

THE HUNTER WRITER

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

Hunter Writers Centre...expanding the parameters of Australian Writing

Vision Statement, January 2008

*Happy New Year!
Welcome to the
first Hunter
Writer for 2009.*

We hope you had a great summer break and are looking forward to what the Writers Centre has to offer in 2009.

First, some good news. Arts NSW have approved our funding for 2009 which means we live to see another year. While it's not as much as we initially asked for, it is enough for us to put on a comprehensive program of workshops and events including the Newcastle Poetry Prize, 150.com, the writers' groups and the workshops to name a few. We have also secured funds for some special projects including an interactive story, which will involve a number of members (more info to follow).

Given the diversity of our operations and the fact that we received less than we hoped for, how well we can fulfill our plans for the year will depend on volunteer support from members. We would love to hear from people who are

keen to help on specific projects.

Coming soon we will have a facebook page for members so you can chat with each other and receive reminders about upcoming events but until then here's what's happening in February...

Writer-in-residence

Libby Hathorn will kick off the workshop series with 'Writing for Kids' and HWC director Brian Joyce will run the popular 'Films in Feb' series – see below for details.

As always, if you have any suggestions or questions, please call us at the office or drop in to see us. We look forward to seeing you in 2009!

*Don't forget it's time to
renew your membership...
You can now pay online!
Please go to our website:
www.hwcentre.com*

February Workshop: Writing for Kids

Venue: Venue Hunter Writers Centre, 90 Hunter Street

Date: 21st February

Time: 10am – 4pm

Cost: Members \$66, Non-Members \$77 including GST

Contact: The Hunter Writers Centre on

49263485 or email

hwcadmin@optusnet.net.au

A workshop with children's writer Libby Hathorn (Thunderwith, Way Home, Georgiana: Woman of Flowers) where the author discusses ways and means of sharpening creative thinking and writerly skills in order to write more effectively for children and young adults.

Libby Hathorn is an award-winning Australian author of more than fifty books for children. Her stories have been translated into several languages and adapted for stage and screen. Her work has won honours and commendations in Australia as well as in the United States, United Kingdom and Holland. She was awarded a Centenary Medal in 2003 for services to children's literature.

Libby lectures part-time in Creative Writing, Children's Literature, at Sydney University. As an Australia Day Ambassador, she travels to country towns each year where she talks about the importance of Australian literature.

Her most recent works include historical novel, *Georgiana: Woman of Flowers* (Hachette Livre) as well as the play, based on her picture storybook, *The Tram to Bondi Beach* (Currency Press), both released in 2008. With a life-long interest and passion for poetry, she is currently working on a special arts project entitled 100 Views

in several schools, both here and internationally. 100 Views celebrates community through poetry, artwork and a festival. Her collection of Australian poetry *All Along the River* and upcoming novel *Fire Song*, are both in development with the ABC for publication in 2009.

The Writers' Life on Film.

Presented by HWC and Royal Exchange

With Musicians' lives we have a soundtrack, Artists' a visual palette to work with, but for the writers it's words on paper and so often in film, it's just not enough - even though we need the story to start with.

Films about writers focus on more dramatic aspects of their lives rather than their writing or the process. Some films try to encompass the life and the work, its process, struggle, creative triumph (rather than the social accolades and fame) and its cost.

We will look at three films that manage this:

Barfly - Charles Bukowski, with one of Micky Rourke's dynamic performances

Iris - two writers Iris Murdoch and John Bayley dealing with the cost of loss of the tools of writing

Quills - De Sade with Geoffrey Rush and Kate Winslet.

Three writers' lives that portray the struggle to create at all costs, fighting both external and internal oppositions.

This brief season will include a discussion of the writer's life on film and some of the other examples of this.

Times Fri 20 7pm Barfly
9 pm Iris

Sat 21 7 pm Quills followed by talk and discussion.

@ the Royal Exchange 32 - 34 Bolton Street, Newcastle.

EVENTS

15th Feb - Island Press is pleased to announce publication of Les Wicks' 8th book of poetry... The Ambrosiacs

We are having a launch for the book at: the Friend in Hand Hotel
58 Cowper St, Glebe
upstairs bar

Launched by Joanne Burns
Sunday 15th February 2.30pm
CAN YOU COME?

