



# Words Out West

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## Central West Writers' Centre Newsletter Summer 2008 - 2009

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 events included Poets on Wheels public poetry reading and workshops with Marvis Sofield, Mark O'Flynn and David Brooks and an Australian Poetry Slam 08 regional heat. Coming up we have a visit by Michael Panckridge, children's author of the *Legends* series and more.

And a review of NSW Writers' Centres was held in November by consultants Positive Solutions for Arts NSW. They visited each Writers' Centre in the State to look at operations and results of the review are not expected until the New Year. Stay tuned.

The Central West Writers Centre is located upstairs at the Orange City Library, Byng Street, Orange. Please phone 6393 8125 or check out our **website blog** for the latest news at [www.wordsoutwest.com.au](http://www.wordsoutwest.com.au).

## Christmas Greetings

I'm dreaming of a *White Christmas* – well it could happen couldn't it? After all we had snow, sleet and hail feature in November. No really let's hope Summer is on the way and the warm weather kicks in ...soon. So what about Christmas – a little bit of reading perhaps? Thinking of gifts? Think books. Or maybe a journal – with blank pages to inspire the writer? Or looking for something to do with your time off? Start writing. People are writing in libraries, coffee shops, parks, backyards, front verandahs and of course bolting the study doors and applying “butt glue” to the chair to stick with it. Do whatever it takes. Wishing 2009 is a great one for letting loose the imagination and turning it into words.

Jasmine Vidler  
Coordinator  
Central West Writers' Centre

## News

### **ABC TV puts regional artists on the digital map with artspost**

The ABC has launched artspost, an exciting new interactive website and short video series for TV broadcast, which showcases artists working in regional and remote parts of the country. The centrepiece of [www.abc.net.au/artpost](http://www.abc.net.au/artpost), is a digital interactive arts map of Australia where you can watch artists at work in their studio and show their work. **All types of artists can submit videos and slide shows: from visual artists to musicians, theatre groups to writers.** Videos are attached to short bios on the artists and you can add or remove as many videos about yourself as often as you like. The site provides the tools for students, teachers and artists themselves to create short videos about who they are and their work, for inclusion on the digital map. In five easy steps, a video can be created and uploaded directly to what will become a living art gallery of all corners of Australia. These videos will also be broadcast on ABC1 and ABC2. If you can't make a video, you can make a 2-minute slideshow just by dropping in photos of your work. Arts OutWest is encouraging all art makers in the region to create either a 3-minute video or 2-minute slideshow of their work. Arts OutWest is also keen to hear from artists who would like to be involved in the artspost project but are not sure where to start or don't have the computer access or equipment – they may be able to help you. artspost is a partnership between ABC and Regional Arts Australia and has the support of the Australia Council for the Arts. Full instructions on how to submit to artspost plus examples or videos created so far are at [www.abc.net.au/artpost](http://www.abc.net.au/artpost)

### **A special offer from *Wet Ink* magazine**

*Wet Ink*, is the magazine of new writing - it's the place to discover some of today's best up-and-coming talent, as well as new works by established authors. *Wet Ink* has teamed up with Overland to **offer their readers a subscription special** just in time for Christmas. Subscribe to both magazines at the same time and get an extra 15% off normal subscription prices (that's a 25% discount off the cover price). While you are there, see their special deal on back issues to complete your set. Go to [www.wetink.com.au](http://www.wetink.com.au)

