



# Words Out West

PO Box 35 Orange 2800  
Ph: 6393 8125 Fax: 6393 8100  
Email: [writing@orange.nsw.gov.au](mailto:writing@orange.nsw.gov.au)  
Web: [www.wordsoutwest.com.au](http://www.wordsoutwest.com.au)

## Newsletter of the Central West Writers' Centre

October 2007

### Central West Writers' Centre update

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.

Next month we welcome Director of Varuna – The Writers' House, Peter Bishop to Bathurst on 26 November and Orange on 27 and 28 November to assess manuscripts as part of the LitLink Consultation Program. Peter is well known for his passion for writing and commitment to Varuna. Cost is \$25 and there are more details inside and on the website.

Check out our **website blog** for the latest news at [www.wordsoutwest.com.au](http://www.wordsoutwest.com.au) or call into the Writers' Centre located upstairs at Orange City Library or phone 6393 8125.

### Greetings

Spring is here and it is well and truly time to emerge from hibernation and start on all those things you have been putting off.

They say writers can be the best procrastinators – because they clean the house, garden, tidy up cupboards, go to the dentist – do almost anything rather than write.

I've also read it is a sign of perfection - but does that mean all writers are perfectionists? Anyway, the secret is: to write every day. Bryce Courtenay advises "bum glue" as the only sure ingredient to be a successful writer.

So leave the housework and cupboards for another day and start writing – competitions, inspiration and a little about what's been going on and what's coming up lies inside. Read on.....

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

## Your Opportunity for LitLink Manuscript Consultation

### **Litlink Manuscript Consultation with Peter Bishop**

Director of Varuna – The Writers’ House, Peter Bishop will be at Bathurst on Monday 26 November and at the Central West Writers’ Centre on Tuesday 27 and Wednesday 28 November to assess your manuscripts. Peter can explain possible pathways open to writers. There are 6 consultations available each day at 10am, 11am, 12 noon, 2.30pm, 3.30pm and 4.30pm. Please call the Central West Writers’ Centre on 6393 8125 to book your place. There will be a \$25 administration fee per consultation.

Writers are asked to submit up to 20 pages of manuscript, plus a brief statement about themselves - their hopes, fears and queries, to the Central West Writers’ Centre before Friday 16 November. Each consultation lasts one hour and is a real opportunity to discuss your writing and the possibilities of development and support.

## News and Regional Events

### **Robert McKillop writes detailed family history *Into the Golden West***

Former ABC journalist **Neil Inall** described the McKillops as innovative for their use of farm machinery, irrigation and lucerne. Neil was in Orange to launch *Into the Golden West; the McKillops of Buddah 1782-1974* by **Robert McKillop**. The richly illustrated book tells the story of Scottish Highlanders who came to NSW in the 1830s. Robert used records handed down by the family to tell their story as well as social, economic and environmental issues facing rural Australia. **Russell Moor** from the Marsden Rural History Group also spoke about the importance of recording our rural heritage. Robert thanked his family for their support in front of more than 45 people who attended the Orange book launch on Thursday 5th July. Many family history buffs were impressed by the detailed index included in the book. Robert also remarked on the valuable detailed records kept by the family including the names of all the employees from the Buddah property.

### **The Vietnam Years *From the Jungle to the Australian Suburbs* Launch**

Local author **Michael Caulfield** has penned *The Vietnam Years From the Jungle to the Australian Suburbs*. It is a narrative driven account of the war and the changes it wrought here. Michael launched his book before a crowd of more than **80 people at the Boomers Bookshop and ABC Centre** on 9<sup>th</sup> August. The book highlights an important part of our recent history and the turmoil of the times. And *Storm Boy* will never be the same again. Why you might ask? After a witty and highly entertaining speech, where Michael regaled the audience with lots of colourful language and anti-establishment views (I’ve also wanted to use that word), causing a few gasps in the audience – but he made no apologies because that’s how things were in the sixties – free and easy living when people said things like “if you remember the sixties – you weren’t really there”. Anyway back to *Storm Boy*. In a previous life Michael “volunteered” to be the One that kills the *Storm Boy* pelican!!!! Of course he concedes it may not have been a wise decision. But praise to Michael - he came clean, admitted this dastardly act and can move on. For the rest of us though our Australian classic movie viewing is not the same.

