

# THE HUNTER WRITER

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

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

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Welcome to the March Newsletter! Lots happening this month: the Newcastle Poetry Prize and 150.com are open for entries and we have several cultural projects underway. Read on to find out what the Hunter Writers Centre is doing in the community...

## **A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR -**

### **Some current projects**

Besides our workshops and public events the HWC is currently involved in a couple of more innovative and experimental projects. These include:

- **2306 in our Own Words**, our ongoing Windale Project that has included oral history and is currently expanding into digital storytelling

- our micro/nano fiction writing site **150.com**, again running its Youth Week nano fiction competition see [www.onefifty.com](http://www.onefifty.com)
- a new interactive emailed story in conjunction with a large government department and service provider
- SITESOUNDMIN(e)D our project engaging with the history of the current James Fletcher Hospital site.

Work generated within these projects often doesn't get to be seen or shared with our members – though often members work on these projects as paid artists and professionals. We felt members might like to see some of the less public activities of the HWC and the community you are part of.

## *More Detail?*

SITESOUNDMIN(e)D is a word and sound scape exploration of the history of usage of the current James Fletcher Hospital site from pre-invasion to present day. A number of HWC members who are poets and/or songwriters were each paired up with a composer. Each team was asked to 'respond' in word and composition to a specific time period of the site. The writers included: Ray Kelly, Clark Gormely, Judy Johnson, Ivy Ireland, Kylie Rose, Keri Glastonbury and Rod Smith. Composers included Solange Kershaw, Justin Wolthers and Stephen Wye. Artistic co-ordination was undertaken by Richard Vella, Head of the Newcastle Conservatorium, University of Newcastle and Brian Joyce, HWC Director.

The project has produced quite startling and diverse results, capturing in their own way such times as; Indigenous gatherings pre invasion, first garrison settlement, the Reform school for Wayward Girls through to the current mental health services. Different work methods were explored, in some cases co-creation, in others simple direct exchange of work, through discussions that allowed individuals to bring evolving work to a dialogue of creation. While use of the word 'song' in the beginning caused some problems – teams have developed work that ranges from traditional song formats, accompanied recitative, to contemporary lieder. Planning is underway for a full live performance at the Newcastle Conservatorium toward the end of 2009 with the intention of a live-

to-air broadcast. The finished work will be recorded and available as a CD. We will announce dates later in the year. In the interim we will make a couple of the pieces available for listening on our website.

Projects such as this, where the HWC develops a project that can provide commissioning or employment for local writers, are an important part of our operations. We keep looking for opportunities such as this to assist writers earn an income through their work and expand their experience. Other projects we run that achieve this will be showcased in future newsletters. Anyone who has ideas that may suit development for such projects should contact the HWC.

So enjoy the examples of SITESOUNDMIN(e)D coming soon on our website.

Brian Joyce  
Director HWC

## *Remember...*

- Facebook is now up and running so you can network with other members. Go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) to join.
- The Newcastle Poetry Prize has a new website and is now open for entries. Go to [www.newcastlepoetryprize.com](http://www.newcastlepoetryprize.com) to enter.
- If you haven't renewed your membership remember you can now pay online! Please go to our website: [www.hwcentre.com](http://www.hwcentre.com)

## *Writers Groups*

Our writers Groups for this year have all been going through a re-vamp and hence it is a good time to join if you are thinking of getting involved.

Current writers Groups are:

**Thursday evening** 5.30 to 7.30/8pm  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the Month.  
This group is working on specific projects for writers attending for the year.

**Wednesday day** group – see accompanying article by Kim the group convenor.

**Scriptwriters** meetings – currently a closed group as members focus on specific projects

**Poets** group – about to commence once we get final numbers – contact us now if you are interested.

**Youth** Group – established from the current Nano fiction workshop and schools contacts. This focuses on young writers primarily but not exclusively HSC students.

A monthly memoir group is being considered.

If you are interested in any of these groups please contact the office.

## *Wednesday Group*

Our Wednesday group is for those who find the evening times difficult; either because of child and house demands, transport, or personal timetable arrangements. Our longest running group, it has gone through many changes over its history – 2009 is a time of re-

assessment and new directions for it.

