

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

We hope to see you at one of our events over the next few weeks – there's so much on! We are also starting a new writers' group called Critical Friends, for members who would like feedback on their manuscripts. Read on for details...

The Star Hotel – 19th Sept

The action starts on Saturday night with the launch of **The Star**, an exhibition exploring the unique nature of Newcastle's Star Hotel. The Writers' Centre have been involved in editing a short film about the Star Hotel riots so come along to the Lockup for the opening at 5pm.

Script Reading – 23rd Sept

Come back to the Lockup on Tuesday to hear a 'coldy' read of an original TV screenplay pilot, *Swillers*, written by emerging screenwriter Rohan Everingham and performed exclusively with local acting talent. So come and have a cold swill and enjoy the show!

Banned Books Week – 28th Sept

A week on Monday, the HWC are presenting '**Locked in at the Lock Up**' in Association with the Australian

Library and Information Association (ALIA). This is an overnight read-a-thon of banned books following **Freedom To Read**, an exploration of censorship in Australia with Sydney PEN President Bonny Cassidy.

See *events* for more details of all events including book launches, conversations and our regular program of activities.

Schools' Program

We are still promoting our workshop program for primary and secondary schools in the Hunter. The HWC runs Extension English, Storytelling, Creative Writing, Preparing a Manuscript for Publication and Critiquing workshops in schools. If you would like to see us at your school, please contact the office and we'll make the arrangements.

Younger Young Writers

Have you been to the NYWF before? Are you interested in being a mentor for the Younger Young Writers Mentorship Program? We are looking for experienced mentors/buddies who will guide Younger Writers through the festival program. Ph 49263485.

Writers Groups

The HWC would like to provide a forum for members to receive critical feedback on their manuscripts. *Critical Friends* is a new writers' group that aims to establish ongoing critical partnerships, foster critical thinking and support members in bringing their manuscript up to the best standard it can be. Are you interested? Contact us at hwcadmin@optusnet.com.au to find out more.

WORKSHOPS

Romance Writing with Reeze Dryden

Where? The Hunter Writers Centre, Second floor of the Lockup, 90 Hunter Street, Newcastle

When? Sat 24th October 10am – 4pm

Cost? Members \$55 (inc GST), non members \$77 (inc GST)

What's it about? Romance fiction accounts for over 50% of all paperback fiction sales. In 2008, 74.8 million people in the US read at least one romance novel, with the core of the romance fiction market at 29 million regular readers. In such a large market, there are great opportunities for new authors.

This workshop is for writers at all levels who are interested in learning more about the romance fiction market – with particular reference to Harlequin Mills & Boon. The workshop will help participants to:

- Discover the essential elements of a romance novel
- Learn techniques for vivid characterisation
- Learn how to build better plots
- Target the market

The workshop will include practical exercises as well as a Q & A session.

Reeze Dryden writes as Michelle Douglas and is a successful author with Harlequin Mills & Boon. Her books have been finalists in several awards (including the Booksellers Best Award, the National Readers Choice Awards and Romantic Times Awards). She has published articles about writing, appeared on several writers' panels, and was awarded a Litlink fellowship to Varuna in 2007 (where she returned for Community Week last year). She is a member of Romance Writers of Australia, Romance Writers of America, the Varuna Alumni, and the International Association for the Study of Popular Romance.

Bookings: hwcadmin@optusnet.net.au or 49263485

EVENTS

20th September – Poetry in Response to Margaret Olley @ 12.30pm

The group 'Diverse' are coming to The Newcastle Regional Art Gallery to perform poetry written in response to the exhibition Margaret Olley: Life's journey which is currently on display.

23rd September – Script-reading @6pm

To help acknowledge the 30th year since the Star riot, The Lock Up, in cooperation with the Hunter Writers Centre, will be delving into the drama of Pub life. With a 'coldy' read of original TV screenplay pilot SWILLERS written by emerging screenwriter Rohan Everingham and performed exclusively with local acting talent. So come and have a cold swill and enjoy the show!

Monday 28th September - Read in at the Lockup for Banned Books Week

Freedom to Read: An exploration of censorship in Australia.

Come and enjoy an evening of readings from books, plays and poems that have been banned in Australia. Consider why they were banned, and what this tells us about ourselves. Guest speaker Bonny Cassidy, President Sydney PEN.

