

New England WRITERS CENTRE

For people who love writing and reading

July – September 2012

WRITING FOR FILM/TELEVISION - workshop with Tony Cavanaugh

This introductory workshop covers all aspects of how to write for both film and television, starting with the generation of an idea through to the packaging and selling of it to a producer or a network.

“We will be examining how one develops an idea through to an outline then on to a screenplay. We'll be looking at the steps one has to take in this process. As well, information will be provided on what each format looks like and what is expected in the professional environment,” says Tony.

“Specifically we'll be looking at and discussing the key ingredients for scriptwriting: the development of character, where to set your story, how to structure your story for the screen, and how to write dialogue.

“The workshop will take into account all forms of narrative storytelling, in all genres. The key to being a successful screenwriter is to be yourself, to be original and to be inventive.

“References will be made to a number of films and TV shows, to great storytellers like Alfred Hitchcock and Stanley Kubrick. References will also be made to a number of the key texts that emerging screenwriters often use - but this workshop will focus on each individual's strengths and interests as a storyteller.”

DATE: Saturday, September 29

VENUE: NEWC

COST: \$70/\$65 members

Journeys In Scriptwriting - a talk with time for questions, by film and television writer and producer, **Tony Cavanaugh**.

DATE: Friday, September 28

VENUE: Armidale Dumaresq Library

COST: \$5, pay at door, no bookings.

DIGITAL BOOTCAMP - how to publish e-books, with David Reiter.

Want to lift your work off the page and into cyberspace? Or do you think your images, sound and animation might take your work to the next level? Built on Dr David Reiter's successful *Retool and Remix: Get a Digital Life*, which played Australia-wide, this new workshop goes beyond the course notes and software handbooks to show you how *real life* digital projects are constructed and readied for publication. Four projects will come to life before your eyes so you can see what's involved and what tools you need to compose and publish your own work.

Do you need to be a computer programmer to do this? No. New software, such as Apple's iBooks Author, which will feature in this workshop, allows you to put multimedia e-books together to sell in the App store, to a potential worldwide audience of millions! Come to the workshop and learn from a pioneer in digital publishing about the new opportunities now opening up for writers.

DATE: Saturday, August 11, 10 am to 4pm.

VENUE: The Digital Hub, Cinders Lane carpark.

COST: \$65/\$55

Day In the Life Of A Literary Agent

- a talk by **Pippa Masson** on the publishing industry and her work as a literary agent for Curtis Brown, a major agency based in Sydney with close links to Curtis Brown in London and New York. There will be time for questions.

VENUE: Armidale Dumaresq Library

DATE: Friday, October 26, starts 4pm.

COST: \$5, pay at door, no bookings.

MANUSCRIPT ASSESSMENT

- **workshop** with **Pippa Masson**, literary agent for Curtis Brown, Sydney. This workshop is now full, but we are taking names for a waiting list, in the event that anyone booked changes their mind.

It's very difficult these days to get your manuscript or even a synopsis and first chapter read by a publisher or agent. Here is a chance to get feedback on your work and pitch your manuscript to an agent in a one-day workshop, getting direct feedback on your own work, and learning from the feedback given to others and by contributing to that. When you later submit your work to a publisher or agent, it will no doubt help your chances of being read if

the work has been through this process with a publishing professional.

There is a limit of 10 participants. You must be a member to apply, if not a member you can join to apply. The work can be fiction or non-fiction, in long-form, not short stories or poems.

The workshop will begin with an introduction by Pippa, then each participant will have half an hour of direct feedback on their own work, along with time for questions about publishing and likely markets for their book, and about the work, how to improve the synopsis and the opening of the first chapter, etc. Other participants will be invited to comment. So all participants will be able to learn from the feedback on all sessions.

You need to submit the following in one PDF file to NEWC by September 30:

- A covering letter, no more than half a paged typed in single spacing, outlining your aims for the manuscript, with a little information about yourself, including contact details.
- A synopsis of the manuscript, maximum 500 words.
- First chapter or part of, maximum 1500 words.

VENUE: NEWC

DATE: Saturday, October 27. 9.30am to 3.55pm.

COST: \$80. Members only, anyone not a member can join NEWC to become eligible to do this workshop.

* Pippa Masson is an agent at Curtis Brown and has worked there for over 11 years. She represents a wide variety of authors in many genres; from commercial to literary, adult fiction and non-fiction, children's picture books and novels and illustrated gift books. Her clients include Nick Earls, Scot Gardner, James Phelan, Matt Nable, Freya Blackwood and Libby Gleeson as well as countless others! Curtis Brown is Australia's biggest and oldest literary agency.

