - without password) for anyone using their own laptop. The role of the library as a community public space has also expanded, so we hope that our image is changing to facilitate that – less shooshing and frowning, more diplomacy and co-operation for the benefit of our users.

What gives you the most satisfaction in your job?

It's still the best feeling to help a borrower find what they want, to answer that question, to track down the clue - and feel like you've made a difference to someone's day. Otherwise, the attempt at creating a collection which is used and valued in the community is an always engaging pursuit.

In your choice of material do you try to appeal to a specific age range?

We try to appeal to all age ranges – from the “Ten minutes a day” baby reading programme, through easy readers, junior and young adult fiction ranges and adult material for all stages of life, right up to large print and talking books on tape, disc, MP3 disc and Audioread downloadable devices. In this age of target marketing, the library stands apart in trying to appeal to every man, woman and child.

Is a new library any closer?

A new library is always closer, even if our approach is millimetric. The site is chosen, the design developed to a stage where it could be submitted for a development application, and another approach to the Federal Government for infrastructure funding is in the pipeline for submission in January 2010. The stumbling block of Council's inability to fund the facility by itself remains in place, but we are hoping the attainment (this week!) of the Library's endorsement as a deductible gift recipient will give us a platform to attract funds from the community – as an inducement for all levels of government to similarly recognise the community value of a new library in Armidale.

What strategies do you use to deal with your shortage of space, which can only get worse with the increase in available material?

It's well known that we only have 60% of the space necessary for a library in a community of Armidale Dumaresq's size. And any casual observer can see how little space is available on our library shelves. We are continually removing items from the open

shelves so that new stock can take its place. Some of this removed stock is offered for sale within the library, some discarded because of its unsaleable condition, and some kept in storage upstairs and in the garage. Neither of these places is particularly satisfactory for storage, bearing humidity and temperature differences in mind, but most of the retained items are judged to have some form of enduring value for the community and wider society.

Will we reach bursting point and have to discard these items anyway?

Possibly - stay tuned!

WORK SPACE

Do you want to be published?

Send in pieces for the newsletter's Work Space – small poems, micro stories or extracts from larger work. This will also be published on our website. Email to newc44@dodo.com.au, with Newsletter in subject line.

COMPETITIONS

March 19: The Common Thread Short Story Competition 3000-5000 words. Total prize money \$700. Optional feedback report. Go to www.pippakay.com

March 20: Fish One-Page Prize - no more than 300 words. Best ten will be published in Fish anthology. Prize of €1000. Go to: www.fishpublishing.com

March 26: Cambelltown Literary Awards: Five categories according to age ranging from 5 to 65. First prizes \$200-\$500. Go to: www.cambelltown.sa.gov.au

March 24: The Henry Lawson Soc. of NSW Literary Awards, poetry and short story. Forms: PO Box 235, Gulgong, NSW 2852.

March 30: Grenfell Henry Lawson Festival of Arts verse and short story competitions, total prize money \$3725 plus statuettes and medallions. Details: www.grenfell.org.au/henrylawsonfestival or contact: co-ordinator, PO Box 77, Grenfell NSW or (02) 6343 2855

March 30: Fish Poetry Prize, limit 200 lines. Prize of €1000. Best ten poems published in anthology. Go to: <http://fishpublishing.com/index.php>.

March 31: The 2010 Bristol short story prize, any theme or subject and entry can be made online via the website or by post. Entries must be previously unpublished with a maximum length of 3,000 words. Entry fee £7 per story, prizes: 1st £500 plus £150 Waterstone's gift card, 2nd £350 plus £100 Waterstone's gift card, 3rd £200 plus £100 Waterstone's gift card., 17 further prizes of £50 will be presented to the writers whose stories appear on the shortlist. All 20 shortlisted finalists will have their stories published in the Bristol Short Story Prize Anthology Volume 3. Go to: www.bristolprize.co.uk