### **Sam and Jenny Bailey *Head Over Heels***

During August we also welcomed Sam and Jenny Bailey to Orange, courtesy of **Angus & Robertson**, as part of the **Books Alive 2007** tour. Books Alive is an Australian Government initiative that aims to encourage all Australians to experience the joys of reading. Their book is called ***Head Over Heels - A story of tragedy, triumph and romance in the Australian Bush*** and was one of 50 books chosen for Books Alive and is now into its fifth reprint.

You may have seen Sam featured on ***Australian Story***. He is a paraplegic - paralysed from the waist down after a car accident when he was 19 jackarooing in the Northern Territory. He rebuilt his life and followed his dream to be a farmer and today a four wheel motor bike is his "legs" around the property. He is a farmer as well as a pilot, author and motivational speaker. He proposed to his girlfriend Jenny over the airwaves as she hosted a radio program with an overwhelming response from the public. The couple was **amazingly frank** during their talk to a crowd of 45 people at Orange City Library. They talked about how it would be easy to be overcome by problems and the real test is what you do when confronted with them. Their next adventure is to learn to fly a helicopter. To find out more go to website: [www.sambailey.com.au](http://www.sambailey.com.au)

### **Children's Book Week Moya Simons Visit**

For Children's Book Week, held in August, we hosted a visit by children's author Moya Simons. Her most recent novel is ***Hello God***. A book which author Ursula Dubosarsky describes as "a gentle, strong, funny and open-hearted story, told with a delicate, careful fluency, about a young girl discovering the biggest things – birth, death, God and the universe – and especially love." Moya talked to school groups from Kinross Wolaroi; and Orange East, Bowen, Nashdale, Spring Hill and Blayney Public Schools. Moya returned to Orange in September to host a **creative writing workshop** for students. During the workshop participants followed Moya's lead and stuck out their tongues pretending to taste falling snow (sugar) – all is explained with the following thoughts of **workshop participant Calare Primary School student Elise Sinclair:**

"On Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September I went to Moya Simon's Writing Workshop . I thought it was amazing !!!!! It was cool because we got to write poems. One was called 'The World Around Us' and the other was about a season. We got to choose which season. I chose Winter. My finishing sentence for the season poem was **'the snow looks like sugar falling down from the sky'**."



It was good because we got to share ideas. I learned some things from talking about our ideas and I also liked how we talked about books. I talked about *Deltora Quest* by Emily Rodda. We talked about how to write a story and Moya explained it well. I could understand everything. It was great!!! My favourite Moya Simons book is *'My Amazing Poo Plant'*. I can't wait until the next author visit! Thank you. Elise Sinclair"

### **Congratulations to Tracy Sorensen**

There was hot competition for Varuna fellowships this year and three LitLink network writers were awarded fellowships: Oren Siedler (non-fiction) from Northern Rivers, Kylie Rose (poetry) from Hunter, and Tracy Sorensen (fiction) from Central West and member of the Bathurst Writing Group. Ms Rose was also selected for the LongLines Poetry Workshop held in September. Oren Siedler was awarded the Eric Dark Fellowship for Non-Fiction, and this created a flurry of interest among publishers. Oren is now represented by Cameron Cresswell Agency.

### **Australian Poetry Slam 07**

For the first time a regional heat of the **Australian Poetry Slam** competition was held at Orange with thanks to the State Library of NSW. An enthusiastic audience arrived at the Library to hear 16 poets and writers perform their own material in the regional heat. They each had two minutes to impress the judges, selected from the audience on the night. Judges took to their role enthusiastically and they scored Canobolas Rural Technology High School student Matthew Fuller in the number one spot with his biographical rap. Local poet Debbie Owen took out second place with an emotive and heartfelt poem.