### **Nation of book lovers supported by Books Alive 2008**

Australia Council for the Arts magazine *Artery* reports Australia is a nation of book lovers. Research confirms that this year's highly successful Book Alive campaign **fuelled our love of the written word.** A Federal Government initiative developed through the Australia Council for the Arts, Books Alive 2008 ran nationwide for a month from late July. Aimed at encouraging people to read more books, it built on research (a national phone survey of 1048 people over 18) showing that: 92 per cent of Australians read for pleasure once a month or more, 85 per cent of Australians read for pleasure once a week or more, 50 per cent of Australians read for pleasure everyday of the week and 63 per cent of Australians visited a bookshop in the previous month. In launching this year's campaign Minister for the Arts Peter Garrett described it as a good opportunity for Australians to support local writers. Books Alive featured a list of 50 recommended books, a giveaway feature title – Michael Robotham's *Bombproof* – and author tours in metropolitan and regional centres including Orange. More than 8.5 million Australians read about “50 Books You Can't Put Down” through inserts in all New Limited Sunday newspapers and a further 500,000 copies of the guide went to booksellers. Buyers who took away any one of the 50 recommended reads also received a free copy of *Bombproof*.

## **Blogs Blogs Blogs**

Did you know that that Central West Libraries has a blog? Well three to be precise. **You can subscribe** or just go to them regularly for news and all that is happening at the Library. Go to the CWL website [www.cwl.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cwl.nsw.gov.au) and click on Blog, then Central West Libraries. And for writing chit chat go to the Central West Writers' Centre blog from this page or from the website at [www.wordsoutwest.com.au](http://www.wordsoutwest.com.au) and subscribe for the latest news on reading and writing, competitions and opportunities. History buffs will also love the new Local Studies Blog. Again go to the CWL website, click on Blog, then Local Studies to find it, you can subscribe via each blog and while you are there leave a comment - let us know what you think.

## **Events Coming Up**

### **Children's author Michael Panckridge visiting Central West in January 2009**

Here is your chance to meet a successful children's author Michael Panckridge and find out more about the author and why his books hold great appeal for children. **Come along and meet Michael Panckridge** author of the acclaimed *Legends* and *Anniversary Legends* series with Black Dog Books and mad keen sports fanatic. He is also the author of three series with HarperCollins. The *Toby Jones* series (all five books have now been published) is a mixture of fantasy and sports action as the hero Toby travels back through time, encountering a lot more than just old cricket matches. Brett Lee, Australia's premier fast bowler also contributes to the books with his wealth of cricket knowledge and experience.

Similarly, Laurie Daley, ex-Australian Rugby League captain and now prominent media broadcaster, lends his experience to the *League of Legends* series – a 3 book action filled sporting adventure series centred on the rugby league trials and mysteries for Sam Davies and his friends. *Shielding the Truth* and *Live Action* are the titles of the first 2 books in this series with the 3<sup>rd</sup> title *On The Bell*, recently released.

The *Clued Up 6* series is a collection of 6 novels based around the adventures of a group of friends living in a country town. The novels are fast-paced and lively with plenty of action and drama as the kids meet a variety of dangerous challenges. Horse racing, swimming, ghosts, motor bikes and a bushfire are the major themes running through the first five books in the series – each book addressing one theme.

With more than 100 000 copies sold, the entire first *Legends* series has been re-issued. Both *Legends* and *Anniversary Legends* series are a culmination of many years of dedicated sports mania combined with an enthusiastic exploration of what boys and girls really want to read. Michael has written more than 30 books including the *Toby Jones* series, adventure stories and mystery stories. Cost is \$10 and everyone is welcome. Please book by calling the library you wish to attend. Michael will be at the following locations in January 2009.

Orange City Library  
Byng Street  
Wednesday 21 January  
10.30am to 11.30am  
Cost \$10  
Ph: 6393 8132

Molong Library  
Bank Street  
Wednesday 21 January  
2.30pm to 3.30pm  
Cost \$10  
Ph: 6366 8404

Cowra Library  
Darling Street  
Thursday 22 January  
2.30pm to 3.30pm  
Cost \$10  
Ph: 6340 2180