March 31: Tom Howard short story, essay and prose contest. Go to: <http://shortstorycontest.0catch.com>

March 31: The best of times short story competition #9. Humorous short stories (any theme) up to 5000 words. Cash prizes for first, second and third place. Contact: Chris Broadrib, PO Box 55, Blaxcell NSW 2142 or cadbook-9@yahoo.com.au or <http://spikyone.tripod.com/comp9html>

April 16: The Gold Coast Writers' Association Children's Writing Competition open to children aged 7-17, Australian residents, short stories and/or poetry. Theme: Wishful Thinking. Prizes are \$100 for first place, \$50 second, and \$25 third. There is no entry fee. Contact: Jeannie May Barker, president, Gold Coast Writers' Association, PO Box 441 Pacific Fair, Broadbeach QLD 4218 or www.goldcoastwriters.org.au or www.facebook.com/GoldCoastWritersAssociation or www.twitter.com/gcwriters

April 30: Aesthetica Short Film Competition provides an opportunity for both new and experienced filmmakers to have their work broadcast to a wider audience. All genres of film are being accepted: drama, documentary, music video, animation, satire, comedy, artists' film and anything else you can think of! For detailed guidelines and go to: http://www.aestheticamagazine.com/film_submissions.htm

May 31: Eastwood/Hills Regional Boree Log award for bush verse, ballad to be written in perfect rhyme and metre, maximum of 80 lines, with an Australian bush theme. First Prize \$100 plus trophy and certificate. Certificates awarded for highly commended and commended places. Maximum of three entries per entrant. Contact: competition

secretary – Boree Log, Eastwood/Hills FAW, PO Box 4663, North Rocks NSW 2151 or (02) 9484 6191 or summers@tpg.com.au

August 15: Katharine Susannah Prichard Speculative Fiction Award. Writers of all ages are invited to submit their work. Young writers under 20 are encouraged to enter and may submit their work free. All forms of speculative fiction are welcome. Cash prizes are awarded. Details go to: <http://kspf.iinet.net.au>

September 17: Rolf Boldrewood Literary Awards: Prose: fiction, article or essay (including family history) to a maximum of 3000 words on an Australian theme. Poetry: in any form or style to a maximum of 80 lines. Contact: The convenor, Rolf Boldrewood Literary Awards, PO Box 1042, Dubbo, NSW 2830 or go to www.mrl.nsw.gov.au

September 17: FAWNS super short story competition. Category A: super short story; Category B: memoir. Contact: fawnorthshore@gmail.com or go to <http://sites.google.com/site/fawnorthshoreregional/>

PUBLISHING/FELLOWSHIPS/ OPPORTUNITIES

Byron Bay Writers Festival Picaro poetry prize. Poets with a substantial body of work are invited to submit sixteen pages of poetry, which might be a collection of short poems, a long poem or a suite of poems. Two pages will be selected for publication as part of the Picaro Wagtails list, www.picaropress.com in partnership with Varuna, The Writers House. The publication will be available for sale during the Byron Bay Writers Festival 2010. Go to www.varuna.com.au
Closing: March 30

Byron Bay Writers Festival Litlink unpublished manuscript award. Writers are asked to submit prose manuscripts in any genre of fiction or narrative non-fiction at an advanced stage of development - manuscripts may be incomplete. Three prizes: 1st two-week residency at Varuna, The Writers House in the Blue Mountains, with consultations with Varuna's creative team; 2nd and 3rd will prizes will consist of reading, review and consultation with Varuna's creative team. The Varuna people will then recommend completed manuscripts to appropriate publisher. Go to: www.varuna.com.au

Closing: March 30

www.noveltube.com is a website for new writers looking for literary agents

Pantra Press is inviting submission of books by previously unpublished authors that have strong mass appeal either fiction or non fiction. Go to: www.panterapress.com.

