

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 writing in Australia
Vision Statement, January 2008

Apologies for the late newsletter this month but there is still time to fit some things in. One event that might be of interest is **Tom Cho** (Giramondo Press) in conversation with **Keri Glastonbury** this Friday night at the Lockup. It's an after work event starting at 5.30pm so drop in on your way home for a glass of wine and to hear some new writing. We look forward to seeing you there!

What a busy month May has been. Member **Zeny Giles** launched her new book *Wedding Dance* (published by Koel Koel) at the Newcastle Region Art Gallery to a crowd of 350 people. Congratulations Zeny, what a fantastic night.

Next up we had the **HWC AGM** and we were pleased that several members joined us to share in some wine a cheese and hear the round up of 2008. Director Brian Joyce gave a report that highlighted many of the cultural projects the HWC is involved in and the opportunities there are for members to earn money in a way that is not

directly related to publication. 2008 saw a successful program of workshops, cultural activities, mentorships and events, and more is planned for 2009. Brian also brought attention to the tight budget and operating costs. In 2008 there was a review of Writers Centres in NSW and while we have secured funds for 2009, it can not go unnoticed that our core funding is steadily shrinking. We had some helpful comments from members keen to lobby for support so we'll let you know if there's anything you can do. We would also like to welcome new board member **Alan Donaldson** to the HWC. Alan will be the member representative on the board so we look forward to hearing his feedback and ideas.

Jan Cornall came mid month to run her workshop, *Writing for Change*. One member wrote to say how much enjoyed and was inspired by the workshop, which we are always pleased to hear. Some of the members who attended the workshop are thinking about forming their

own social writing group so by committing one Saturday to the workshop, they now have an ongoing incentive to keep writing new drafts. The writers groups have been popular this year and the long awaited **poets group** is kicking off on Thursday 4th June. Thanks to all those who expressed an interest.

Poets Paint Words was on last weekend at the Newcastle Region Art Gallery featuring HWC member **Ivy Ireland** and 2009 Artist in Residence, **Mark Tredinnick** alongside poets such as Judith Bishop and Robert Gray. See the poems and more at the Poets Paint Words exhibition – it's well worth a look. <http://nag.org.au/> for more info. Speaking of poetry, entries have been flooding in for the **Newcastle Poetry Prize**. There's still a month to get your entry in. You never know, you could be chosen for the anthology or win the top prize of \$11000! **Peter Bishop** is coming next week to read through the pile of manuscripts I have on my desk. Good luck to all those who have consultations, we hope you find it helpful. To finish off the month we have an **HWC event** tomorrow so please come along at 5.30pm. Details below. If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to call me on 49263585.

Good luck with all the comps,
Katharine
HWC

NEWS

Bookshop Takeover

As of the 1st of June, MacLean's Booksellers will be taking over Blackduck books at Toronto. The 10% discount currently on offer to HWC members will also be available at the Toronto Store.

Poets Group

The Poets group will start on Thursday 4th June from 7pm – 8.30pm at the HWC., 90 Hunter Street, Newcastle. If the front door is closed, please ring the bell.

Member News

The HWC congratulates member **Andrew Slattery** on the launch of his debut collection of poetry. *Canyon* was launched on May 18 at the Sydney Writers' Festival to rave reviews.

"I love this book for leaving me with that thrilling sense of poetry's eloquence and fire."
Judith Beveridge

"These beautiful poems carry earth and sea to the surface of the page." Judith Bishop

"This is an impressive work, in range and poetic achievement, from one of Australia's most talented younger poets." David Musgrave

For further information, please contact Victoria Amy at The Australian Poetry Centre (03) 9527 4063 or email admin@australianpoetrycentre.org.au

E V E N T S*Friday 29th May – Tom Cho
at the Lockup*

Giramondo Publishing warmly invites you to the launch of 'Look Who's Morphing', the new collection of fictions by Tom Cho.

On Friday 29th May
5.30pm
at The Hunter Writers Centre
The Lock Up
90 Hunter Street Newcastle
NSW.

For more info, go to
www.tomcho.com

"Look Who's Morphing is a collection of funny, playful, often outlandish fictions in which, along with his extended family, the central character undergoes a series of transformations, shape-shifting through figures drawn from film and television, music and books, porn flicks and comics. He is Godzilla, a Muppet, and Whitney Houston's bodyguard; the Fonz, a robot, a Ford Bronco 4x4 – and, as a climax, a fifty-five metre tall guitar-wielding cock rock star, who performs for the people of Tokyo, and an adoring troupe of sexy fans.

Within these fantasies there is a deep intellectual and emotional engagement, a fundamental questioning of the nature of identity, and the way it is constructed in a world filled with the images of popular culture."

*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 May- 2009 PressPress
Chapbook Award*

The PressPress Chapbook Award is an award for the best chapbook length collection of poems (20-40 pages). Go to the PressPress site at www.presspress.com.au for conditions and an entry form. Alternatively, email info@presspress.com.au or send an SSAE to PO Box 94 Berry NSW 2535 Australia. \$500 AUD first prize. The Award will be announced in July 2009 on the PressPress site.

*Friday 12th June 2009 – Blake
Poetry Prize*

The Blake PP is now one of the largest poetry prizes in Australia with an award of \$5000. The NSW Writers' Centre is pleased to be co-hosting the Blake Poetry Prize again this year, with

the theme 'Exploring the religious and spiritual through poetry'. Poems must be on a religious or spiritual theme, but they do not need to include the words 'spiritual' or 'religion'. They must be no more than 200 lines in length. The entry fee is \$20 per poem. Like the Centre, the Blake Society is a non-profit organisation and entry fees are needed to cover competition costs. We try to keep these fees as low as possible.

For an entry form please visit the NSW Writers' Centre website: www.nswwriterscentre.org.au

Friday 12th June 2009 - Writing Competition 2009

U3a Sunshine Coast

- 1 Short Story (1000-1500 words)
 - 2 Rhyming Poetry (20 to 40 lines)
 - 3 Free Verse (Up to 40 lines)
 - 4 Challenge; Make Me Laugh (Prose 1000 to 1500 words.)
- 1st \$150, 2nd \$75, 3rd \$25 in each category

Single entry \$7.50

Two or more \$5 per entry

Anthology \$5 including postage

Open to members of any U3A and people who are retired or semi-retired and thus eligible to join U3A. Please contact Katharine at the HWC for more info and conditions of entry.

Friday 12th June 2009 - Gold Coast Writers' Association Writing Comp.

'Magic' is the theme of the national 2009 Gold Coast (Qld) Writers'

Association Adults Writing Competition. Categories are Short Story; Writing for

Children, and Poetry. Prizes: \$400 First Prize; \$200 Second; \$100 Third.

Entries must be received at the GCWA PO Box by last mail 12 June 2009 or at the GCWA Meeting on 13 June 2009. Fee \$10 per entry; maximum five (5) entries per person. For Competition Rules and Entry Form see

www.goldcoastwriters.org.au

For more

information call 0431 443 385.

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

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 contact Katharine at the HWC on 49263485