CHILD'S PLAY

- **Sophie Masson** in discussion with **Kate Forsyth** about children's and young adult literature.

These award-winning authors have published more than 50 (Sophie) and 20 (Kate) books. Trends and issues, the advantages and disadvantages of writing for children and young adults will be among the topics in this wide-ranging debate. There will also be readings of their work and time for questions.

DATE: November 16, 4pm.

VENUE: Armidale Library.

COST: \$5, no bookings, pay at the door.

WRITING THE FANTASTICAL

- **a workshop on writing fantasy fiction**, with **Kate Forsyth**.

This workshop spans writing fantasy fiction from the first flash of inspiration to preparing for publication, focusing on:

- turning ideas and images into a complete work of fantastic fiction
- importance of plot and character
- creating an 'other world' with its own inherent logic and cohesion
- originality and freshness - how to avoid the hackneyed without surrendering familiarity
- how to go about finding an agent and publisher

DATE November 17, 10am to 4pm.

VENUE: NEWC

COST: \$75/\$65 members

* Kate Forsyth is the bestselling and award-winning author of more than 20 books, ranging from picture books to poetry to novels for both children and adults. Her most recent book for adults is *Bitter Greens*, a retelling of the Rapunzel fairytale interwoven with the dramatic, true life story of the woman who first told the tale, the 17th century French writer, Charlotte-Rose de la Force. Her most recent book for children is *The Starkin Crown*, a heroic fantasy adventure set in the magical world of Estelliana, a place of wild magic and terrifying monsters.

Since *The Witches of Eileanan* was named a Best First Novel of 1998 by Locus Magazine, Kate has won or been nominated for numerous awards, including a CYBIL Award in the US. She's also the only author to win five Aurealis awards in a single year, for her *Chain of Charms* series – beginning with *The Gypsy Crown* - which tells of the adventures of two Romany children in the time of the English Civil War. Book 5 of the series, *The Lightning Bolt*, was also a CBCA Notable Book.

Kate's books have been published in 14 countries around the world, including the UK, the US, Russia, Germany, Japan, Turkey, Spain, Italy, Poland and Slovenia. She is currently undertaking a doctorate in fairytale retellings at the University of Technology, having already completed a BA in Literature and a MA in Creative Writing. Visit Kate's website:

www.kateforsyth.com.au

Q & A DAVID REITER

PAM SUMMERS interviews DAVID REITER - award-winning author, multimedia artist and publisher, with five digital works to his credit.



You got involved in e-publishing when it was still at a very early stage. When did this begin, and what attracted you to it?

My own interests in cross-arts work led me to compose the interactive work.

The Gallery in 1998. It was a spatial rather than linear work and included hypertext, as well as audio and video files. I completed the work at the Banff Centre for the Arts while in residence and published it in Acrobat 3 (now in version 12, I believe). Other artists following my progress have come to IP because they assume it can be a home for digital works, which it has been since 1999.

Tell us about some of the projects you are currently involved in

I have three projects under development at the moment, two of which are in the children's area. A new picture book called *Bringing Down the Wall* is being illustrated by the brilliant artist Sona Babajanyan. And I'm outlining the fourth book in my project Earth-Mend series, which is being animated in India. In Sept, I have another residency at the Banff Centre, this time in the Film and New Media Dept, where we will develop an interactive app based on my latest adult work, *My Planets*: a fictive memoir.

What are the most important differences, apart from saving trees, between traditional and digital publishing? The new problems this presents for authors, as well as the benefits?

Short question, long answer! Most people assume that print publishing is more expensive than digital, but, as digital becomes more sophisticated, with more potential versions, it can actually be more expensive in the development and production phase. Self-publishing is appealing to individual authors - until they realise all the variables that are involved with entering the digital market.

While the traditional gatekeepers, i.e., publishers, can be avoided, for most authors this means they have to become an expert in several key areas, plus digital ones, to succeed. For those authors who concentrate on doing what they're best at and then contracting with experts to do the rest, the potential returns are greater than working through the conventional publishing channels, but there's a lot of work to it. More importantly, as more and more work floods into the marketplace, titles have to be professional in all aspects to succeed.

There have been some big success stories of publishing on the internet, but these haven't just happened by luck, these people have devoted months, sometimes a year or more to marketing their books. What do you recommend for writers, to learn about this side of digital publishing?

