

THE HUNTER WRITER

90 Hunter Street, Newcastle NSW Australia • Phone: 02 49263485 — Web:
<http://www.hwcentre.com>
www.newcastlepoetryprize.com

Hunter Writers Centre...expanding the parameters of Australian Writing
Vision Statement, January 2008

It's June and annual funding time again. We are currently writing our ArtsNSW application, the first since last year's review of NSW Writers Centres. While there is some concern about funding for next year, we are putting together a strong application to try to ensure the continuation of existing projects such as the Newcastle Poetry Prize, 2306 In Our Own Words, our interactive story for DADHC, SITESOUNDMIN(e)D, and the Writers Walk, as well as our usual program of writers groups, mentoring, consultations, and workshops.

Poets' Group and Book Club

Funding applications aside, June has seen a couple of HWC events and the formation of two new groups: the poets' group and the book club. Book club is held every month at HWC with members discussing a mix of the latest literary releases, local authors and poetry; the poets' group is every second Thursday (for the time being, it will soon move to once-a-month) at the HWC. Contact the office if you are keen to join in...

The Central Coast poets continue to meet and workshop at Gosford on the second Saturday of each month and although membership is capped, they are happy for visitor enquiries to gilltel@optusnet.com.au

Tom Cho

On Friday 29th May, the HWC co-hosted Tom Cho in partnership with the University of Newcastle and Giramondo publishing. Despite a wet night there was a good turnout and members enjoyed a reading in the courtyard before adjourning to upstairs to hear Tom in conversation with Keri Glastonbury. It's great to see events such as this come out of a strong partnership with the uni so thanks to all involved.

Peter Bishop

Peter Bishop spent three days at the Writers Centre looking at members' manuscripts and he was very impressed with the quality of work. Everyone I've spoken to found the consultations very helpful and the next step is to get those Varuna applications in. Watch this space for details of an information evening...

Board Meetings

After a couple of requests, I'd like to let you know that the HWC board meets the second Wednesday of every month at the Lockup and members are welcome to attend to observe. The meetings usually run from 6pm – 7pm so just send me an email if you'd like to come along.

There are quote a few events and new opportunities this month including the last call out for entries into the Newcastle Poetry Prize. Entries close Friday the 10th of July. www.newcastlepoetryprize.com has all the info.

Finally, [Robert Watson](#), [Linda Brooks](#) and [Gillian Telford](#) have all had publishing success this month (see Member News for more info) and emails went out from Catchfire Press to successful contributors to their upcoming anthology, *People of the Valley*. I know there would have been a few members included in that list so congratulations from the HWC.

The next newsletter will be out after the Newcastle Poetry Prize closes so I'll be writing to you from under a pile of entries (hopefully!).

Until then,
Katharine

Links...

- www.newcastlepoetryprize.com
- www.catchfirepress.com.au
- www.twitter.com
- www.facebook.com
- www.newcastle.edu.au
- www.centralcoastpoets.com (from the end of June)

E V E N T S

Tuesday 23rd June - Say No to Bullying with Susanne Gervay

Newcastle Region Library is delighted to offer parents the opportunity to attend a presentation by Susanne Gervay author of 'I am Jack'. 'I am Jack' explores the issues of bullying, family relationships and friendship in a way that children and parents can relate to. Susan is a specialist in child growth and development; she will present steps for children and adults to counter bullying.

4.30pm refreshments & book signing.

5pm-6pm presentation.

Bookings & enquiries: Newcastle Region Library on 49745300

Friday 3rd July - 12.15pm Friends of the University - Lunch with a Writer - Colette Livermore

The Travelodge - Crn King & Steel Streets, Newcastle Cost \$35.00

Colette Livermore's book *Hope Endures* is an eye-opening memoir is by an extraordinary woman who served for eleven years as a nun in Mother Teresa's order working with the world's poor. Ultimately it is also the story of her journey into disillusionment with the order and her crisis of faith. Tickets are available from MacLean's Hamilton.

Tues 7th July - 6pm, Andy Griffiths

Newcastle Town Hall - The Banquet room.

Australia's number 1 children's author is coming to Newcastle as part of his Just MacBeth Tour. Just MacBeth is a new edition to the very popular 'Just' series due out in July. Don't miss this opportunity to meet this very popular & funny author. It is a free event and will fill up quickly. RSVP to

MacLean's Hamilton - 49692525 or
MacLean's Toronto 49592550

16th May - 15th July 2009
Poets Paint Words II

Australia's most celebrated poets have been commissioned to write a poem inspired by a painting in the Newcastle Region Art Gallery collection. This year's line up of poets includes Judith Bishop, Michael Brennan, Michael Farrell, Jane Gibian, Robert Gray, Ivy Ireland, Anthony Lawrence, Kate Lilley and Mark Tredinnick. A NRAG exhibition, guest curated by Peter Minter and Lisa Slade, in conjunction with Sydney Writers' Festival.