They both go onto perform in the Australian Poetry Slam 07 State Final to be held at the **State Library of NSW in Sydney on Friday 30 November at 6pm for 6.30pm**. Visit the State Library of NSW website for event details and locations of other heats: [www.atmitchell.com/events/slu35/auspoetryslam07.cfm](http://www.atmitchell.com/events/slu35/auspoetryslam07.cfm)

Local participants Greg Parker and Kristene Smith both performed inspiring poetry and upcoming writers Amylyn Johnson and Codey Swadling also made an impact with their words.

The audience was also treated to readings by poets **Petra White** and **Angela Stretch** touring NSW supported by the **Poets Union** and **Australia Council**. Host **Miles Merrill** impressed too with his spoken word performances. He enjoyed the range of writing styles performed at the heat and the lively audience. He also facilitated two spoken word workshops. Year 8 students at Molong High School became “aliens” for awhile and learnt the importance of being yourself and performing your own story.

### **Here are just some of the works performed at the heat:**

Written and performed by Leah Daniel, age 11

Feelings

Hurt, despair! Take me from this dark place deep within my mind.

Take me to the sunshine. Let me feel the warmth upon my face.

Let me feel the joy, the happiness, the laughter.

How I wish I could stay in the light of day...

The black of night returns again!

I close my eyes and dream; but in my sleep, I live in the shadows.

That dark place deep within that overwhelms me.

**Written and performed by Debbie Owen**

**Runner up in the Australian Poetry Slam Regional Heat held at Orange.**

**Fight to Survive**

**Here's my little story I felt I should write about my battle with cancer and my will to fight.**

**At first I thought I'd been dealt with the worst card of my life  
after being diagnosed I thought I was in strife**

**Sure I had mixed emotions and shed a lot of tears but my attitude towards this disease**

**I feel I will live for years**

**As my negative thoughts went out the door**

**While my positive thoughts kicked in, I knew this fight was gonna be hard but it's the fight I choose to win.**

**Not to this day have I ever thought of ever giving up. I follow what's in my heart not what's in my gut.**

**Being proud of myself from the mirror image I see of me and proud to wake each morning to see my family. So here is my story I share and for people to read hoping it inspires them 'cause for me it has indeed.**

Written and performed by Maddison Wells

Fairys

Graceful and sweet,

Tapping their feet.

Light as a feather,

In windy weather.

Singing all day long waving,

Their wand.

Away in the far

Like a twinkley star.

Look at the light

What a wonderful sight

The light over there

Is a fairy so fair.

**Written and performed by Phoebe Wells, age 6**

**Daisy**

**Once upon a time**

**There was a daisy**

**It was crazy**

**Its name was Mayzie**

**It was very Lazy**

**That little Daisy.**

**Written and performed by Kristene Smith**

**Be Strong – You’re a Man**

**“Be strong – you’re a Man” is what you’ve been told;**

**Since you were a boy – just eight years old.**

**Our culture expects it;**

**Your workmates respect it;**

**Your families enforce it;**

**Our schools reinforce it!**

**Be strong! Be brave! A Man does not cry!**

**A Man locks his feelings deep inside...where they lie.**

**Lie hidden and banned; never to be discussed.**

**Be strong! Be brave! After all... You’re a Man!**

**Men can be brave...**

**Yet they can cry;**

**Men can be strong ...**

**Yet they can die.**

**Men can be hurt in body or mind;**

**Yet still not seek help to mend or unwind.**

**Years of experience has led them to believe;**

**‘Tis weak to discuss; ‘Tis weak to grieve.**

**It’s almost stubbornness**

**- an in ground trait –**

**But alas; this way,**

**They’re tempting Fate!**

**So – Men...Be Brave! Be strong! Stand Tall!**

**Be brave to ask for help ...**

**Be strong to follow through...**

**Stand tall and be proud**

**That *you* are helping *you*!**

Written and performed in a rap format by Amylyn Johnson, age 10

This poem is about how people can see what they want to and not the true facts of life.