For details ring 9580 4542

Note that nibblies will be provided & drinks can be purchased from the bar. A free copy of a previous title is yours with every book purchased at the launch. Minors are more than welcome to attend so long as they are under direct supervision of adults.

Tantrum Theatre Emerging Writers Programme

Applications are now open for our Emerging Writers Program. Please contact

Artistic Director Brendan O'Connell at ad@tantrumtheatre.org.au to obtain an information pack.

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.

WRITERS RESOURCES

The Australian Writers Marketplace 2009/10 Edition – 10th Edition

Compiled and Edited by Queensland Writers Centre

<http://www.awmonline.com.au/Home.aspx>

Did you know that more than 5,000 manuscripts cross the desk of an editor or publisher in a year; that 556,500 Australians engage in writing as a creative or leisure activity while some 185,500 Australians have paid involvement in writing?

That's according to the 2004 Bureau of Statistics survey of work in selected culture and leisure activities in Australia. And given the times, there might just a few more who think they could turn to the keyboard to earn a living.

Well the 10th edition of the Australian Writers Marketplace 2009/10 may come in handy for those of you aspiring to see your efforts in print. It is now available online with an extensively re-fashioned website, which allows you to search fully the database for a fee.

If you wish to access the database, there are two options 12 or three month membership, and a discount price if you a member of a writers' centre. So for financial members of HWC, you would be up for \$39.95 (12 months) or non-members \$49.95. But membership starts as low as \$19.95 for a three-month membership.

There are a few freebies – and for no fee you can sign up to the marketplace's monthly newsletter. The hardcopy AWM is more than a directory. The 10th Edition, with a foreword by John Birmingham, award-winning author of the history of

Sydney Leviathan, it also contains a glossary of terms, which for any greenhorn, would be helpful additions to your writers toolbox.

For example, did you know that the expression – AB (demographic/market/income bracket) is defined by advertisers and marketers as the top 20 per cent of income earners and consumers in society, that B2B means Business to Business, or that speculative fiction is an umbrella term encompassing genres such as science fiction, fantasy and horror.

And what about those abbreviations – take a stab at SSAE – any member who can tell us what that means, will earn themselves a 12-monthly complimentary subscription to The Australian Writers Marketplace online edition. Clue – it sometimes goes by another abbreviation – SASE! Some other statistics to pepper your Christmas party banter with:

- \$1.4 million in prize monies listed in The Australian Writer's Marketplace.
- 2,207 publication opportunities and writing industry contacts.
- 1081 Australian, New Zealand and online magazines, newspapers and journals.
- 284 publishers and publishing services, Australia-wide.
- 308 literary organisations.
- 243 awards, competitions, fellowships and grants.
- 80 creative and professional writing courses.
- 70 opportunities for young writers.
- 156 markets for poetry.
- 106 short story markets.
- 89 children's/young adult markets.
- 190 non-fiction and auto/biography markets.
- 36 contacts for grants, fellowships and residencies.
- 47 speculative fiction markets.
- 57 travel markets

Limited copies of the updated 2009/2010 edition of the Australian Writers Market are available for purchase at the Hunter Writers Centre.

OPPORTUNITIES

14th Feb - Eaglehawk Dahlia and Arts Literary Competition 2009

The Rolf Boldrewood Award - 1 Short Story- Max 3000 words 1st prize \$200 2nd \$50,

The Apollo Award - Poetry. Limit 30 lines 1st prize \$200 2nd \$50,

The Alan Llewelyn Award. Limit 52 lines to have an Australian theme, rhyme and metre. 1st prize \$100.

Send SSAE to Ruth Calridge 99 Victoria St, Eaglehawk 3556. Ph 0354468240 or download form at Festival's website <http://dahlia.bendigo.net.au>

15th Feb – Thrilling Competition

Random House and Borders are offering you the chance to join Australia's biggest-selling crime author, James Patterson in a world-first online chain story that takes place over 30 days. James Patterson will write the first and last chapters in this 30-chapter thriller and we are looking for 28 writers to complete the rest. In true Patterson style, each chapter must be fast-paced, thrilling and under 750 words. Each of the winning 28 authors will receive a copy of the finished book, with one lucky author to receive a chance of a lifetime one-on-one master class in the form of a telephone call with James Patterson himself.