OPPORTUNITIES

Friday 26th June- Albury City Short Story Comp

Time to put pen to paper, and fingers to the keyboard, for the 2009 Albury City Short Story competition. This year the theme is open, so unleash your imagination! Entries close Friday 26 June 2009. Open category up to 3000 words. Prizes for highly commended and commended entries in each category. For more info/entry forms contact the HWC office on 49263485

Friday 26th June - Jean Ringland Memorial Open Poetry Competition

The family of Jean Ringland combined with Dangerously Poetic Press are offering an Open Poetry Competition in her honour. Poets are invited to write up to 50 lines on the theme: **Coming Home**. Prize to be awarded at *The Poetry Soiree*, Byron Bay on the 2nd of Aug.2009 Judge- Shirley Walker

First Prize - \$500. Second Prize- \$250. The first and second prize winners will be published in *Dangerously Poetic's Anthology* on the theme of *Coming Home* which will be launched in Oct '09. For terms and conditions: www.dangerouslypoetic.com

Tuesday 30th June Port Macquarie-Hastings Annual Writing Comp.

For short story, free verse poetry and memoir. Please phone Brian Tolagson on 02 6583 4384

Tuesday 30th June- Hawkesbury River Writers

Prose fiction comp. Please phone Alan Mitchie on 02 9476 4640

Tuesday 30th June - Four W Anthology

Submissions for fourW - the annual anthology of poetry and prose published by Booranga - close on June 30th. So you have only two weeks left to get those pieces honed and sent in! 2009 will see the publication of the 20th edition of fourW, a long history for any literary journal. We will once again be launching the book in November in Wagga (at the Wagga City Library), and in Sydney (at Glebebooks). But for the first time in many years we will also be holding a launch in Melbourne (at La Mama). Further submission guidelines can be found on the Booranga website: <http://www.csu.edu.au/faculty/arts/humss/booranga/submission-guidelines>.

Friday 24th July - Baubinia Literary Awards

Please submit short stories of up to 2000 words and poems of up to 50 lines. Cash prizes for Open, Regional, Tertiary, International Tertiary, Secondary and Primary categories in

both poetry and prose. For an entry form please send an SSA envelope to the HEC office, phone Lynda Hawryluk on 49232009 or email l.hawryluk@cqu.edu.au

12th August – The Society of Women Writers of NSW

National Poetry Comp. Details from Mrs Beverly Earnshaw
15 Hamer St
Kogarah Bay NSW 2217

14th August – Bruce Dawe National Poetry Prize

Open theme, up to 50 lines. For an entry form and terms and conditions: www.usq.edu.au/arts/community/poetryprize/

18th September 2009 – Rolf Boldrewood Literary Awards

- Prose (fiction article or essay including family history) to a maximum of 3000 words to an Australian theme.

- Poetry in any form or style to a maximum of 80 lines on an Australian theme.

For a copy of the terms and conditions and an entry form, please send a SAE to Katharine at the HWC or go to www.mrl.nsw.gov.au

Open now – Perilous Adventures Short Story Comp.

Submissions of short stories up to 5000 words are now invited for the second annual Perilous Adventures Short Story Competition. Each entry must be accompanied by an entry fee of \$10.00, payable by cheque, money order or direct deposit.

www.perilousadventures.net

MEMBER NEWS

Linda Brooks was highly commended for two of her entries in the Palliative Care competition. The Calvary Mater Newcastle Department of Palliative Care will publish the pieces in a training manual. Great news Linda, well done!

Linda's short story collection, 'An Australian Childhood' will soon be available as an e-book for A\$6. If you want to pre-order or find out more; contact Linda at linbrooks8 at hotmail dot com. One of the stories, 'Escape while you can!' can be found below on the blog. Look out for details of a July launch at the HWC.

Linda Brooks 4977 1832 0406 425 551
www.lindaruthbrooks.blogspot.com
<http://www.cyberworldpublishing.com/>

Dael Allison's novel *True Colours* has been short-listed for a LitLink/NRWC unpublished manuscript award. Fingers crossed Dael!

Robert Watson had his piece *Photo Opportunity* published in the Newcastle Herald last weekend about a Newcastle-based Flickr photography group and a now-famous chair... We have a copy here at the office if you'd like to have a read.

Gillian Telford from Central Coast Poets had her first collection of poetry, *Moments of Perfect Poise*, published by Ginninderra Press in late 2008 – further details from Gillian at gilltel@optusnet.com.au
www.ginninderrapress.com.au