

# New England WRITERS CENTRE

For people who love writing and reading

May – July 2012

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## WORKSHOPS

Here is our program so far. More workshops will be announced soon. For the **Youth Online** program, go to the website.



*Fantasy writer, Kate Forsyth, visiting in November.*

### APRIL

**Mind Your Business - a guide to help your writing meet the market, with Jeremy Fisher.**

This workshop is a must for writers at an advanced stage who want to be published and will also be helpful to early stage writers. The workshop covers:

introduction to the Australian publishing industry - state of the market, e-books, threats, opportunities. Knowing your market – getting the words down, tips on creating your manuscript, presenting your work to a publisher or agent, about publishers and agents. Issues concerning contracts, copyright.

DATE: Saturday April 28, 10am to 4pm.

VENUE: NEWC.

COST: \$75/\$65 members.

\* *Dr Jeremy Fisher* has over 35 years experience in the Australian publishing industry as writer, editor, publisher, indexer, and advocate for authors' interests. He is very concerned that authors can profit from the digital economy and maintains a close interest in developments in this area. He is presently one of the ASA's representatives on the Board of Copyright Agency. He was Executive Director of the ASA from 2004-2009. Since 2010 he has taught writing at the University of New England in Armidale. His most recent book is *Music from another country*, a novel, but he writes across numerous genres.

### MAY

**Write To Live** – freelance journalism workshop with **Lesley Sly**. Learn how to turn your interests/knowledge into profitable writing for newspapers and general and specialist magazines. Learn interview/research/writing skills, how to analyse publications/readership, write in style suitable for general and specialist publications, pitch stories, syndicate your work, and run a profitable freelance writing business.

DATE: Saturday May 5, 10am to 4pm.

VENUE: NEWC.

COST: \$65/\$55 for members

\* *Lesley Sly* is a journalist, composer and author. As a freelance journalist her work has appeared in many national and overseas publications, she was a columnist for *Rolling Stone* for 10 years and an arts writer for *The Bulletin*, she has worked as a magazine editor, consulting editor, travel writer for BBC Radio and newspapers in the UK, sub-editor for the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Financial Review*. Her 400-page book, *The Power & The Passion, A guide to the Australian music industry*, is a core text for contemporary music studies.

### JUNE

**Adventures in Fiction: Getting Started** – with **Bronwyn Parry**. This workshop will provide an overview of fiction writing and will explore,

through practical exercises, examples, and discussion, some of the key skills for aspiring writers of commercial fiction:

- developing a strong premise for a novel
- creating complex, empathetic characters
- crafting emotional journeys and character arcs
- point of view, settings and description
- text and texture, showing not telling
- planning, plot development, pacing, structure
- finding good resources for writers.

DATE: Saturday, June 16, 10am to 4pm.

VENUE: NEWC.

COST: \$65/\$55 members.

\* *Bronwyn Parry* writes gritty romantic suspense novels, combining elements of the crime and romance genres in emotionally engaging, action-packed stories set in Australia's wild places. She has three novels published by Hachette Australia, and is currently working on her fourth. Her first novel won a prestigious Golden Heart Award from the Romance Writers of America, and her second novel, *Dark Country*, was a finalist in the RITA Awards – the 'Oscars' of Romance Writing – and also in the Daphne Du Maurier Award. Bronwyn is about to resume a PhD project exploring romance readers' and writers' internet communities and their perspectives on the genre.

## AUGUST

### August 11 - 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 Australiawide, 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: TBA

COST: \$65/\$55

## OCTOBER

### October 26 - 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.

### October 27 - Manuscript Assessment workshop

with **Pippa Masson**, literary agent for Curtis Brown, Sydney. 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 will be 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.

## NOVEMBER

**November 16 - Child's Play - Sophie Masson** in discussion with **Kate Forsyth** about children's and young adult literature.

These award-winning authors have published more 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.

