



Words Out West

PO Box 35 Orange 2800
Ph: 6393 8125 Fax: 6393 8100
Email: writing@orange.nsw.gov.au
Web: www.wordsoutwest.com.au

Central West Writers' Centre Newsletter

Autumn 2008

The Central West Writers' Centre is dedicated to fostering the creative development of writers in our region and promoting all aspects of reading and writing through an exciting partnership with Central West Libraries. Recent projects have included a film screening of *The Kite Runner*, author visit by Cecile Yazbek and Jean Bedford Writers' Workshop.

In June we will be hosting a talk by Jane Austen Society of Australia president Susannah Fullerton on Sunday 1 June 2008 at Orange City Library from 3pm to 4.30pm. Susannah has also written extensively including: *Jane Austen & Crime* and *Jane Austen Antipodean Views*. Guests can ask questions about Jane Austen's life and her works. Light refreshments will be served. The event is free and if you wish to attend please RSVP by calling Orange City Library on 6393 8132.

The Central West Writers Centre is located upstairs at the Orange City Library, Byng Street, Orange. Please phone 6393 8125 to make an appointment. Check out our **website blog** for the latest news at www.wordsoutwest.com.au.

Greetings

Autumn ... the crisp cool fresh air, the changing colour of the leaves, thestop stop stop. What is wrong with this picture? What's going on? Our weather patterns have changed so much we still feel like we are experiencing Summer. It is taking longer for temperatures to cool down and the leaves to change colour...

But no matter, writing continues in any weather with competitions popping up regularly, book launches are happening, book discussion groups meeting, Writers' Centre drop-in days on the last Friday of the month, books are turning into films all the time and the fine days mean a little longer to linger in the evenings reading or writing in a favourite spot in the garden, park, library, study, dining room, bus, train, airport... wherever.

Jasmine Vidler
Reading and Writing
Coordinator incorporating
Central West Writers' Centre

News

Farewell NSW Writers' Centre director Irina Dunn

Irina Dunn has resigned from the NSW Writers' Centre after 15 years as Executive Director. The New South Wales Writers' Centre Management Committee stated a feature of Ms Dunn's work at the Centre has been her promotion of innovative projects which have offered writers at all stages of their careers new pathways to publication. Ms Dunn told the Committee that she felt she was at a point where she wished to move on and explore other challenges. **Arabella Lee**, who was previously Communications Director at the Writers' Centre, is Acting Executive Director while the position is being advertised.

Poets on Wheels 2008 in motion

Give your poetic life a charge. Australia's best-known poetry touring project is up and running again, this time exploring West of the Range NSW by train for a week starting 16 October. **The poets will be performing and running workshops in a range of venues, from pubs to schools.** You'll learn a lot, sell books, be enthused and exhausted as you meet new landscapes and communities. Applicants will need to: Have some experience in reading and workshopping; Be flexible; Have or be prepared to get an ABN; Be a member of the Poets Union (you can join at the same time you apply); By Arts NSW funding guidelines, be a resident of NSW. The Poets Union actively encourages diversity – of region, style, gender and professional development stage. Most of those previously chosen didn't come from Sydney. You will be paid \$875, have all NSW train travel ex-Sydney plus on-tour accommodation paid. Interested poets please send a CV detailing relevant experience to: Poets Union, PO Box 755, Potts Point 1335, Ph: (02) 9357 6602.

Regional Events

Author Visit by Cecile Yazbek

Author Cecile Yazbek visited Orange City Library on Friday, 8 February and spoke about her memoir *Olive trees around my table - Growing up Lebanese in the old South Africa*. It was a fascinating talk about her **experience of using family stories**. Writing her story helped her gain a sense of place about her homeland, her journey and insights into apartheid, growing up and life in Africa and also as an outsider settling into a new country - Australia. She undertook **extensive research**, asked her family many questions and regularly sent questions via fax to her mother who lived in Africa - and was glad she did before memory of specific events faded. Cecile found a way to put ghosts of her family's past to rest before ultimately finding peace in her new life.