## Australian Poetry Slam 08 NSW State Final Winners

Congratulations to Greg North from Katoomba, and Andrew Riemer from Parramatta – the State champions for the Australian Poetry Slam. The contest was very close, sometimes only a decimal point the difference between the “slammers”. Congratulations to our finalists Josh Simpson and Shannon Elliott who were able to attend with the support of the Orange Regional Arts Foundation funding flights and accommodation. The State finalists now go on to perform at the Sydney Opera House on 4 December 7pm. **Listen to the Grand Slam Final of the Australian Poetry Slam 2008 broadcast nationally on ABC Local Radio webcast live across Australia via the internet.** The webcast starts at 6.30pm to introduce the finalists before crossing to the Sydney Opera House at 7pm hosted by Andrew Daddo, presenter of 702 ABC Sydney Evenings. Poets compete for \$5,000 and the title of Australian Poetry Slam Champion. The night is the culmination of a three month search for Australia’s best poetry slammers, consisting of state winners, plus the ABC Local Radio online winner. The online winner ‘Butterfly’, submitted by Elise Batchelor from Karratha (WA), was selected from 77 entries by judges: Alicia Sometimes (poet, writer, musician); Dr Wendy Were (Artistic Director and Chief Executive of the Sydney Writers Festival); and Miles Merrill, the Australian Poetry Slam co-creator. Alicia Sometimes said of the winning entry: “It was the performer’s succinct and powerful images within the piece that won me over. It was so well written.” She describes the quality of the overall entries as having a “great freshness and some pieces had shining lines like ‘our early night weezes in the rain’ and ‘Detox is the new Club Med.’” The Australian Poetry Slam 2008, now in its second year, is organised by State Libraries and supported by ABC Local Radio. For more details about the Australian Poetry Slam 2008 or to view the online entries go to [abc.net.au/poetryslam](http://abc.net.au/poetryslam).

## Drop-in Days at the 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 19 December 2008 and Friday 30 January 2009**. All ages and levels of writing experience welcome. At the November meeting participants heard from a **WINNER** of National Novel Writing Month – the worldwide quest that encourages writers to write 50,000 words in one month – as well as some poetry and short stories – each with a real twist at the end. The optional take home writing exercise was about lost and found. It also highlighted the poem *One Art* by Elizabeth Bishop. The style of this poem is known as a villanelle. It is 19 lines long with five stanzas of three lines and a final stanza of four lines. If you would like a challenge, try writing in this style.

### Poets on Wheels

It was a enjoyable night during Wine Week in October to hear local poets perform their works followed by readings with Marvis Sofield, Mark O’Flynn and David Brooks supported by the Poets Union. Local poet Dulcie Mclean won the Poets Union prize for her entertaining efforts about visitors who stay too long and **Amy Harrison read the poem *War Widows*** to much appreciation from the audience. Here is her poem:

## War Widows

by Amy Harrison

I sat in the seat at the back of the bus  
As we traveled the Great Highway,  
On our way to the Zoo of the Western Plains  
On the morn of a bright autumn day.

With a sea of heads before me –  
White, blonde, brown, and beautiful silver grey  
I felt a deepening kinship  
As we travelled together that day.

All those crowns of widows-  
Widows of gallant men  
They, who answered their country's call  
And shouldered their arms back then.

I thought of the bond that bound us  
All with life-mates gone  
And I'm sure their spirits touched me  
In the bus as we travelled along.

So my mind wandered, as we ambled along,  
Of the special bond which binds us –  
Our soldiers loved and lost  
And the heartache that intertwines us.

I felt the spirits – soldiers,  
Our soldiers, our husbands, our men,  
Whose image is never forgotten  
They, who answered the call back then.

Years of waiting. Praying.  
Letters of hope and faith  
Worlds of oceans between us –  
For however long it takes.

I'm sure I felt spirits of loved ones –  
Soldiers vibrant and strong,  
And their presence lingered with me  
In the bus as we ambled along.

We are proud of the image they left us –  
No matter how high the cost.  
Their heartbeat is with us forever –  
Though nothing will lighten the loss.