### **November 17 - 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 Roman 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](http://www.kateforsyth.com.au)

## Q & A - BRONWYN PARRY

*What led you to romance writing? Were you a daydreamer; a believer in 'happily ever after'?*

I love the positivity of the romance genre. Many contemporary romances explore a diverse range of serious issues, but they ultimately affirm the strength of the human spirit and the value of respect, emotional courage, and love. The notion of a strong, committed relationship isn't a daydream or a fairytale, and romance is one of the few genres that has, as a central focus, the challenges and emotional journey of two people finding their way to physical and emotional intimacy and commitment. It's also one of the few genres where women are central characters, and they don't end up depressed, despairing, or dead!

*Is genre writing still frowned upon or do you think there has been an increase in respect?*

I weave together elements of at least three genres in my books – romance, crime, and thrillers. Genre writing – whether romance, crime, fantasy, thrillers, or speculative fiction – has deep roots within the oldest traditions of storytelling. Contemporary literary and popular culture scholars are now doing some thorough and fascinating research on genres and readership. Whatever the literary critics think (and some of them don't think at all about genre), genre books are by far the most popular forms of books, and readers actively read, engage with, discuss and share their books.

*As well as being an award-winning writer you are undertaking a PhD at the University of New England, researching romance genre readers and writers communities, and their perspectives on the genre. What is the goal of this research?*

Romance is arguably the genre with the biggest number of people who've never read it feeling entirely comfortable offering their opinions and commentary – opinions that rarely relate to the experiences of the actual readers of the genre! That tired old stereotype of dowdy middle-aged women with dissatisfying sex lives? Not only couldn't that be further from the truth, but it's the result of some very old, very flawed academic research. Romance is a strong, vibrant, successful, and - many would argue – feminist genre, and one of the aims of my (very) part-time research is to provide some constructive frameworks for exploring and understanding the genre and its readership.

*Give us a thumbnail of your background – where you grew up and how it influenced your writing.*

The first half of my life I lived in Melbourne and Canberra, but on the edge of each, and looking back I realise that my focus was always outwards, to the mountains, the bush, and the country beyond. I've been in the New England area since 1988, and I've travelled a great deal through regional and outback Australia. My novels are all set in regional areas; the isolation both heightens the danger for my characters, and also requires them to draw on their own strengths and ingenuity.

*Who are your top five romance writers, present or past?*

Jane Austen, of course! Laura Kinsale and Joanna Bourne both write emotional and historical romances with flawed and scarred characters, a strong sense of historical place and beautiful writing. Australians Anne Gracie and Kelly Hunter, both multiple finalists in the prestigious RITA awards (the 'Oscars' for romance writing) write characters with a wonderful, gentle humour that doesn't undermine the emotional depth of their stories.

*How do you define the genre; what are the things that make a book a romance novel?*

A romance novel has a major focus on the developing relationship between two (or more!) people, and an optimistic ending. Stories and tone range from very light fantasy-style through to deeply emotional, grittily real, and the genre has a diverse range of sub-genres including romantic suspense, historical romances, paranormal romances and erotic romances. But, just as crime genre books have in common a focus on the (successful) investigation of a crime, all romances have in common that focus on a developing relationship, and optimism for its future. If the heroine walks out to sea at the end, or the hero throws himself under a horse and dies, it isn't a romance.

- Pam Summers

### **WriteNow!**

- a new 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](mailto:admin@newc.org.au)

## NEWS & INFORMATION

*10 tips for publishing e-books*, by Laurel Cohn (e-book consultant, [www.laurelcohn.com.au](http://www.laurelcohn.com.au)): Understand how an e-reader works□; know your formats□; treat your text with respect; layout and design do matter□; judging books by their covers□; distribute your e-book as widely as possible; Protecting your copyrighted material; It all comes down to the marketing□; inform yourself□; enjoy the journey□. Laurel recommends that you do your research well and recommends: The Australian Society of Authors fact-sheets about digital publishing, [www.asauthors.org](http://www.asauthors.org), and the Australia Council, [www.australiacouncil.gov.au/writersguide/](http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/writersguide/)