Book Launch by Marg Carroll

A large crowd attended local author Marg Carroll's launch of her second book *Reinventing the Bush Inspiring Stories of Young Australians* on 8 February at Molong Coachhouse. Her first book, *Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives* told the stories of older rural Australians. The **latest book introduces a new generation of pioneering young Australians**. Marg writes about nineteen young people and their initiatives offer promise, hope and humour for rural Australia where drought, debt and despair are more common fare. Her book tells the stories of dynamic people whose spirit and actions to shape our future will inspire you. Guests at the launch included some of the young people featured in the book. *Reinventing the Bush* is available from ABC Book Shops.

Bathurst Writers' Group Jean Bedford Workshop

Australian author Jean Bedford kept a group of 17 enthusiastic Bathurst writers on their toes at a workshop sponsored by the Bathurst Library, assisted by the CWWC, on 16 February. The workshop title was 'Mining Your Life', and focussed on using personal material as a basis for writing. Bathurst's aspiring writers are working in a variety of genres, from children's and fantasy, to autobiographical, to historical to general-fiction-life-based, and all found nuggets of inspiration and real assistance. One main theme of the day was the necessity of 'transforming personal material into *story*', to quote Jean. The point is not whether it really happened (unless you are working with genuine auto/biography or real historical facts), but whether it is **engaging and makes the reader want to know more**. Writers tell stories - and writers must 'find the story' in the material they are using. Jean used her background work on *Sister Kate* to illustrate how her historical research eventually yielded the storyline she needed to build the novel. She had the attendees write a bit of personal story, using material we all had brought to the workshop, but to change the point of view (first person to third, or visa versa). It was amazing what a difference that made in viewing the material as 'story'. It's an exercise worth trying out, especially if you're a bit stuck. Contributed by Bathurst Writers' Group member Martha Gelin.

Events Coming Up

***Woman of Clay* Bernadette Raymond O'Connor Book Launch**

Central West writer Bernadette Raymond O'Connor is launching her book *Woman of Clay* at the Carrington, at 99 Keppel Street, Bathurst on Sunday 27 April at 2pm. The book is an **elegant tale of the courage it takes to express true self**, to listen to inner guidance and to walk an individual path ...it is the story of Riona, a potter living on the mythical Celtic island of Slane around 400AD, but this quintessential story is one that every human being can claim as their own. To help celebrate the occasion light refreshments, nibbles and music will be provided. To read more about Bernadette and view the first chapter of her book go to the publisher's website: www.aampersanda.com

Pageturners book discussion group returns

This month the Central West Libraries Pageturners book discussion group talks about crime novels. **So read a crime novel of your choice** and come along to the meeting on Wednesday 9 April (meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month) upstairs at Orange City Library from 5.30pm. People interested in books and reading are most welcome to attend. Please RSVP to Orange City Library on 6393 8132.

Milkshakes, Sundaes and Café Culture

Do you remember your first visit to your favourite cafe or milk bar? Your first banana split, ice cream sundae or **raspberry flavoured spider**? Museums & Galleries NSW present *Milkshakes, Sundaes and Cafe Culture* with assistance from the Parramatta Heritage Centre. This exhibition brings together stories from several cafes in country towns, and images that bring to life the experience of cafe owners and **life behind the milk bar**. From the first milk bar to open in Australia, to cafes that have been run by the same family for over 90 years, the stories are remarkable and tell a great deal about our migrant history, our eating culture and our heritage. Come along and see this exhibition during April at Orange City Library. The exhibition will have you travelling back in time to when Orange was buzzing with cafes and milkbars.

Poetry on the Boards at Grenfell

A new event has been added to the Grenfell Henry Lawson Festival of Arts to be held on the 2008 June long weekend called "Poetry on the Boards". The organiser is Carly Brown and she describes it as follows: "As a writer with a small collection of work, I realise how rare it is to find a **relaxed and receptive audience**, where one might read or recite his/her work. So this should be a perfect opportunity for any interested parties, to join us. We will have a mike, with a time limit of 8 minutes, all going well it will be outdoors, and we request that the material be family friendly." Please contact Carly Brown via email petercarly5@bigpond.com.au or phone 6343 1248 if you are interested.