Marketing digital titles primarily must take place in cyberspace via social networks, online tours, and wide scale distribution through global channels. Works must be properly 'tagged' to be found, and authors need to think laterally to identify groups, blogs and online communities that can help spread the word. Word of mouth is still the most effective means of promoting a work, but authors need to know the best strategies for helping a work aspire to go viral. There are many channels to be mastered and exploited online, and you have to be prepared to become conversant, if not fluent, in most of them.

The IPKidz web page says '... and we're planning to create titles that come alive with multimedia enhancements'. Will this spell the end of Fixed Format or plain old storybooks?

Just as video didn't kill the radio star, we believe that digital will not kill the conventional book, or at least the types of book for which physical packaging is important, like coffee-table books, picture books, etc. Fixed formats are actually a main channel for picture books, and now we can easily add multimedia elements as well as interactivity to them.

Digital will be a boon in education, democratising access to resources - so long as Internet access is available in regional and outback areas.

A platform where visual art and audio can be added to text so easily is great for non-fiction and children's books, but do you think the novel is also going to become multimedia?

Multimedia and hypertextual prose works have been around since the internet came on stream. The key factors here will be the interest in content creators working in various channels and then producing work that audiences will want to view and buy.

LIZ HORNE



A dream existence and a foot in the publishing door ... why Liz Horne is so excited about NEWC.

Recently returned to Armidale, and to creative writing, after several years in Melbourne working as a speechwriter, NEWC's new deputy chair is excited to be back, and to be part of NEWC again.

"Speechwriter, copywriter, journalist, in all those jobs I've found that I don't work on my own creative writing projects when I'm working full-time as a writer for other people. So this is my dream existence at the moment; a combination of travel, with Armidale as a base, art projects and writing whatever I want... poetry, children's stories and my first attempt at a novel."

Re-joining the NEWC was a way of confirming her commitment to writing, she says. "Being part of a supportive writing community is very important, and being plugged into the national network of publishers and writers' events and competitions has not only proven useful, it has already paid off with results."

She explains how an email from NEWC containing details of a seminar for writers at the NSW Writers' Centre at the beginning of the year spurred her into

action in January. When she signed up for the seminar, she also signed on to give a three-minute pitch for her novel to a panel of publishers.

"There's nothing like a deadline to galvanize me into action, and preparing that pitch by a certain date forced me to focus on the bones of the plot. I realised after I had re-written the pitch about five times that I was actually writing three novels in one. I was able to untangle the strands of the three different scenarios and concentrate on just one, to far greater effect. By the time I stood up to give that pitch, I was confident that I had a great story and that I knew how to tell it well. It is so much easier to write something when you know what it is!

"It was certainly a worthwhile experience, and just coming away with that new confidence would have been enough for me," she says. In fact, she ended up with the ultimate fillip to a writer's confidence – a publishing contract. This wasn't for the novel, which was barely begun, but FOR a children's story.

"Having heard all the dire warnings about it being impossible to get published, and how no-one will look at unsolicited manuscripts, and that even if they do, it will take three months for them to reply, I met an editor who said I could send her another story that I had sitting in the proverbial bottom drawer. So, the next day, I sent it to her via email. Less than 24 hours later, I had a return email asking if I would consider allowing Random House to publish the story in a new collection. I could hardly believe it!"

Liz's story "Look!" will be included in *Stories for Five Year Olds*, to be released by Random House this December, a collection which also includes a story by NEWC Chair, Sophie Masson.

"Artist Tom Jellet is doing the illustrations, and I can't wait to see how me imagines my characters. I am also delighted to be in the same book as Sophie – as an actor and bookseller I have helped to promote some of her books in the past, and it's great fun now to have my work alongside hers.

"And if I hadn't re-joined the New England Writers' Centre, it mightn't have happened!"

Youth Online 2012 funded by **ConnectEd Arts** (a NSW Government arts and education program funded by Arts NSW and managed in partnership with the Department of Education and Training).

NEWS & INFORMATION

Wonderful to hear that more than \$10,000 has been added to the funds for the Armidale Dumaesq Civic Precinct (ADCP) by the committee, trustees and precinct volunteers. It was only last November that this venture to provide a home for the many arts groups was announced so this is a very creditable achievement.

There are many ways to contribute to this exciting project starting at just \$20 to 'buy a brick' (tax deductible) on the website. Go to www.armidalecivic.org.au

www.mypitch.com is a free website containing a database of book publishers who are currently accepting submissions. Each link leads to the submissions page, with some 1000 publishers worldwide covering all genres.