The April/May edition of the NSW Writers Centre featured an article by Linda Carroli (Brisbane based writer and consultant), headed *Crowdsourced Editing*. Briefly, there are now editing environments available to writers to obtain accessible and affordable editing and proofreading services. Writers can upload virtually any piece of writing, up to a thousand words long, for editing and proofing for as little as one cent per word and response time is fast. Kibin is one such community (as these start-ups are called) which consists of professional editors with a variety of backgrounds – academia, media and communications. (<http://kibin.com>). Another option suggested was setting up manuscripts as documents to share, say on Google Docs, and inviting anybody and everybody to edit. This rang alarm bells as, of course, your precious work would be at the mercy of the nutters and plagiarists of the virtual universe to vandalise or use for their own purposes. Carroli says: ‘This approach to editing does offer a cost effective means for another person to review a document – almost like a conversation – but may not necessarily yield detailed or technical responses’. With much more technical data about editing software, this article would appeal to authors looking for feedback on their writing without having to go to huge expense.

- Pam Summers

In our last newsletter we featured an article by Caroline Gadden on e-book publishing. Due to space constraints, we could only print an extract but we have been able to remedy this on our new website. The whole article is available and Caroline has also updated it.

It was disappointing to hear of the cancellation of the Queensland Premier’s Literary Awards. The Australian Society of Authors has tried to

arrange a meeting with Premier Campbell Newman, without success. They are now trying to arrange a meeting with Queensland’s Art Minister, Ros Bates, to discuss the future of the Awards. The good news is that all other Premiers have confirmed support for their awards.

From May 1 Allen & Unwin are launching *A & U Shorts*, short story e-books for \$1.99 each. More info: [publicity@allenandunwin.com](mailto:publicity@allenandunwin.com) or go to [www.allen&unwin.com](http://www.allen&unwin.com).

## WORKSPACE

### Poetry Win

Congratulations to member Susan McMichael on winning the major open poetry prize at the Tenterfield Brush with Verse Competition, with her poem *Tracks*. Susan’s poem was matched to art work created by her husband, Rex Kearns, on display at Forest to Furniture Gallery, Tenterfield.

### Project Site

Teresa, Youth Co-ordinator for NEWC invites members to visit her facebook page, which she updates regularly on her projects: [https://www.facebook.com/pages/Author-Teresa-van-der-Kraan/169571119728971?ref=tn\\_tnmn](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Author-Teresa-van-der-Kraan/169571119728971?ref=tn_tnmn)

### Writing a novel – The Experience

for fellow-sufferers: <http://writerunboxed.com/2012/03/15/writing-a-novel-a-drama-told-in-three-acts-with-a-prologue-and-epilogue/> Author site: [www.sophiemasson.org](http://www.sophiemasson.org)

### No Mistake

Wendy James has a new book out: *The Mistake*, which has received high praise in leading publications: *Who Weekl*, *Canberra Times* and *The Age* which describes it as ‘... an absorbing domestic thriller’. Published by Penguin, *The Mistake* will cost you \$29.95.

**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).

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The State Library is offering free e-books, including novels. For more information and to register go to: [www.sl.nsw.gov.au/eresources](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/eresources) or (02) 9273 1414. You will receive a free library card.

## COMPETITIONS

**May 18:** Peter Cowan 600 short story competition; up to 600 words; open theme; prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> \$200, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$100, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$50 plus four highly commended and four commended certificates. Entry fee: \$10 for 1 entry; \$20 for 3 entries and \$30 for five entries. Contact: [cowan05@bigpond.com](mailto:cowan05@bigpond.com) or (08) 9301 2282 or [www.pcwc.org.au](http://www.pcwc.org.au) or the receiving officer, 2012 Peter Cowan Short Story Competition, Peter Cowan Writers' Centre, PO Box 239, Joondalup, WA, 6919.

