

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 seems that spring has arrived and the HWC office is lovely and sunny for a change. Feel free to pop up to say hello or browse our library. We are open from Wednesday – Friday 10am – 4pm. This month we welcome our work experience student Michelle, who will be in each Thursday as part of her University course.

Today – Friday 21st August University Poetry Seminar – all welcome

The editors of 'Motherlode, Australian Women's Poetry 1986-2008': an introduction to poetry will be conducting a seminar on anthologising, readings from *Motherlode* and a workshop on how to write poetry to a particular theme. The seminar is today, Friday 21st August, 1-4pm in the School of Humanities and Social Science, University of Newcastle.

Schools' Program

Over the last month we have been busy 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. Please contact the office or see our website for more info.

Younger Young Writers

This year we are pleased to see the return of a special National Young Writers Festival initiative – the Younger Young Writers Mentorship Program. The YYWMP is targeting young writers under 18 who are keen to be involved in the festival. Successful applicants will be paired with an experienced mentor/buddy who will guide them through the festival program. The YYWMP are looking for local Younger Young Writers who would be willing to host a regional YYW for the duration of the festival. Please contact the HWC for more info.

Book Launch

Motherlode is the first major collection of Australian women's poetry in over a decade and covers a wide range of themes from pregnancy, birth, parenting, maternal and female roles, childlessness, loss, generational relationships and aging ensuring broad appeal to all readers. This is a significant contribution to Australian Woman's literature so please come

HUNTER WRITERS CENTRE NEWSLETTER

along to MacLean's this Saturday 22nd August at 5pm to support local poets and HWC members Ivy Ireland, Judy Johnson and Jean Kent.

Member News

Margaret Watts's manuscript *Legacy of the Skywasp* won the paperback in your hand comp organised by Sally Odgers. It's a science fiction novel for young adults. Congratulations on your achievement Margaret.

Books Launched...

Congratulations to **Anne Walsh-Miller** and who both had very successful launches at the HWC last month. A crowd of 30 gathered to support **Linda Brooks** in the Education Room one sunny Saturday. Guests stayed long into the afternoon, assisted by some delicious catering, to discuss her memoir, *An Australian Childhood*. **Anne Walsh Miller's** evening launch of *I Love Like a Drunk Does* also attracted a great crowd and Brian Joyce, HWC director, provided some entertainment as MC. Brian also MC'd at the launch of **Patrick Cullen's** *What Came Between* at the Newcastle Regional Art Gallery. Congratulations to all the new HWC authors.

Writers Groups

Members are always welcome to join our regular writers' groups. We have a group working on long projects, a social group and a poetry group. All groups meet at the Writers Centre. Please see our website for dates.

Publisher Fellowships

We would like to draw your attention to the Varuna Publisher Fellowships, which close on 31st August. These fellowships are a great opportunity to bring your work to the attention of a publisher. Please see the Varuna website for the application details.

Motherlode Launch

Where? MacLean's Books,
Beaumont Street, Hamilton
When? Saturday August 22
What time? 5pm

All Welcome

Coming up...

Romance Writing with Michelle Douglas

WORKSHOPS

No workshop this month but here is an opportunity for you teach your own!

Arts Upper Hunter Inc. is co-ordinating a number of "Creative Arts Retreats" across the Hunter, and is currently seeking expressions of interest from Professional artists and tutors. This is an opportunity to gain exposure for your work, as well as involve young people in creative arts.

Proposed dates and locations for the retreats are:

6th-9th Oct (Vacy) – Street Theatre & Circus Skills

12th-16th Oct – (Murrurundi) – Song Writing & Creative Writing

7th-11th Dec (Stroud) – Song Writing & recording

14th-18th Dec (Stroud) – Photography & public art

Interested candidates should contact the project officer Rebecca Fowles hunterartstart@live.com.au or 0428 568 291

'National Poetry Week 2009' is on
from 31 August to 6 September.
www.australianpoetrycentre.org.au

E V E N T S**Monday 24th August - Children's Book Week**

Nobody Owns the Moon by Tony Bones Entertainment. A musical play adaptation of one of this year's Children's Book Week shortlisted picture books. Experience the book coming to life with 'original song and dance numbers, thrilling drama, puppetry and hysterical comedy'.