This was meant to be a fun poem  
But someone took over my pen  
And wrote of war and heroes –  
And spirits of gallant men.

## Happenings, Competitions and Opportunities

### Mardi Gras Writing Competition

As Nations United is the Mardi Gras season 2009 theme, '*war and peace*' has been nominated as the writing competition phrase to inspire writers. Writers can interpret this any way however the story must feature New Mardi Gras values. There are exciting prizes this year which have been offered by Sydney hotel chains for second year in a row - so pick up your pen and get writing! The judges are eager to discover what participants can come up with this time! Word Limit: 500 words. Closing Date: 5pm 5th January 2009. Entry Fees (per story submitted): \$15.00 Full price \$10.00 Concession. For full details of prizes and to download conditions of entry and application form refer to: [www.mardigras.org](http://www.mardigras.org) or [www.gay-ebooks.com.au](http://www.gay-ebooks.com.au)

### The Josephine Ulrick Literature Prize 2009 and Poetry Prize 2009

Griffith University School of Arts on the Gold Coast administers the Josephine Ulrick Literature Prize and the Josephine Ulrick Poetry Prize on behalf of the Josephine Ulrick and Win Schubert Foundation for the Arts. Josephine Ulrick (1952 – 1997) was herself a writer and a poet as well as a great patron of the arts. Her role as curator of the Galleries Schubert made her a vital and inspirational mentor for the artists of South-East Queensland. **She recognised great talent and strove to nurture it, encouraging many artists to achieve their full potential.** She will be remembered by those with whom she shared her creativity, knowledge and passion for life. The Josephine Ulrick and Win Schubert Foundation for the Arts - and national prizes such as The Josephine Ulrick Literature Prize - were set up in order that her name live on. This award continues the excellence she encouraged in the creative arts.

#### Literature Prize:

For a 1000 - 3000 word short story. Entry fee \$35. First prize \$10,000; second prize \$5,000; commended (two awarded) \$2,500.

#### Poetry Prize:

For a poem or suite of poems up to 200 lines. Entry fee \$35. First prize \$10,000; second prize \$5,000; commended (two awarded) \$2,500.

For full details and entry forms go to the Griffith University website [www.griffith.edu.au](http://www.griffith.edu.au) Closes 30 January 2009.

### Writing Raw website shares your writing

[WritingRaw.com](http://WritingRaw.com) is a FREE literary sharing website (like YouTube but for the literary world) where writers can upload, view and share their writing. The only restriction is that the material cannot be illegal in any sense of the word. Other than that, **feel free to post in any of the following categories: fiction, poetry, non-fiction, remembrance and assorted writings.** The goal at [Writing Raw](http://Writing Raw) is simple - to serve the literary community with the opportunity to have their work online and out in the world. Who knows who may see it! In this world of disappearing literary magazines, [Writing Raw](http://Writing Raw) is providing the blank pages for writers to fill. To view someone's writing, just click on the link and a "pdf" of the piece will open in your browser. Read it, comment on it, vote for it to be a showcased piece. Most important – enjoy it. There is no catch here – all writings will be posted. The aim is to create a world where no one rejects a writer or the work of their future masterpiece.

### **Grenfell Henry Lawson Festival of Arts June Long Weekend 2009**

You are invited to participate in Grenfell's Henry Lawson of Arts Verse and Short Story Competitions, with total prize money of \$3725 plus statuettes. Medallions will also be awarded in primary sections. The competition closes on 27 March 2009 with late entries closing on 3 April 2009. Late entries will incur a late fee. **There are 6 classes for verse some with Australian themes and 4 classes in short story, all with any theme.** Short stories are limited to 2000 words and verse to 48 lines. Entry forms and conditions may be downloaded from the website [www.henrylawsonfestival.asn.au](http://www.henrylawsonfestival.asn.au) or by writing to the Verse and Short Story Coordinator PO Box 77 Grenfell NSW 2810 Further information may be obtained by contacting Sally Jackman on 6343 1402.