Running from 12.30 to 2.30 it usually starts slightly more relaxed than our other groups, with a cuppa and catch-up on what people have been writing or reading and what has inspired them. Following this the group gets down to writing exercises. These are presented and lead by one of the members attending and reflect practical lessons and challenges that the writers have been facing themselves. The work is shared there and then within the group (unlike other groups, 'homework' has not been a part of its operations) and each session is self-contained. The final half hour is taken up with a more detailed reading and response of work that members may bring, that they have been working on at home.

The group is open to all members and suits those looking for a more convivial feel or first entry point, while still focussing on achieving work and getting feedback on ones writing in a friendly, supportive and informative environment.

The group meets at the HWC on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. A complete timetable of dates is below.

Like all our groups the Wednesday Group has a contact person and in 2009 it is Kim Ross.

Kim's contacts are:  
evenpar@mysoul.com.au  
or mob 0425 844 692 or ph 49681409.

Any member interested in attending should contact either Kim or the HWC office.

Come along and enjoy.

## Group Dates

Wednesday Group 2009: Meets 2<sup>nd</sup>  
and 4th Wednesday of the month @  
12.30pm

April 8 & 22  
May 13 & 27  
June 10 & 24  
July 8 & 22  
August 12 & 26  
Sept 9 & 23  
Oct 14 & 28  
Nov 11 & 25

Thursday Group 2009: Meets 2nd and  
4th Thursday of the month @ 5.30pm

April 9 & 23  
May 14 & 28  
June 11 & 25  
July 9 & 23  
August 13 & 27  
Sept 10 & 24  
Oct 15 & 29  
Nov 12 & 26

## WORKSHOPS

*Wed 1<sup>st</sup> April - What judges  
are looking for in a Poem  
with Jean Kent.*

*Where:* The Sydney Junction  
Hotel, Hamilton

*Cost:* \$20 non members  
\$10 FAW members  
\$5 Hunter members

*Contact:* Jan Dean 49549895  
or Eileen Dillon-Smith 49650256  
Bring copies for critiquing.  
Suggested length 20 lines.

*July 19 - 26, 2009 - Unlock  
the Power of Your  
Imagination With Kate  
Forsyth*

Fantasy is one of the most popular genres in the world. Writers like J.K. Rowling, Christopher Paolini, Phillip Pullman and Stephanie Meyer have all achieved fame and fortune writing fantasy, and yet their works are all very different. Spend six days in Fiji with best-selling fantasy writer Kate Forsyth, and find out exactly what 'fantasy' is and why it's so popular, and learn the essential skills of writing in this genre. The course is structured around daily morning workshops with free afternoons for local excursions, writing and relaxing by the pool. Kids camp available if you want to bring the family. Kate Forsyth's first novel *Dragonclaw* was shortlisted for the prestigious Aurealis Award and was nominated as one of the Top 10 books in 1998 by a new writer. She has since written 22 books for both children and adults that have been published all over the world. Kate has a BA in Literature and a MA in Writing. For more info contact the HWC office on 49263485 or [hwcadmin@optusnet.net.au](mailto:hwcadmin@optusnet.net.au)

## EVENTS

*A Brush with Verse: Art  
inspired by Poetry - 2<sup>nd</sup>  
April - 3<sup>rd</sup> May*

Forest to Furniture Gallery, Old  
Powerhouse, Railway Avenue,  
Tenterfield NSW. Wed to Sun,  
10am - 5pm.

Any enquiries contact Gail on  
67361305 or the gallery on 67363200  
[brushwithverse@gmail.com](mailto:brushwithverse@gmail.com)

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

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.

## **O P P O R T U N I T I E S**

### *30th March - Inaugural Litlink/ Northern Rivers Writers' Centre Unpublished Manuscript Award*

It is with great pride that we announce the very first Litlink/NRWC Manuscript Award. Entries are open to all writers resident in regional NSW, outside the Sydney metropolitan region.

Manuscripts may be fiction or narrative non fiction, and must be completed to a final draft stage. Sections of manuscripts or incomplete works will not be accepted. Unfortunately, picture books, poetry and performance pieces are not eligible for consideration. It is essential that works submitted have not been published in part or in full in any form.