Suitable for 4-12 years

6pm - 7pm

Wallsend District Library

Tuesday 25th August - Children's Book Week

Sit back, relax and enjoy a 45 minute interactive story time presentation.

Suitable for K - 3

1pm - 1.45pm

Lambton Park Play Area

Sunday 23rd August 2009

The Hunter Bush Poets will be at The Bonnell's Bay Hotel once again at 11am and 2pm. Everybody is welcome and walk-ups are encouraged.

Thursday 3rd September - Richard Harland

Richard will talk about writing his new book Worldshaker and share his secrets for writing popular fiction with page-turning excitement, suspense and a strong storyline.

Richard is an award winning author of 15 novels.

When? Thursday 3rd September

Where? Lake Macquarie City Library

What time? 5.30pm - 7pm

01 - 05 October 2009 - TINA

This Is Not Art is back again! Registrations are now open for the Sunday Fair, and there are still some volunteer positions available for those

of you interested in gaining some great first hand experience in all things festival. This will be the 10th anniversary of the event and we encourage you all to join in and support fellow Novocastrians! Full details at www.thisisnotart.org

BOOK LAUNCHES**Saturday 22nd August - Motherlode**

Motherlode is the first major collection of Australian women's poetry in over a decade. More than 120 poets share the telling of a very contemporary story of identity — how we see ourselves as, and in relation to, mothers, grandmothers and children.

Judith Wright, Gwen Harwood, Dorothy Hewett, and Oodgeroo Noonuccal appear alongside the major poets of today, including Judith Beveridge, Jan Owen, MTC Cronin, J.S. Harry, Joanne Burns and Tracy Ryan. Indigenous poets and fresh new voices give Motherlode an edge and intelligence that will by turn surprise, sadden and delight. These poems traverse a wide range of themes: nature, icons, pregnancy, birth, parenting, the daily grind, childlessness, loss, and past generations.

Tuesday September 1st 2009

The restrictions against parallel imports of books into Australia may be lifted, and this will affect all writers in the long run, both published and unpublished. Please lend your support to 'The Petition Against the Parallel Importation of Books' by downloading the petition at

<http://savingaussiebooks.wordpress.com/>

And for further information, contact:

Sheryl Gwyther at

sgwyther@optusnet.com.au

OPPORTUNITIES**Monday 31st August 2009**

The Aesthetica Creative Works Competition is currently seeking entries of Artwork, Photography & Sculpture, Fiction and Poetry. Entry is £10 (apx \$20) and all finalists will be published in the Aesthetica Creative Works Annual; the publication will be internationally available at all Borders stores this December.

www.aestheticamagazine.com/submission_guide.htm

Monday 31st August – Crime and Mystery Short Story Competition.

The 16th Annual Scarlet Stiletto Awards are closing soon.

Story length: 5000 words max

Entry: \$10

Closing date: August 31st

HarperCollins Publishers 1st Prize plus Scarlet Stiletto trophy.

For more info and details of all categories: www.vicnet.net.au/~sincoz/

Monday 31st August – Varuna Residencies

Varuna Publisher Fellowship applications will be read by a highly experienced three-person selection committee, and shortlists of between 10 and 15 applications will be submitted to each publisher.

www.varuna.com.au

Tuesday September 1st 2009 - PATP

For those still intending to send work into the Poetry At The Pub anthology, you have two more weeks to procrastinate - or act! And if you are submitting previously published works, don't forget to send publication details. Remember you need to be a paid up member of PATP to be included.

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

Wednesday 30th September 2009

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. There is no official entry form, but for further information please visit

Thursday 15th October 2009

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 2009

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. The judge is Zoe Dattner from Sleepers Publishing, and it is open to Australian and international writers. Enter by post or online: \$10 per entry.

Full details at www.ballaratwriters.com