The 19th Annual Scarlet Stiletto Award is a huge women's crime and mystery short story competition. It abounds in opportunities for authors of mystery to establish/increase a portfolio to include in their pitch to prospective publishers. The icing on the cake is lucrative prizes sponsored by top publishers. Goodies on offer include: Harper Collins Publishers' 1st prize \$1000 (plus the coveted Scarlet Stiletto trophy); Athenaeum Library Body in the Library award \$1000; Young Writers Award \$500 – more than \$5000 in large and small awards. Categories are: General, Young Writer, Body in the Library, Malice Domestic, Cross Genre, Best Environmental Theme, Best Investigative Story, Great Film Idea and Funniest Crime. More Info: www.sistersincream.org.au or Carmel Shute 0412569356

Byron Bay Writers' Festival

Do you think that writers' festivals are just about successful authors rambling on about their latest novel and how they produced their masterpiece? Well the Byron Bay Writers' Festival is much more than that. It offers exciting authors, workshops, inspiration and tremendous opportunities for writers of all genres.

The exciting authors include: Monica Attard well known to ABC listeners/viewers and winner of five Walkley Awards; Jon Bell, indigenous author of the Wiradjuri and Bundjalung people, has made two short films and created the forthcoming series *The Gods of Wheat Street*; James Cowan, author of 30 books, including novels, travel books, non-fiction, poetry and essays. His novel *A Mapmaker's Dream* was awarded the ALS gold medal. There seems to be something for everyone in the broad range of events. So there has to be somebody for the most difficult to please wannabe writer.

The workshops cover: writing in the first person, poetry, digital publishing, writing for film and television, writing comedy and more.

Are you looking for feedback on your masterpiece? Editorial consultations are available with Marele Day, professional writer, teacher, editor and mentor. You'll need to submit up to 30 pages of your manuscript with an application form at least three weeks prior to consultation. Check out the details at: www.byronbaywritersfestival.com or email siboney@nrwc.org.au

This is a very hands-on sort of festival and, what's more it's an opportunity to get a break from the icy blasts of Armidale winter.

Byron Bay Writers' Festival, August 3 – 5, festival passes: www.byronbaywritersfestival.com or 1300 368 552 or Level 1, 28 Jonson Street, Byron Bay (above Witchery).

WORKSPACE

Mind Boggling

Sophie Masson has done it again; three new publications, one for children, one for teenagers and one for adults. The children's book is called *The Boggle Hunters*, and was launched with an illustration competition at Newling Public School, which her own two boys attended. Winning drawings were by Joshua Farrell, Year 5; Dakota Hourigan, Year 2, and Tykeisha Collins, Year 3.

Moonlight and Ashes was launched on July 4 at Dymocks and is a book for teenagers/children. It is the modern version of Cinderella with more twists and turns than the average wicked stepsisters can dream up.

The adults novel *My Brother Will*, published by Britain's AchukaBooks as a Kindle only edition, is available from amazon.com. Join the Shakespeare family in Stratford and spend Will's 16th year with them as told by Gilbert, William's younger brother.

If you don't own a Kindle you can still read the book by downloading it from Amazon via their free Kindle app.

A Head Full Of Whispers

Congratulations to local poet, Peter Langston, on the publication of his second collection of poems, *A Head Full Of Whispers*

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COMPETITIONS

July 16: Kids Book Review picture book award for an unpublished manuscript. First prize \$300, a manuscript appraisal and submission to Walker Books for consideration for publication. Two runners up will be awarded \$100 each and submissions of 500 words or less must be made by email only. Contact: Kelly Morton, kelly@kids-bookreview.com or go to www.kids-bookreview.com

July 27: Mudgee Valley Writers Inc. competition for short story and traditional poetry. Forms from PO Box 356 Mudgee 2850.

July 27: Trudy Graham – Julie Lewis literary award for unpublished prose to 2000 words, fiction or non-fiction. Details: www.pcwc.org.au

August 31: the Carmel Bird short fiction award, long story competition. Open only to women, submissions should be between 4,000 - 10,000. The first prize is \$500 and will be considered for inclusion in the Spinelesswonders Long Shorts e-stories series. Go to www.shortaustralianstories.com.au

September 14: 2012 Rolf Boldrewood Literary Awards – Australian prose and poetry writing competition. Prose – fiction or family history memoir up to 3000 words, poetry any style with a maximum of 80 lines. First prize in both categories is \$600 and a limited edition bust of Rolf Boldrewood, second prize \$150 and third prize \$50. Entry forms: www.mrl.nsw.gov.au

November 16: The Nature Conservancy of Australia's second biennial Nature Writing Prize is a \$5,000 biennial award for an essay between 3,000 and 5,000 words in the genre of 'Writing of Place.' Writers can register their expression of interest in the prize at natureaustralia.org.au or australia@tnc.org www.natureaustralia.org.au or MediaWise Pty Ltd, 40 Morang Road, Hawthorn, Victoria, 3122, Australia

WORKSHOP FEEDBACK

**Mind Your Business
Jeremy Fisher**

I found the Mind Your Business workshop informative and interesting. All my questions were answered in a relaxed and positive situation, and, yes, I enjoyed it very much. Thanks to NEWC for an exciting day out.