Deadline for entries, to be sent to the NRWC, is 5pm Monday 30 March, 2009. Each entry must be accompanied by the authorised entry

form, available online at [www.nrwc.org.au](http://www.nrwc.org.au) or from the Centre, Level 1, 69 Jonson St, Byron Bay. There is an entry fee of \$35 per manuscript, to assist with administration and adjudicating.

A shortlist of four will be announced by Friday 29 May. The shortlisted writers will appear at the Byron Bay Writers Festival 2009, where the winner will be announced in a dedicated session. The shortlisted manuscripts will each be read and considered by Annette Barlow of Allen and Unwin, and the ultimate winner will receive a prize, details of which to be confirmed shortly.

Enquiries and further information from the Director, Jeni Caffin, at 02 6685 5115 and [jeni@nrwc.org.au](mailto:jeni@nrwc.org.au)

### *31<sup>st</sup> March – The Best of Times Short Story Competition*

The Best of Times short story competition #7.

Closes 31 March 2009.

For humorous short stories (any theme) up to 2500 words.

Cash prizes for first, second and third place. (Amounts depend on number of entries received.)

Highly commended and commended certificates will be awarded too. You can enter as many times as you like. Each story must be written in English and be your own original work. Stories that have won a prize or certificate in previous Best of Times or Winter Surprise competitions are ineligible for entry.

No entry form is required. Include a cover sheet with your name and address, story title and word count.

Entry fee is \$5 per story. Send a cheque or money order made out to Chris Broadribb or if you have a PayPal account, you can pay

[cabbook-7@yahoo.com.au](mailto:cabbook-7@yahoo.com.au)

Post your entry to Chris Broadribb, PO Box 55, Blaxcell NSW 2142 or email it to [cabbook-7@yahoo.com.au](mailto:cabbook-7@yahoo.com.au).

If you enter by post, include a large SSAE so that your story can be returned afterwards, along with a results sheet. If you would like an electronic copy of the results then provide your email address. Winners will be notified by the end of April. Winning stories will be published on the website if the authors agree. They retain copyright and all rights to their work.

Competition webpage:

[www.geocities.com/spiky\\_one/com/p7.html](http://www.geocities.com/spiky_one/com/p7.html)

### *31<sup>st</sup> March – Bristol Short Story Prize*

The 2009 Bristol Short Story Prize is now open for entries. Stories can be on 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 3000 words. The entry fee is 7 pounds. Please see [www.bristolprize.co.uk](http://www.bristolprize.co.uk) for further details.

### *National Young Writers Festival – Stories into Film*

So you've just finished writing your short story, you've either

1. filed it away with all your others never to see the light of day,
2. sent it off to NYWF for this year's festival(wise) or if your lucky enough you have
3. Given it to your publisher who thinks you and your work is

amazing and it gets published right away....

What are the other options you ask?

We'll pay attention young squires. If there are any short fiction writers or comic artists who think their work could be adapted into a short film then it's time to get onto this bandwagon. A South Australian company The Cutting Room are looking for short fiction writers to adapt their work for film. The South Australian Short Film Corporation is looking for new work and will fund \$50 00 dollars to get the films off the ground.

If you think this is something you might be interested in please email me a couple excerpts of some of your work including a short synopsis of each story you put forward. I will then pass your details onto The Cutting Room. Please feel free to pass this onto anyone who might be keen. Call if you have any questions

Amy Ingram  
Co Director  
National Young Writers Festival  
[amy.nywf@gmail.com](mailto:amy.nywf@gmail.com)  
0413006046

### *Tantrum Theatre Emerging Writers Programme*

Applications are now open for our Emerging Writers Program. Please contact Artistic Director Brendan O'Connell [ad@tantrumtheatre.org.au](mailto:ad@tantrumtheatre.org.au) to obtain an information pack.

## *17<sup>th</sup> April - Banjo Paterson Writing Awards*

Central West Libraries in conjunction with the Central West Writers' Centre, The Central Western Daily and ABC Central West Radio announce the call for entries to the annual Banjo Paterson Writing Awards. Poet, solicitor, journalist, war correspondent and ballad writer Andrew Barton "Banjo" Paterson (1864 - 1941) is most famous for writing the ballad *Waltzing Matilda* and the poem, *The Man From Snowy River*. Since established in 1991, these awards aim to honour Banjo, a great Australian writer and favourite son of Orange, with a competition to foster writing of prose or poetry with Australian content. There are four categories:

Prose or Short Story (Category 1)

Open Poetry (Category 2)

Bush Poetry (Category 3) and

ABC Central West Radio Children's Writing Awards.