To enter, click here for all details: <http://www.borders.com.au/chain%2Dthriller/home.asp>
<<http://www.borders.com.au/chain-thriller/home.asp>>

20th Feb - Café Poet Program

Submissions are now being sought for our CAFÉ POET PROGRAM. The Australian Poetry Centre is seeking poets, in each Australian State or Territory, interested to sit as Poet-in-residence, in a café in their capital city for a period of six months getting free tea or coffee while you write. Please apply by emailing admin@australianpoetrycentre.org.au with an expression of interest stating a) all your contact details, b) what you would get out of being the poet in residence, c) a clear personal objective focussing on what you would like to achieve with your poetry in the six months and d) a measurable public objective to benefit others, such as being prepared to give a reading at the end of it, or providing the cafe with a poem to display.

20th February - Widcare Tasmania Nature Writing Prize

An international literary prose competition in the the genre of nature writing, open to entries both fiction and nonfiction with a first prize of \$5,000 and a wilderness residency in Tasmania. For details and entry form www.islandmag.com/index.html

20th February - Community Press Short Story Competition

Phoenix Park Neighbourhood House, in conjunction with Glen Park Community Centre, Sydenham Neighbourhood House and Clayton-Clarinda Arts Inc, Victoria, is running a short story competition. Stories can be any theme and of 1500 to 3500 words.

Cost per entry: \$5.00

Closing date for entries: 20/2/2009
 First Prize: \$250.00
 Runners Up Prizes (2): \$75.00 each

All prize winners will be published in a one-off magazine (500 copies produced) which will be distributed throughout Victoria. Other benefits to winners are set out in the competition guidelines and entry form. For a copy of the guidelines and entry form, please visit "What's New" at www.phoenixparknh.org.au

21st Feb - Living Now Book Awards

Honoring newly published books that help us live healthier, more fulfilling lives. Created to bring increased recognition to the very best lifestyle books and their creators, the 2009 Living Now Book Awards awards gold, silver and bronze medallions in 28 different categories of books for readers who seek more productive lives.

The new book awards program is accepting entries until February 21st, 2009 for books with 2007 or 2008 copyrights or that were released in 2007 or 2008. Among the 28 categories are Green Living, Knitting/Crochet, Gardening/Landscaping, Outdoor Recreation and five cookbook categories.

To learn more, visit our site: <http://www.LivingNowAwards.com>

Open to all books written in English and intended for the North American market, the Living Now Book Awards bring participants the credibility and publicity they need to further their book marketing and sales success.

Winning a book award extends your publicity campaign, gets you a whole new round of attention from the press, and opens new doors to distributors and vendors, royalty publishers and rights agents.

27th Feb - Expressions Of Interest Invited For 2009 Qld Poetry Festival

The 2009 Queensland Poetry Festival (QPF) invites proposals from poets and other performers and artists interested in being part of the 13th Annual Queensland Poetry Festival: spoken in one strange word, to be staged at The Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts, August 21 - 23. QPF would like to hear from both individuals and groups for single performances at the Festival and for other projects in association with the Festival. While all projects should have a relationship to poetic language, we encourage applications from non-poets wishing to explore the relationship between poetry and other art forms (e.g. performances with a music and/or multi-media focus etc). For full submission guidelines visit www.queenslandpoetryfestival.com <<http://www.queenslandpoetryfestival.com>> Expressions of Interest must be received by close of business, Friday 27 February, 2009. If you have any questions regarding your submission please don't hesitate in contacting Festival Director, Julie Beveridge at julesbev@yahoo.com.au

20th March 2009 - Prime Minister's Literary Awards - Call For Entries In 2009

The awards offer the nation's richest literary prize: \$100,000 tax free for fiction and \$100,000 tax free for non-fiction.

Authors, publishers and literary agents are eligible to enter books written by living Australian citizens and permanent residents. Books must be first published in the English language and first offered for general sale between 1 January 2008 and 31 December 2008.

More information including the

guidelines and entry form are at www.arts.gov.au/books/pmliteraryawards

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 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