**May 30:** For the opportunity to win a year's worth of books, read sample chapters of selected publications by Random House. Go to: [m.randomhouse.com.au](http://m.randomhouse.com.au)

**June 8:** The Blake Poetry Prize - 100 line-poem exploring the spiritual and religious. Prize money: \$5000. Contact: The NSW Writers' Centre, PO Box 1056, Rozelle, NSW 2039 or (02) 9555 9757 or [info@nswwc.org.au](mailto:info@nswwc.org.au) or go to [www.nswwe.org.au](http://www.nswwe.org.au)

**June 10:** The Stringybark Seven Deadly Sins Short Fiction Award: 1500 words and it must relate to one

of the sins, \$600 in prizes, cash, plus publication for place-getters and highly commended stories; entry fee of \$9.95 (discounts for multiple entries) Contact: David Vernon, judge and editor, Stringybark Stories, PO Box 851, Jamison Centre, Jamison, ACT 2614, or: [judges@stringybarkstories.net](mailto:judges@stringybarkstories.net) or: <http://www.stringybarkstories.net> or [www.davidvernon.net](http://www.davidvernon.net)

**June 20:** *The Sydney Morning Herald* Young Writer competition for Years 10 – 12 students. Trigger word: Flight. Go to: [youngwriter.smh.com.au](http://youngwriter.smh.com.au)

**July 13:** 9th Kathleen Julia Bates Memorial Writing Competition: poem suitable for a child aged 5 to 8 years. Prizes are \$150 first prize, \$100 for second prize and \$50 for third prize plus certificates for winners and shortlisted entries. Winning and commended entries might be chosen for inclusion in an anthology, with payment made as well by a major publisher. Contact: Dianne (Di) Bates, [www.enterprisingwords.com](http://www.enterprisingwords.com) [dibates@pacific.net.au](mailto:dibates@pacific.net.au) or (02) 4284 3020, Send entries to Di Bates, PO Box 2116, Woonona East NSW 2517.

**July 16:** Kids Book Review Picture Book Award for an unpublished manuscript; 1<sup>st</sup> prize: \$300, two runners up \$100 each and a manuscript appraisal. More details [www.kids-bookreview.com](http://www.kids-bookreview.com)

**July 20:** The CJ Dennis Literary Awards are offering a total of \$800 prize money (First prize in each category is \$200) to the winners. The categories are: 1. *Our Farmers, Our Future* – short story 2. *Our Farmers, Our Future* – poetry 3. Short story – open 4. Poetry – open. Contact: [www.yearofthefarmer.com.au](http://www.yearofthefarmer.com.au) or CJ Dennis Literary Award. PO Box 16, Auburn, SA 5451

## PUBLISHING/FELLOWSHIPS/ OPPORTUNITIES

The Australian Society of Authors invites applications for the Ray Koppe Young Writers' Residency. This program offers one writer under 30 the opportunity to stay at Varuna for a week, to develop a work-in-progress. The recipient will be provided with a private working space, as well as accommodation and meals. Travel expenses are not covered. Contact: Lucie Stevens, program manager Australian Society of Authors, Suite C1.06 22-36 Mountain St, Ultimo, NSW 2007, or (02) 9211 1004 or (02) 9211 0125 or [lucie@asauthors.org](mailto:lucie@asauthors.org) or

www.asauthors.org

**Closes: May 18**

Allen & Unwin invite you to submit adult fiction and non-fiction work via their Friday Pitch program. Go to <http://www.allenandunwin.com/Default.aspx?page=462>

Penguin Australia is accepting manuscripts in the first week of every month. Send your full manuscript plus synopsis electronically. Go to: <http://www.penguin.com.au/gettingpublished>

*Bare Hands Poetry* is publishing ten poems per month. Go to: [barehandspetry@gmail.com](mailto:barehandspetry@gmail.com)

*Creative Kids Tales*, is an Australian website for children's authors (published and unpublished). Go to: <http://www.creativekidstales.com.au/index.html>

ABC Radio National invites radio stories/features at all levels for their *Away!* program which celebrates Indigenous arts and culture. Contact: Rico Adjirun (based in the Northern Territory), [adjirun.rico@abc.net.au](mailto:adjirun.rico@abc.net.au) or Facebook.