Feelings

I know how people feel when they feel the emotion

It comes straight to their eyes and they start to cry.

I don’t know have you ever felt it before?

It comes straight to your throat and you start to choke. I know how they feel when they start to cry ...they want to let it out but they don’t know why.

Do you see it in people’s eyes the reality of life. I cuddle up to my teddy bear at night because I feel lonely and I just don’t know why.

When I have fights I just feel so wrong I feel like I’ve let down that person for so long!

I like staring at things I just don’t know why, when I get mad I’m just ready to cry.

Mum and me have talks she is so beautiful. I stare in her eyes and daydream all the time.

Some people in life including me can see everybody’s reality.

I hope that you have liked this and I hope I have got the message across to the crowd.

Short story written and performed by Codey Swadling, age 10

### The Haunted House

There is a haunted house down Old Kent Road. One day my friends and I went there. They dared me an ice-block to go into that freaky place. I love ice-blocks and so I did it.

I opened the knobless door. It sounded like a cat screaming. It was in good condition for a one hundred year old house. I felt I was being watched. Then I saw an enormous wardrobe. I opened it up. I saw a few crooked coathangers. I knew at once it had a heap of clothes in it.

I went upstairs into an old fashioned bathroom. I was freaked out! I looked down the bath's plug hole.... I saw an eye looking right at me! My eyes shook wildly. "Arrrgh" I yelled, and I ran to another room. The kitchen; soon knives and forks were floating in the air. Then they chased me! I ran into a bedroom. The door locked and I heard howling noises. Must be wolves I thought. I found a block of wood and banged it up against the door. Finally it opened and I ran out of the house onto the road. My friends were amazed that I was alive. Oh and the ice-block was great, I even got change and I never, ever went in that place again.

Written and performed by Greg Parker

#### OL' MAN RIVER (REVISITED)

Ol' Man River, that Ol' Man River  
He must know somethin',  
But he don't say nothin'  
He just keeps rollin' along

He don't plant taters, he don't plant cotton  
He don't plant okra, he don't plant alfalfa  
He don't plant asparagus, he don't plant bananas  
He don't plant corn. How could he – he's a river

He don't plant those things you cross with oranges, he don't plant oranges either  
He don't raise chickens, and he doesn't have an emu farm, and he doesn't have any pets

Or play Spice Girls full volume at 2:00 am  
No, he's far too busy for that, very, very busy in fact, just rollin' along

But to give his his due, he does stock fish  
And lost wedding rings, and drowned careless people  
And all the flotsam and jetsam and driftwood  
And the tears of young gipsies flowing from either bank

And the virgin moons trapped reflection  
And the ancestral bones of the germ of an idea  
Half realised in the blink of God's eye...  
And the ghost of Ol' Black Joe

And he don't plant time capsules, or suspicion in people's minds  
Or avocados, or walnuts, or brussel sprouts  
And he has no need for shoes or thongs...  
He just keeps rollin', rollin' along

**Written and performed by Janette Pennings**

**Early Morning Walk**

**The cold morning mist bellowed across the ground like smoke  
As if the earth itself were smouldering from a long forgotten fire  
The light breeze picked it up, moving it along like a river of liquid snow  
winding its way to the sea  
As I walked through the mist it clawed at my legs with the long fingers of a ghost,  
dissolving as they grasp, desperately trying to hold on  
Big white puffs curled and twisted across the grass with each stride  
I stood still and breathed in deep, the cold sharp air trembled my lungs  
Invigorating my sleepy mind  
I lay down on the frozen grass, deep within the mist  
Hidden, Shrouded  
Peaceful  
The dampness settled quickly on my skin, sending small chills rippling through  
my body  
My breath sending out shafts of cold white blending as one with the other  
I lay...watched...felt...the mist engulf me in its veil.**

Thank you to everyone for their contributions and a big thank you to everyone who participated on the night - including the wonderful audience!