### **Rolf Boldrewood Award Winners**

The annual Rolf Boldrewood Literary Awards are named in honour of the Dubbo based author of the famous 19th century Australian novel, *Robbery Under Arms*, and is a collaboration between Macquarie Regional Library and the Outback Writers' Centre. A cash prize of \$600 is awarded to the winners of prose and poetry categories plus the highly sought after Boldrewood bust, sculpted and cast by Brett Garling from the Garling Gallery, Wongarbron. Second prize is \$300 and third prize \$150. Highly Commended and Commended Certificates are awarded at the judges' discretion.

**Rolf Boldrewood is the nom de plume of Thomas Alexander Browne, who wrote *Robbery Under Arms***, during his term as Police Magistrate in Dubbo between 1881-1884. It was first published as a serial in the Sydney Mail during 1882-3 and in 1888 was published in book form. It is considered one of Australia's three great colonial novels, has never been out of print, translated into 31 languages, made into five films, a stage play and a musical. The date for the announcement of the winners coincides closely with the shooting, on 11 November 1881, of Browne's predecessor, who subsequently died, providing the vacancy for Browne/Boldrewood to be appointed Dubbo Magistrate. This year 273 entries were received from all States, New Zealand and Singapore. And the winners are:

#### **PROSE**

First Prize: Susan Yardley VIC, "*My Father's Watch*"; Second Prize: Deidre Oliver VIC "*Sundays: Kokoda Crescent*"; Third Prize: Jen White NT "*The family is Gathering*"; Highly Commended - Ruby Murphy: VIC "*Sunburnt Country*"; Carmel Lillis: VIC "*Finding the Sweet Spot*"; Peter Papatkanasiou: ACT "*Always Another Sorry*".

June Owen, the prose judge, comments that the winning entry "stood out by being consistently good with **nothing to distract the reader from involvement with the story** as it unfolded on the page. It is a thought provoking story and I thoroughly enjoyed it."

#### **POETRY**

First Prize: Mark Miller NSW, "*This Land*" Second Prize: Ellis Campbell NSW "*Beechley Calling*", Third Prize: Irene Wilkie NSW "*The Mountain has Many Faces*" Highly Commended - Mark Miller NSW "*Land Journal*", Ellis Campbell NSW "*Farewell to Youth*", Max Merckenschlager SA "*The Magnificent Seven*" and "*Black Tuesday*". Commended - Donald Crane Qld "*The Bush Mother*" and "*Pioneers*" and Jo Mills WA "*Mountain Quarry*".

The judge of the poetry section, David Campbell, notes that the winning entry was "a beautifully written piece of free verse in four sections, each of which deals with a different aspect of our rural landscape. The writer captures the **essential beauty** and harshness of our bushland with imagery that is evocative and compelling."

### Your inspiration

Legend has it that in the 1920s, American novelist Ernest Hemingway (1899 – 1961) bet ten dollars that he could write a complete story with just six words. And he wrote: "For Sale: baby shoes, never worn." Take a moment, think about it. He said it was the best prose he had ever written.

### Your words

If you are a member of a group that meets regularly to talk about all things writing, send your details via email [writing@orange.nsw.gov.au](mailto:writing@orange.nsw.gov.au) or call 6393 8125 during business hours to be listed on [www.wordsoutwest.com.au](http://www.wordsoutwest.com.au) or send an email with your feedback.

### End Note

"Don't tell me the moon is shining; show me the glint of light on broken glass"  
Russian dramatist and master of the modern short story Anton Chekhov (1860 - 1904)



### Extra listening on poetry, books and reading

Listen to *Poetica* presented by Mike Ladd, Saturday at 3.05 pm, repeated 3.05pm Thursday. Also tune into *The Book Show* on weekdays at 10am, repeated at midnight. It is ABC Radio National's home for the discussion of everything relating to the written word.



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partners with central west libraries