



Words Out West

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Newsletter of the Central West Writers' Centre

Summer 2008

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.

In 2007 we hosted several author visits and LitLink Manuscript Consultations with Peter Bishop, Creative Director from Varuna – The Writers' House. This year we embark on workshops, drop-in days to the Writers' Centre and further promoting writing groups in the community.

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.

2008 Greetings

Summertime and the living is well...easy. Warm weather, lazy days, BBQs, cricket, mangoes. What is there not to like? – besides our new best friends – flies. What does Summer mean to you? I used to spend Summer holidays lying in a hammock reading books in the shade of giant plum tree. Mmmmm....how do I get back to doing that?

Anyway, I digress (as per usual – some might say) dip into our newsletter for some light entertainment, news, things to do, competitions and opportunities, check out where you can write your own book reviews and join in some brilliant upcoming workshops with experienced writers to be held around the region.

Happy New Year! and wishing you words that flow onto the page and many constructive revisions.

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

News and Regional Events

Litlink Manuscript Consultations

Thank you to everyone who came along to the LitLink Manuscript Consultations with Peter Bishop, Creative Director of Varuna – The Writers' House, held at Bathurst Civic Centre (thank you too - Bathurst Regional Council) and the Central West Writers' Centre. A total of 16 people from across the region took up the **opportunity to discuss their writing projects** with Peter. He was pleased to be able to meet everyone and see a range of writing styles that all have possible markets. We hope to be able to conduct these consultations again this year - so keep that in mind while working away on your projects.

Orange Word Artists on Stage at Poetry Slam State Final

Australian Poetry Slam Regional Heat winners took to the microphone at the State Final held at the State Library of NSW on Friday 30 November. **Canobolas Rural Technology High School student Matthew Fuller and Orange resident Debbie Owen performed their original works** for two minutes in front of 200 strong city crowd. Matthew's trip was made possible by the Regional Arts Foundation. Minister for the Arts Frank Sartor also officially launched the evening along with State Librarian Regina Sutton. It was fantastic to see a variety of performances from across the State perform different styles and topics. A young girl sang about trust, former Prime Minister John Howard was a popular topic while a trip to the supermarket will never be the same again as one performer brought all the cereal promotional characters to life. The winners were Kathy Edwards of Newcastle and Greg North of Katoomba. Kathy performed a humorous piece about mistaking a young man's mobile phone call as making a pass at her. Greg North's piece was a social commentary with clever word usage of all things rhyming with "ation".

Become a Book Reviewer

Members of Central West Libraries may now add their own review comments to items in the Library Catalogue. Find the listing in the catalogue and look down the record until you see "**Average rating**" and click on the "**Add your review**" link. You will be prompted to enter your Borrower number (ID) and PIN and give the title a rating from a low 0 to a high 10. Type in your comment and click on "**Add comment**". Library staff must approve a pending review before it's available to other users. Read your own reviews via the **Summary** tab under the **My Details** function. Others may read what you say anonymously from the catalogue screen, and if there is more than one review, the ratings will be averaged. Please contact the Library if you do not have a PIN. Go on, give it a try.

Half a World Away Now Online

A community heritage study was set up by the NSW Migration Heritage Centre and Orange City Council to research and document the migration heritage of the Orange district, especially objects associated with experiences of migration. The project culminated in an exhibition at the Orange Regional Gallery supported by the NSW Migration Heritage Centre; Powerhouse Museum Regional Services; and Arts NSW, and a richly illustrated book entitled *Half A World Away: Post-War Migration To The Orange District 1948-1965* by local historian Elisabeth Edwards. An **online version** of Orange City Council's exhibition *Half A World Away* has now been produced by the NSW Migration Heritage Centre. **View the online exhibition:** <http://www.migrationheritage.nsw.gov.au/exhibitions/halfaworldaway/>

Order the book:

<http://www.migrationheritage.nsw.gov.au/readingroom/index.shtml#halfaworld>
<<http://www.migrationheritage.nsw.gov.au/readingroom/index.shtml>>

For more details: <<http://www.migrationheritage.nsw.gov.au/e107/content.php?article.169>>

Enquiries for *Into the Golden West*

We are still receiving a trickle of enquiries about Robert McKillop's book *Into the Golden West* which was launched with a series of presentations across the Central West at Narromine, Orange and Bathurst. The **richly illustrated book** tells the story of the McKillops who travelled from the Scottish Highlands in the 1830s to settle in the Central West. For more information about the book please contact (02) 9958 4516.