**Upcoming Events**

**Radio Plays Project – The Other Side of the Line**

The award winning radio plays project, *The Other Side* has returned this year with the theme *The Other Side of the Line*. Local playwrights answered the call for suitable plays and **Orange Community Broadcasters FM107.5** and the Central West Writers' Centre are collaborating to produce local radio plays of broadcast quality which will be put to air from November. Project coordinator Fiona Hawke is working with a team of volunteers to record and produce the plays including Joan Brown's *Waiting Still*, *Lazy Booligal* and *Ancient Ghosts* – both by Ross Stephenson and *The Strolling Player of Kikacro* by Bakka Bourke.

**Orange Colour City Garden Weekend fundraising launch**

Meet author and garden writer Fiona Ogilvie at the launch of the Orange Colour City Garden Weekend fundraising event to aid the Orange Community Chest on Friday 16 November from 5.30pm to 7pm at Orange Botanic Gardens in Hill Street. Mayor of Orange Cr John Davis will officially open the Colour City Garden Weekend. Fiona, author of *A Country Garden* and garden writer for *The Land* newspaper, is the guest speaker. Enjoy refreshments and pre-purchase your tickets from Orange City Library or Orange Visitor Information Centre for \$15.

The Colour City Garden Weekend features guided bird walks, In Site Out art event, workshops, arts and crafts markets, Children's Teddy Bears Big Day Out, plant sale at the Botanic Gardens, Devonshire Teas at Cook Park, walking tours, music in the Rotunda, Orange and District Horticultural Society Rose Show and prize winning Open Gardens. For more information contact the Orange Visitor Information Centre on 1800 069 466.

### **In Site Out – temporary & ephemeral art event**

Don't miss this event at the Orange Botanic Gardens from 26 October to 18 November at **Orange Botanic Gardens** in Hill Street, Orange. This temporary and ephemeral art event features exhibitions, workshops and arts markets. There will also be an Artists Symposium on 3 and 4 November. It is being supported by Arts NSW, the Regional Arts Fund, Orange Regional Arts Foundation, Orange City Council, Taste Orange, NetWaste, CENTROC and Orange Regional Gallery. Come along and be inspired by unique artists and performances. For more details go to [www.artsoutwest.org.au](http://www.artsoutwest.org.au).

### **Green Words Workshops**

As part of the In Site Out exhibition and the Orange Colour City Garden Weekend the Central West Writers' Centre is hosting Green Words: **two workshops** at the Botanic Gardens on Sunday 18 November:

#### **Landscape Design: combining a sense of PLACE and a sense of SELF with Sarah Hoskin**

Sarah Hoskin, based in Orange NSW, has worked as a Landscape Architect in Orange since 1995. Her role as a sole practitioner in her business Caledonian Landscapes, has allowed her the freedom to shape her business around her family as it has grown over the last 10 years, as well as the ability to follow each landscape design from first contact with the client through planning for construction, she has concentrated on design work only, from residential through to public projects.

Sarah will be speaking at **10am on Sunday 18 November**. Her talk will be followed by a workshop on garden design. Bring pen and paper. Bookings at Orange City Library Ph: 6393 8132. Cost \$15.

#### **Garden Writing: discover the story behind the book *A Country Garden* with Fiona Ogilvie**

Fiona is an author and a garden writer for The Land newspaper. Her book is titled *A Country Garden – creating a garden in rural Australia*. It is about her search for the best plants to grow in the Central Tablelands with its dry summers and regular droughts and details about the garden she has been creating since 1988.

Fiona grew up in Britain and after travelling around the world, including long periods in Brussels, Canada and Hong Kong, settling in Australia in 1972. She and husband Bill have made three gardens, the first in Sydney, second at Rockley and the third – the subject of her book - on their farm in the NSW Central Tablelands.

Fiona frequently travels throughout New South Wales to visit gardens and has contributed to a weekly garden column in *The Land* newspaper since 1995.

Author Fiona Ogilvie will talk about her book *A Country Garden* and the lessons learned along the way. Fiona will be speaking at **1pm on Sunday 18 November**. Her talk will be followed by a workshop on garden writing. Bring pen and paper. Bookings at Orange City Library. Ph: 6393 8132. Cost \$15.