Poetry in the Pub at Gladstone Hotel Orange

Calling all poets. A Poetry in the Pub event will be held at the Gladstone Hotel, corner Byng and Hill Street, Orange on Friday 20 June. Poets are invited to perform poetry with a **drought theme** with a prize for best one judged on the night. Come along at 6.30pm to put your name down to perform your original poem. Gold coin donations will support a local charity. It will be a great night out and the fun begins at 7pm. For more information contact John Rae on 6362 0888 or the Central West Writers' Centre on 6393 8125.

Drop-in Days at Central West Writers' Centre

Thank you to everyone who has already called in and plans to call in for our drop-in days on the **last Friday of the month** at the Central West Writers Centre, located upstairs at Orange City Library from 2.30pm – 4.30pm. Meet other writers, talk about writing, or share your writing in a relaxed atmosphere. The next Drop-in Days will be held on Friday 28 March, Thursday 24 April (due to ANZAC Day falling on the last Friday of the month), Friday 30 May, and Friday 27 June. See you there.

Competitions and Opportunities

2008 Banjo Paterson Writing Awards Reminder

Just a reminder that the 2008 Banjo Paterson Writing Awards competition **closes on Friday 18 April 2008**. Since established in 1991 these awards aim to honour Banjo Paterson, 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 (Category 1); Open Poetry (Category 2); Bush Poetry (Category 3) and Children's Writing Awards. Winners will be contacted by phone on Monday 16 June 2008. The winning prose entry will be published in *The Central Western Daily*. Entry forms are available from Orange City Library and by phoning 6393 8120, email: library@orange.nsw.gov.au or go to the website www.cwl.nsw.gov.au

Scarecrow Poetry Competition and Scarecrow Exhibition

This Poetry Competition is for children from Kindergarten to Year 10. Children were asked to use their imaginations and write a poem in 14 lines featuring the theme scarecrow. Entries go on display in Orange City Library during April and must be received by **Wednesday 2 April**. The poems form part of the Sauce of Scarecrows Exhibition featuring scarecrows made from recycled materials involving Orange City Council, community groups and school children. See the poetry on display with "Melville the Scarecrow" at Orange City Library during F.O.O.D Week 11 – 20 April.

Search for Original full-length Novel by *Overland*

Longstanding literary journal *Overland* is looking for an **original full-length novel** manuscript to publish as a special edition of the journal in 2009. The resulting book will be distributed in the conventional fashion to bookshops; it will also be sent directly to *Overland's* subscribers. *Overland* are considering submissions of adult fiction from both new and established writers of original manuscripts in all styles and genres. Please send the first 10,000 words of your novel only, a CV outlining your publications and writing experience and a synopsis and stamped self-addressed envelope to *Overland* magazine, VU-Footscray Park, PO Box 14428, Melbourne, Vic, 8001, Australia. For more information go to www.overlandexpress.org.

OzMade Musicals Theatre Writer Submission

Ozmade Musicals, an initiative of MAGNORMOS, is the premiere national celebration of **Australian-written musical theatre**. Held annually since 2003, OzMade Musicals shines a spotlight on Australian musical theatre writing and gives encouragement and exposure to new work. Submissions are currently being accepted nationally for the 'On The Drawing Board' component of OzMade Musicals 2008 and are open nationally until **2 May, 2008**. "On The Drawing Board" is an initiative to support new work, providing writer/s with one week of workshopping and development resources preceding a gala concert where the results of the week are performed as a scene/song vignette. The Writer/s will be provided with written feedback and a DVD recording of the performance. For more information on OzMade Musicals submissions, including a video highlights package of OzMade Musicals 2007 please visit www.australianmusicals.com