- Lynn Newberry

**Adventures in Fiction
Bronwyn Parry**

Beautifully structured, insightful and thought provoking! Bronwyn put a great deal of effort into involving everyone with disparate backgrounds and very differing works in progress.

- Anna Thomson

This has been a most inspiring and invigorating workshop. Bronwyn has a wealth of knowledge and creativity that makes learning about writing so enjoyable. I would happily do any course that's run by Bronwyn Parry!

- Emily Thomas-Moore

Great workshop – very helpful. Great ideas that I can use.

- Thomas Penrose

WriteNow!

- a creative writing group

Led by published writer, Teresa van der Kraan, this group meets last Saturday of each month at NEWC and is for writers aged 16 to 30-ish., to get and give feedback on creative writing.

It is free for members, \$5 per meeting after the first for non-members. Email NEWC and we will pass the email on to Teresa. admin@newc.org.au

PUBLISHING/FELLOWSHIPS/ OPPORTUNITIES

Queensland Writers' Centre and Hachette Australia Manuscript Development Program offers the opportunity for 10 writers to work with senior editors and publishers to develop high-quality commercial fiction and non-fiction manuscripts. This four day intensive retreat in Brisbane will be between November 16 and 20. Guidelines available: www.qwc.asn.au

Closing: July 12

Penguin Books Australia – Books for Children and Young Adults Division is accepting unsolicited manuscripts, picture books, novels and non-fiction works for young people. Submissions to BCYAsubmissions@au.penguin.com.au or go to: <http://www.penguin.com.au/gettingpublished>

Closing: July 31

CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS FESTIVALS

Poetry Slam presented by the South Coast Writers' Centre: Yours and Owls Café, 95a Crown St, Woollongong, Monday, July 28 from 6pm, and it's free.

Byron Bay Writers' Festival: August 3 – 5. Workshops begin July 30; Primary Schools days July 31 and August 1; Secondary Schools Day August 2; Main Festival days August 3 – 5 more detailed information see page 4 or go to www.Byronbaywritersfestival.com

Queensland Poetry Festival: August 24 – 26 for information go to: www.queenslandpoetryfestival.com/

EMAIL/WEBSITE CHANGE

Have you noted our new email and web addresses? Please change your contacts/bookmarks as our existing addresses will be phased out.

Website: <http://www.newc.org.au>
Email: admin@newc.org.au

EMAIL PRIVACY POLICY

We will send you emails if you are a current member of New England Writers' Centre Inc., or if your role or position or relationship with us indicates that you would have an interest in receiving them.

We may forward mail to you from other organisations from time to time. We do so in order to broaden the scope and reach of information available to our members and associates.

We do not take responsibility for the content of any forwarded mail.

You may opt out of emails by asking us to remove your address from our mailing list at any time.

We maintain appropriate security measures to protect against the loss, misuse and alteration of your personal information.

We will never share, sell or rent your personal information unless: you have given permission in advance; or we are legally obliged to do so.

Your information is kept by us only for the purposes of contacting you or sending relevant information to do with writers and writing and reading.

This policy was created on May 31, 2012. Should you need to refer to it in the future, it is available on our website: <http://newc.org.au>

YOL WORKSHOPS – FEEDBACK

Top sessions on Wednesday. The kids wrote the best stories I've had this year when they got back to the room. They wouldn't go out at recess!!!

Steve Hawkins

Principal. Tintinhull Public School

The workshops with Felicity Plunkett were excellent. My students gained a great deal - both for ext 1 and ext 2. Although the visual was not as clear on Adobe Connect as it would be on a VC, the interaction was possibly even better than a VC. Because most of us had our own computer link up, we were able to respond.

The content was excellent - extremely helpful to yr 12 students and very timely. Even though my ext 2 students had participated in a workshop with Felicity earlier in the year, this was not a repeat. She was able to match it to current needs - I guess because of her strong familiarity with the course and its requirements.

Thank you so much.

Anne Scott, Quirindi High School