Writing Raw, free literary ezine dedicated to new and emerging writers. Go to: www.writingRaw.com

Perilous Adventures, described as the writers magazine is now calling for submissions for its bi-monthly online magazine. New fiction, articles on writing craft, and book reviews are particularly welcome. Submission guidelines: <http://www.perilousadventures.net/submissions.html>

John Jameson Award - pitch an idea for a 3-minute film with an unexpected ending in less than 200 words. Winning entries will have their scripts produced. Go to: www.Johnjamesonproductions.com.au

Closing: March 28.

Blue Crow Magazine: Short fiction required for brand new magazine. Go to: <http://bluecrowmagazine.com>.

Closing: March 15.

Poetrix Open theme. Submit up to 6 poems with SSAE to: PO Box 532, Altona North VIC 3025. Visit www.sherrylclark.com.

Closing: March 15.

The Way of the Wizard: Stories about wizards, witches, sorcerers and sorceresses for anthology. Magic should be an important factor in the story. Publication is paid. Go to: www.johnjosephadams.com

Closing: March 31.

Going Down Swinging: calling for submissions of short fiction, poetry, non-fiction, flash, comic art, haiku and haiga, and spoken word recordings. Go to www.goingdownswinging.org.au.

Closing: March 31.

June 11: U3A Sunshine Coast writing competition. Categories: short story, 1000-1500 words, rhyming poetry, 20 to 40 lines, free verse, up to 40 lines. Challenge - One Thing I Don't Want To Tell My Grandchildren, fiction 1000 to 1500 words. Prizes: 1st \$150, 2nd \$75, 3rd \$25 in each category. Open to members of any U3A and people who are retired or semi-retired and thus eligible to join U3A. Contact: Jenny Riley, U3A. SC Inc. c/- University of the Sunshine Coast, Maroochydore, DC Qld 4558.

CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS FESTIVALS

Byron Bay Writers Festival, August 6 - 8. Contact: info@nrwc.org.au or go to www.nrwc.org.au

March Nundle Writing Retreats, Saturday and Sunday 6-7; Tuesday 16 and Saturday and Sunday 20-21: Contact: Tamworth Community College, 6766 4775 or Megan Trousdale, 0427 693-310 or Nicola Worley, 0428724-708.

NSW Writers Centre Workshops:

Getting it right: The News Story, with Dr Meenakshi Bharat (10BHAR3), Saturday, March 20, 10am - 4pm.

The Opportunities of Romance Fiction, with Anne Gracie (10GRAC3), Sunday, March 21, 10am - 4pm.

Start Writing for the Stage with Verity Laughton (10LAUG3), Sunday, March 21 & 28, 10am - 4pm. Contact: Jacqui Dent, program officer, NSW Writers' Centre, PO Box 1056, Rozelle, NSW, 2042, or (02) 9555 9757 Or workshops@nswwriterscentre.org.au

Grenfell Henry Lawson Festival of Arts, June long weekend, beginning Wednesday, concluding Monday. Go to www.grenfell.org.au/henry Lawsonfestival or contact: co-ordinator, PO Box 77, Grenfell NSW or (02) 6343 2855.

NEWS AND INFORMATION

Short story lab by email with the New South Wales Writers' Centre. Julie Chevalier is described as a widely published writer and teacher and she conducts this online, interactive short story writing course. Contact: workshops@nswwriterscentre.org.au and quote 10CHEV2 – cost: \$450.

A.C Grayling, described as one of Britain's leading intellectuals will be in Australia as a guest of the Perth Writers' Festival. He will share his thought-provoking philosophies about the issues that greatly affect our modern world, including religion, human rights and climate change. He will be giving the opening address at the Festival and then speaking at the Sydney Opera House on March 7 and speaking at the Global Atheist Convention in Melbourne on March 13.

The AWG Mini Series and Telemovie Committee has finalised its first series and telemovie agreement with SPAA. Contact their industrial team if you have any questions or need a copy of the agreement: industrial@awg.com