7pm Monday 28 September 2009, Royal Exchange, 32-34 Bolton Street Newcastle (02) 4929 4969

Tickets: \$14, \$10 ALIA, HWC, Sydney PEN members & concession. Includes supper and wine. Presented by ALIA Hunter and friends.

This event will be followed by the: Read-in

Exercise your freedom to read by getting locked in at the Lock-up for a night of reading and films.

Monday night 28 September 2009, Hunter Writers Centre, First Floor of the Lock-up, 90 Hunter St, Newcastle NSW.

Starting after Freedom to Read.

This event is free but numbers are limited, so register now to participate.

Contact: Hunter Writers Centre,
Phone: 02 4926 3485,
hwcadmin@optusnet.net.au

Bring things to keep you comfy overnight (like blankets and cushions), food, drink and things to read.

Presented by the ALIA Hunter and the Hunter Writers Centre.

01 - 05 October 2009 - TINA

This Is Not Art is back again!

A supercharged convergence of writers, performers, thinkers, independent and industry musicians, creative researchers, electronic artists, dilettantes, and DIY culture makers in a showcase featuring over 400 local, national and international artists.

We present Australia's most exciting and emergent exhibitions, screenings, performances, panels, workshops, talks, gigs, interventions, live art and special events in five days of creativity and absolute madness! Come join us for the ride!

Partnering with innovative arts collectives, organisations, and groups from across Australia This Is Not Art 2009 will be a collaboration between the following:

**The Crack Theatre Festival
Critical Animals
Electrofringe
National Young Writers'
Festival
Sound Summit**

Full details at www.thisisnotart.org

BOOK LAUNCHES

Little White Slips - 19/09/2009 at 6.30pm:

Helen Garner will be in town to launch "Little White Slips" a fantastic new book of short stories by local author Karen Hitchcock. We hope you can join us for a literary night at the Royal Exchange 32-34 Bolton Street Newcastle.

OPPORTUNITIES

Wednesday 30th September

The Inaugural Basil Bunting Poetry Award

There is little time left, entries can be made online, or submit your entries by post. Full details can be seen on the web site.

www.basilbuntingaward.co.uk

Wednesday 30th September

Vera Newsom Poetry Prize is seeking Australian residents to submit unpublished, original pieces of work. A maximum of 32 lines per poems; entry fee is \$5 per poem. For submission details please call Katharine on 49263485.

Wednesday 30th September – DotDotDash (take two) –

It's time to get writing or drawing, because submissions are now open for Dotdotdash Issue 2. The theme is 'ugly', however, un-themed work is also sought. To submit visit

<http://.dotdotdash.org/>

Tuesday 6th October

Rodney Seaborn Playwrights Award. This \$20,000 award is intended for writers needing income support during the writing or development of a project or to assist with the costs of production, workshops, restaging, publishing or touring. It is not intended as a prize for a finished work. Applicants for the Award in 2009 can download an Entry Form and Guidelines at www.sbwfoundation.com/award.html

Thursday 15th October

The CAL Scribe Fiction Prize is now open. If you have an unpublished manuscript and are an Australian writer over 35, this is for you! The winner will

be awarded a book contract from Scribe and a prize of \$12,000.

<http://www.scribepublications.com.au/prize>.

Friday October 16th

After a three-year hiatus, Ballarat Writers is re-launching The Southern Cross Literary Competition. Entry is for a story up to 5,000 words, and carries a prize of \$1,000.

Full details at www.ballaratwriters.com

Friday 30th October –

Meuse Press –

'From This Broken Hill' is an E-anthology of poetry, short prose and photography, celebrating the people, culture, history and landscape of Broken Hill. You are invited to submit up to 3 pieces of work for the E-anthology-submissions should be in the body of an e-mail, single spaced, Times New Roman 12p, & be accompanied by a 3 line bio. Please include acknowledgment of prior publication. Send to leswicks@hotmail.com

Saturday 31st October –

The Harper Collins Varuna Awards for Manuscript Development.

Applicants to the HarperCollins Varuna Awards for Manuscript Development will have the opportunity for residential spaces in the HarperCollins Residential Editorial Workshop, and A one-on-one feedback phone consultation of 20 minutes with a member of the Varuna Awards Selection Committee. Further details and applications can be seen at <http://www.varuna.com.au/harpercollinspathways.html>

Good luck!