***Southerly* Special Issue on the Short Story - call for Submissions**

Since 1939 short fiction has formed a vital part of *Southerly's* content and reputation. *Southerly* has been the **first point of publication for many of our leading fiction writers**. In November 2008 *Southerly* will be publishing a special issue devoted to the short story. Contributions are being sought for: (a) Short Stories: fresh, innovative, crossover, risky and lively fiction is encouraged, including work from new and emerging writers (b) Essays, Articles and Book Reviews on short fiction in Australian literary culture. Suggested topics: the historical/cultural context of the short story (such as the resurgence of the form in the 1970s); the 'apprenticeship' of the form; short story cycles or collections; the discontinuous narrative; genre slippage or other formal questions (eg when is the short story not?); critical essays on individual authors of the short story; short fiction theory; adaptation of short fiction to film; publishing and short stories; short fiction and gender; sex and the short story. The **deadline for copy is 31 May 2008**. Copy should be emailed in Word format (please include .doc in the name of your attachment) directly to both the editors. Word length is flexible depending on the nature of the piece, and reviews of several books in one review are preferred. Contributions will be paid at a minimum rate of \$200 for stories and articles, \$175 for book reviews. A style guide will be circulated and every contributor will be required to conform to this guide (particularly in relation to referencing), to accept editorial amendments and/or corrections where necessary, and to proofread their own piece. Please contact the editors directly with your submissions, or further enquiries contact Dr Debra Adelaide, email: dkadelaide@iprimus.com.au ph: 9558 9408 and Associate Professor John Dale, email: John.Dale@uts.edu.au ph: 9514 1951.

Slippery When Wet Short Story Competition

This competition is now accepting entries for 2008. Entries must be unpublished and must not have won any other awards. A maximum of 2000 words per story applies. **Entries close Friday, 9 May 2008.** While appropriate colourful language might be accepted (within moderation), entries must not contain extreme foul language, racial or sexually explicit content that would render the entry unsuitable for publication. There is an **open theme**, however the competition encourages stories with a **road theme** and awards the best story with a road theme a \$100 bonus prize. There are cash prizes and encouragement awards. The fee for entry is \$7.50 per story. For entry conditions and details go www.slipperywhenwetstories.com.au or contact Lina Beccia on 1800 349 698 or by email: Lina@soltek.com.au

Shoalhaven Literary Awards for Poetry

2008 Shoalhaven Literary Awards for **Poetry, open theme, any form, maximum 60 lines.** First Prize \$1,000 plus a two week residency at Arthur Boyd Bundanoon Centre. Up to four second prizes of \$200 each. Commendation awards to other selected works. The aims of this biennial competition since 1999 are: The recognition of literary excellence and the enhancement of the image of the Shoalhaven as a place of strong cultural development. For more information and to request a mailed entry form contact (02) 4421 0974 or email: info@fawnswoalhaven.org.au. To download an entry form and conditions go to www.fawnswoalhaven.org.au. **Entries close on Friday 30 May, 2008.**

2008 Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards

Primary and secondary students across Australia are being urged to go outdoors to find inspiration for the 2008 Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards. **“Forests, Feathers, Fins and Fur”** is this year’s theme for country’s largest poetry writing competition for students, which celebrates the work of well-known Australian poet Dorothea Mackellar. Students and schools can share in more than \$5000 worth of prizes including cash, trophies, books and a trip to Gunnedah in north-west NSW – home of the awards and where Dorothea Mackellar’s family owned several properties. Entries in the **Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards close Monday 2 June 2008.** Award entry forms and information on poetry writing, resource notes for teachers and judges’ reports are available at www.dorothea.com.au

Rolf Boldrewood Literary Awards

These awards honour Rolf Boldrewood, pen name of Thomas Browne, who wrote *Robbery Under Arms* during his time as police magistrate in Dubbo. 1st prize is a **signed limited edition bust of Rolf Boldrewood**, \$600 and certificate, 2nd prize \$300 and certificate and third prize \$150 and certificate and highly commended prizes will also be awarded. There are two categories: Prose – fiction, article or essay to a maximum of 3000 words, on an Australian theme; Poetry – in any form or style to a maximum of 80 lines on an Australian theme. An entry fee of \$10 must accompany each entry along with an entry form. Please make cheques payable to Macquarie Regional Library. All entries, forms and cheques should be posted to The Convenor, Rolf Boldrewood Literary Awards, Macquarie Regional Library, PO Box 1042, Dubbo NSW 2830. **Entries close Friday 19 September 2008.** Contact Macquarie Regional Library branches for entry forms (02) 6801 4501 or visit the website www.mrl.nsw.gov.au