## Competitions and Opportunities

### **One Act Plays**

“The One Act Play Competition” is now open. Although not a huge prize they are hoping that the winning entries will be performed. The closing date is 9 November 2007. For further information and to download an entry form go to:

<http://www.fawnswoalhaven.org.au/Our%20Competitions.htm>

### **Kids Write monthly magazine for young writers**

It started in July, *Kids Write* is a new monthly online magazine for young writers and illustrators (18 years and younger) which provides up to date information about writing competitions, writing festivals, writing and illustrating hints, monthly writing competitions, interviews with prize-winning young writers and book reviews. Kids Write is compiled by children’s author and editor Di Bates. To find out more read about her at [www.enterprisingwords.com](http://www.enterprisingwords.com) and for a sample copy contact via email [dibates@enterprisingwords.com](mailto:dibates@enterprisingwords.com).

### **Varuna Awards for Manuscript Development 2007**

Each year Varuna calls for applications for the Varuna Awards for Manuscript development, a unique publisher partnership that offers five writers the ideal experience of working with a senior editor from HarperCollins Publishers at Varuna – The Writers’ House in the Blue Mountains. Up to 300 writers respond to the call each year. Writers of fiction – all genres and narrative non-fiction are invited to apply for the 2007 Varuna Awards for Manuscript Development. The deadline is 31 October and for more information go to the website [www.varuna.com.au](http://www.varuna.com.au).

### **Writing for the box: industry placement**

The Southern Star Entertainment Writing for Television Drama Initiative is a fantastic opportunity which aims to give a writer exposure to the specialised requirements of writing for adult drama. The successful candidate will receive an industry placement with Southern Star Entertainment in 2008 allowing them to participate in script development meetings of an adult drama production. The writer will also receive \$5,000 for expenses. Applications are invited from both new writers and those who have experience in other areas of performance writing, such as children’s television. Applicants must be members of the Australian Writers' Guild and in their application should state why they want to write television drama; what visions or goals they have in this genre; and list any relevant writing credits. Applications (2 pages max) should be sent to [admin@awg.com.au](mailto:admin@awg.com.au) with "Southern Star Placement" in the subject header. Entries close 19 October.

### **Hear hear! Get your audio work online**

*Audiophile* is a new Australian not-for-profit website devoted to publishing radio docs, audio stories, field recordings, and more. Become a member of the Audiophile community and start publishing your original material now. Hear Hear is offering a small cash prize as part of its initial call for works. All works uploaded before 20th October will be go into the draw to receive the prize. Audiophile is devoted to publishing the works of emerging audio producers with an interesting story that they want the world to hear. Duration - 30 seconds or more.

Email [ear drum@audiophile.org.au](mailto:ear drum@audiophile.org.au) Website [www.audiophile.org.au](http://www.audiophile.org.au) Entries close 20 October.

### **Australia's Richest Radio Play Writing Competition**

The 2007-08 Dogwood Playwrights Initiative's exciting, challenging and new, radio play format has been launched by the Miles Regional Arts Council Inc. in partnership with the Murilla Shire Council in Queensland. First prize is \$3000, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$1500, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$800 and 4<sup>th</sup> \$700.

Competition organiser and Miles Regional Arts Council member Ann Gibbons said the exciting initiative is aimed at focusing on contemporary Australian issues. It's about giving a voice to people with struggles, challenges and successes that are unique to Australia. This year's competition is a different genre to the past and is a radio play script. It is open to all Australian residents and entry is free. Even if you have never written a play before it's worth having a go. You never know, your voice may be the one they think everyone should hear.