Entries in category 1 and 2 and the Children's Writing Awards do not have to be written in the same style as the work of Banjo Paterson or in 'bush style' as the awards are aimed at promoting all forms of Australian writing and all writers. The only requirement is for Australian content - be it theme or style.

First prize is \$1,000, 2nd \$400 and 3rd \$200 in each of categories 1 and 2. The third category is bush poetry with prizes of \$500 for 1st, \$200 for 2<sup>nd</sup> and \$100 for third. Entry is \$10. The prizes for the Children's Writing Awards are 1st

prize \$200, 2nd and 3rd \$100 each. Entry is \$5 for these awards and entries must be the unaided work of the entrant to age 16 years on Friday 17 April 2009.

The competition closes on Friday 17 April 2009 and winners will be contacted by phone on Monday 15 June 2009. The winning prose entry will be published in The Central Western Daily and winning entries will also be published on the Central West Libraries website <http://www.cwl.nsw.gov.au/> and Central West Writers' Centre website

<http://www.wordsoutwest.com.au/> This year the Banjo Paterson Children's Writing Awards are being supported by ABC Central West Radio.

Entry forms are available from the Central West Writers' Centre, Orange City Library, by phoning 6393 8120, email: [library@orange.nsw.gov.au](mailto:library@orange.nsw.gov.au) or go to the websites.

## *1<sup>st</sup> May - Stories of Death and Dying*

2009 Palliative Care Week

Do you have a story to share, which explores the challenging relationship we have today with death and dying? The CALvery Mater Newcastle Department of Palliative Care is encouraging you to contemplate your experiences, opinions, fears and relationship with death. Current communications about dying often go to great lengths to avoid saying the words 'dead' or 'dying'. These death euphemisms do nothing to reflect the reality and normality of

the dying process. You are therefore asked to consider what the reality of death means for you in today's Newcastle.

For entry form and terms and conditions, please contact the HWC office on 49263485.

## MEMBER NEWS

### *Anne Frost*

HWC member Anne Frost is to be congratulated on the success of her play, 'Lost Property'. Newcastle Herald theatre critic, Ken Longworth, reported it was "must see theatre." A crowd of 80 plus turned up in Stroud to watch Anne's play about 4 siblings who meet at their deceased parents' property to pack up the house ready for auction. Anne wrote and directed the play and should be congratulated on its success. Well done Anne!

### *Sharyn Munro*

Exisle Publishing will release HWC member Sharyn Munro's second book, 'Mountain Tails', in early April. This collection of short non-fiction pieces combines anecdote, observation, musings, painless information, and Sharyn's own black and white drawings to tell tales about the native animals with whom she lives, alone on her mountain wildlife refuge.

Sharyn says that her wild neighbours often amuse or infuriate, and always fascinate and

educate her. She hopes that sharing these tales will help ensure that no more of these unique Australian creatures join the lists of endangered and extinct species.

The book came about at the publisher's suggestion, since so many readers of her first book, 'The Woman on the Mountain', loved the animal stories therein, and her 'wild life' just keeps on happening, as is obvious from her web site [www.sharynmunro.com](http://www.sharynmunro.com)

Mountain Tails, Exisle Publishing, RRP \$24.95

Sharyn is now working on a collection of her short stories, fictional, and about human animals this time!

## SELF PUBLISHING CD

Helen Goltz, who has more than 20 years experience in marketing for national brands, has put together an easy-to-follow CD that steps a writer through the process of putting together a marketing plan.

The CD *Self-publishing marketing in 10 easy steps!* includes subjects such as how to establish your own brand identity; identifying target markets; selecting the media and promotional opportunities best suited to a writer's target market in order to generate sales; finding promotional partners and identifying some of the traps.

The CD is available at [www.selfpublishmarketing.com.au](http://www.selfpublishmarketing.com.au) for \$49.95 plus postage and handling.