ABR Patrons' Fellowship for a major article with a film/television or media focus – either a profile of a major media/cultural figure or a discursive essay with media/cultural themes. The fellowship is worth \$5000. Contact Peter Rose, editor, Australian Book Review, (03) 9429 6700 or [editor@australianbookreview.com.au](mailto:editor@australianbookreview.com.au) or <https://www.australianbookreview.com.au/programs/abr-patrons-fellowship>

**Closing: May 31**

## CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS FESTIVALS

Northern Rivers Writers Centre workshops, Southern Cross University room, Byron Bay Community Centre, Level 1, 69 Johnson Street, Byron Bay: Freelance Journalism, May 5 and 19, 10am – 4pm, \$135 members, \$160 non-members; The Insiders, taxation and writers, 10am – 12pm, May 26, \$18 members, \$25 non-members; The Insiders, literary agents, 1 – 3pm, May 26, \$18 members, \$25 non-members; The Insiders, publishing contracts & copyright, 10am – 12.30pm, June 2, \$18 members, \$25 non-members. The Insiders, the do's and don'ts of children's and YA publishing, 10am – 4pm, June 9, \$70 members, \$85 non-members. More information: Northern

Rivers Writers' Centre, PO Box 1846, Byron Bay, NSW 2481 or go to [www.nrwc.org.au](http://www.nrwc.org.au)

NSW Writers Centre workshops: Sharp Speech! A writing great dialogue intensive with Van Badham, May 13, 10 am – 4 pm.

Writers' Toolkit: the elements of fiction with Emily Maguire, May 13, 10 am – 4 pm.

Writing Film and TV: dialogue and structure for drama, May 26 and 27, 10 am – 4 pm.

NSW Writers Centre is in the grounds of Callan Park (Rozelle Hospital) Balmain Road, Rozelle. Go to: [www.nswwc.org.au](http://www.nswwc.org.au) or [nswwc@nswwc.org.au](mailto:nswwc@nswwc.org.au) or (02) 9555 9757

South Coast Writers Centre in conjunction with the Sydney Writers' Festival, Wollongong City Gallery: Celebrating the Voice - National and International Indigenous Writers, May 17, from 6 - 8pm. **Free, bookings essential\***

Rocket Readings, May 20, 1 - 3.30pm, Godfrey. Musical performance by Clock and Clouds - readings with Ali Jane Smith and Julie Chevalier who will be launching her book of poetry, *Linen tough as history*. **Free, no bookings.**

\*Contact: 4228 0151, or South Coast Writers Centre, Gleniffer Brae, 5 Robsons Rd, Keiraville, NSW 2500, or [scwc@1earth.net](mailto:scwc@1earth.net)

Sydney Writers' Festival, May 14 – 17, City and Walsh Bay, including video link to London to speak to Man Booker prize winner, Hilary Mantel. The festival consists of more than 300 events with over 400 participants. iPhone users can view and share festival images using the application Instagram; on Facebook go to [facebook.com/sydneywritersfest](https://facebook.com/sydneywritersfest); on twitter its [@sydneywritersfest](https://twitter.com/sydneywritersfest); use the hashtag #swf2012; or visit [swf.org.au](http://swf.org.au) for the full program.

Writing in Paradise Fiji 2012: Truly, Madly, Deeply – Margo Lanagan, July 28 – August 4

A Dream with a Pen in its Hand – Mark Tredinnick, August 18 – 25

Life Stories: From Experience to Memoir – Beth Yahp, September 15 – 22

Manuscript Mentoring – Rosie Scott, September 22 – 29

Romance Writing – Valerie Parv, October 13 – 20. More details: (02) 8094 1613 or [Sandra@paradisecourses.com](mailto:Sandra@paradisecourses.com) or go to: [www.paradisecourses.com](http://www.paradisecourses.com)

**Our new website is [www.newc.org.au](http://www.newc.org.au) and our new email is [admin@newc.org.au](mailto:admin@newc.org.au)**