National Script Workshop 2008 Call for Entries

The Studio Programme of the National Script Workshop offers emerging, developing or established playwrights a unique opportunity to develop their writing over an intensive 2-week period of collaboration in a residential studio environment. Playwrights work with directors, dramaturgs and an ensemble of actors to develop unproduced scripts in early draft form. Up to eight works will be selected. The selection process will concentrate on finding new work that demonstrates clear commitment to an idea with the potential for further exploration of that idea in an intensive studio environment. Playwrights may apply individually, as co-writers or as part of a creative team. Applications must be physically received at **PlayWriting Australia by 5pm on Monday 14 April, 2008**. Go to <http://www.pwa.org.au/skills/NationalScriptWorkshop/> for more details.

Shiny Young Writers Competition

In 2008, *Shiny* is looking to **publish short stories written by young adults for young adults. Writers aged 12 to 18 are invited to enter their YA short stories in the *Shiny* Competition** and *Shiny* will publish the winning entry in Issue 4. The winner will also receive six issues of *Shiny* (issues 1 – 3 back issues, issues 4-6 forthcoming). *Shiny* looks for fresh, entertaining stories between 2000 and 8000 words. The style and substance of *Shiny* stories should be up there with the best current YA fiction, and should (for the most part) feature teenage protagonists. They are interested in stories with speculative elements - **science fiction, fantasy and horror** - but they are open to non-speculative stories. *Shiny* prefer a contemporary setting and/or feel to stories, but will not let this restrict choices. *Shiny* is aiming to appeal to teenagers, but also to the wide body of adults who read and enjoy Young Adult fiction. How to Enter: attach your entry in an rtf format and *Shiny* permission slip signed by your parent or guardian (if you're not 18) to shinycomp2008@gmail.com **by 5pm, Tuesday 1st April 2008**. For more information check out: <http://shinymag.blogspot.com>

Your inspiration

"This is part of the beauty of all literature. You discover that your longings are universal longings, that you're not lonely and isolated from anyone. You belong."
American novelist F.Scott Fitzgerald.

Your words

We welcome your feedback - let us know what aspect of writing you are interested in, and what you would like to be informed about and if you are a member of a group that meets regularly to talk about writing, contact the Central West Writers' Centre with the details by emailing writing@orange.nsw.gov.au or call 6393 8125 during business hours.

End Note

Here are some writing quotes from www.quote garden.com that should make you smile:

- * Remember a metaphor is like a simile. (No one will own up to writing that one).
- * It's not plagiarism - I'm recycling words, as any good environmentally conscious writer would do. Uniek Swain
- * What no wife of a writer can ever understand is that a writer is working when he's staring out of the window. Burton Rascoe
- * I love being a writer. What I can't stand is the paperwork. Peter De Vries.



POETICA Poetry Program

Listen to Poetica presented by Mike Ladd, Saturday at 3.05 pm, repeated 3.05pm Thursday.

Poetica is dedicated to the performance of poetry and ranges freely among contemporary Australian and overseas work as well as drawing on ancient sources and from bi-lingual programs, live readings, studio-based poetry features and on-location recordings.

During April Poetica unleashes a season on the poetry, prose and music of the Seven Deadly Sins (topical or what?):

5th April: **Envy** – arranged and produced by Justine Sloane Lees

12th April: **Gluttony** – arranged and produced by Robyn Ravlich

19th April: **Sloth** – arranged and produced by Mike Ladd

26th April: **Anger** – arranged and produced by Krystyna Kubiak.

For more information go to the website: www.abc.net.au/rn/poetica/