The judging panel includes former High Court Judge Ian Callinan who has been on this judging panel for all past three competitions; Ann Gibbons - the coordinator of this competition and the Murilla Shire Representative; Belinda Sanders - well known radio presenter for ABC Southern Queensland and Hugh O'Brien- playwright, director and winner of the two previous competitions. The competition closes on 30 June 2008. More information is available at [www.murilla.qld.gov.au](http://www.murilla.qld.gov.au)

### **Overland Judith Wright Prize**

A new annual prize for new and emerging poets, sponsored by the Malcolm Robertson Foundation with a major award of \$2000 and two minor awards of \$250. The competition is for poets who have not yet had a collection of their works commercially published. Entry fee is \$5. Entries close 2 November. For more information go to: [www.overlandexpress.org/poetry\\_prize.html](http://www.overlandexpress.org/poetry_prize.html).

### **Little Ears article competition**

New magazine *Little Ears* announces a competition for an article 300-600 words suitable for parents and carers on any of the topic: storytelling, your favourite family story, encouraging literacy, teaching children to read, selecting picture books for young readers or encouraging reluctant readers. Send your article and title page with name, word count and contact details to Di Bates, Story Editor, Little Ears, PO Box 2116 Woonona East NSW 2517 by 1<sup>st</sup> November.

### **Blackened Billy Verse Competition**

Bush poetry with an Australian theme – no limit on length. Prizes total \$300. Entry is \$5. Please contact Jan Morris on 6765 9478, post PO Box 3001, West Tamworth NSW 2340 or email [janmorris@northnet.com.au](mailto:janmorris@northnet.com.au). Entries close 30 November.

### **Inner City Life Literary Competition**

Don't be put off by the title of this one – it is your interpretation of the theme: Inner City Life anywhere anytime. Short story maximum length 500 words, poetry to 20 lines. Prizes 1<sup>st</sup> \$100, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$60 and 3<sup>rd</sup> \$40 in both categories. Entry \$10. Contact 9555 9757, Post to: Inner City Life Competition, NSW Writers' Centre, PO Box 1056, Rozelle NSW 2039. Email [nswwc@nswwriterscentre.com.au](mailto:nswwc@nswwriterscentre.com.au) or go to [www.nsw.writerscentre.org.au](http://www.nsw.writerscentre.org.au). Entries close 23 November.

**Looking for more on reading and writing?**

Check out the first **Tuesday Book Club on ABC TV** each month hosted by Jennifer Byrne. It screens on the first Tuesday of each month at 10pm and then an encore screening the following Sunday at 4.30pm. Each month Jennifer and her panel discuss a book, feature a special guest and provide the latest news on the book world. They highlight a literary favourite and aim to introduce you to books you may not normally read and as Jennifer says: always a spine tingling experience.....

Listen to the daily **Book Show on ABC Radio National** hosted by Romana Koval for everything connected to the written word. It features discussions, interviews, reviews and other things all writing related. It is on each weekday from 10am.

Keen to do an online course? Then go the **NSW Writers' Centre** website to check out their **fast track e-tutorials** under the heading on-line courses to work and study at your own pace. There is a fee and each course is sent via email weekly or fortnightly. Visit [www.nswwriterscentre.org.au](http://www.nswwriterscentre.org.au) for details.

**Your inspiration**

“(Often people) think that writing about real life is about accumulating interesting experiences, when on the contrary, it is about seeing ordinary experiences in an interesting new light.” From an interview with Alice Pung author of *Unpolished Gem* featured in Victorian Writer (Victorian Writers' Centre) July/August 2007.

**Your words**

If you are a member of a group that meets regularly to talk about writing contact the Central West Writers' Centre with the details to be included in this newsletter and on the website by emailing [writing@orange.nsw.gov.au](mailto:writing@orange.nsw.gov.au) or call 6393 8125 during business hours.

**End Note**

Okay, good writing calls for being specific and when talking about a group of 'something' you have to get the name right. See it was bound to happen – a discussion about collective nouns. But I came across a couple of really interesting ones and some that could impress your family and friends or store in the memory banks for a trivia quiz. Here goes: a **shiver of sharks**, a parliament of owls, a murder of crows, a romp of otters, an intrusion of cockroaches (what else?) and how about this one – a bloat of hippopotami!