Poet Geoff Lehmann visits Cowra

A large crowd attended Cowra Library to meet poet Geoff Lehmann on 26 November. He spoke about the **property Spring Forest and his works of the same name** and referred to stories told by his father-in-law Ross (who was in the audience) and read from several of his poems explaining more detail about them as he went. Geoff answered questions about how he became published and how a variety of coincidences led to various opportunities - from a poem about Dolphins to a festival in Canada to being included in an anthology, to poems such as Parenthood used for an ABC program. School students at the event also asked detailed questions about his narrative style of poetry. Lehmann has **won the Grace Leven Prize** three times, most recently for *Collected Poems* (1997). Mike Ladd from Radio Australia's Poetica program writes on the program's website: "*Spring Forest* was written over a period of twenty years (it first appeared as *Ross's Poems* in 1978). It is really a single long poem brilliantly evoking a disappearing world. Laconic and conversational (because it is based on real conversations) it is also poignant and philosophical."

Events

***The Jane Austen Book Club* film premiere**

Central West Libraries and Metro Cinemas are proud to announce the **premiere screening** of the movie *The Jane Austen Book Club* (yes the one that inspired the Central West Libraries very own Jane Austen Book Club) on **Wednesday 30 January at 6.30pm for screening at 7pm at the Metro Cinemas in William Street, Orange**. Tickets are available from Orange City Library \$15.50 each and this includes a glass of wine, nibbles and the chance to win lucky door prizes. The film reveals the lives of an ensemble of present-day friends through the witty prism of their literary heroine, also described as "Desperate Housewives meets Jane Austen".

Members of the Central West Libraries Jane Austen Book Club enjoyed afternoon tea at the Library on 16 December to celebrate this English author's birthday. Meetings are held at Blayney, Orange and Cowra Libraries each month to discuss Jane Austen's works and new members are most welcome. Contact 6393 8125 for details.

Pageturners book discussion group

Stay tuned for changes to Orange City Library's book discussion group Pageturners. The group will be meeting monthly this year, **first meeting in February**, at an earlier time. Feedback from interested people has revealed an earlier meeting would be more suitable. If you have suggestions for books you would like to discuss please contact Orange City Library.

Launch of Drop-in Days at Central West Writers' Centre

Starting in February we are introducing **drop-in days on the last Friday of the month** at the Central West Writers Centre, located upstairs at Orange City Library. Come along and meet other writers, talk about writing, or share your writing in a relaxed atmosphere. The first meeting will be on **Friday, 29 February from 2.30pm to 4.30pm**, then Friday 28 March and April's meeting will be on Thursday 24 April (due to ANZAC Day falling on the last Friday of the month).

Workshops

Bathurst workshop with author and creative writing teacher Jean Bedford

One of the most experienced creative writing teachers in the country Jean Bedford, author of *Sister Kate*, is coming to Bathurst on **Saturday, 16 February, 2008** for a workshop from 10am to 4pm courtesy of Bathurst Writers Group sponsored by Bathurst Library with assistance from the Central West Writers' Centre. The workshop is titled "Mining Your Life: Using personal material in your Writing". It is about using your own experiences as the basis of your writing. For more information contact Martha Gelin on 6331 8382. Places are limited to 20 (it is almost fully booked) with a waiting list in case of any cancellations. Cost is \$10 and this includes refreshments and lunch. Please bring along some of your own writing. To book your place at the workshop contact Bathurst Library on 6332 2130. The Bathurst Writers meets on the first Saturday of each month at Bathurst Library at 2pm.

Workshop in Oberon with writer poet lecturer Kathryn Andersen

Oberon Writers Workshop presents writer, poet and lecturer Kathryn Andersen. Ms Andersen will conduct a Writing Seminar at the Oberon Community Centre **on Sunday 16 March from 9.30am**. The cost is \$50 per person and includes a light lunch. Please confirm your place before February 14. To find out more information please contact Anne Russell on 6337 0363.

Author visit - Cecile Yazbeck – *Olive Trees around my table in Orange*

Author **Cecile Yazbek** will be at **Orange City Library on Friday, 8 February at 6.15pm for 6.30pm to talk about her memoir *Olive trees around my table - Growing up Lebanese in the old South Africa*.**

Cecile was born into a Lebanese family in South Africa and studied social sciences at Rhodes University in Grahamstown. She migrated to Sydney in 1986 with her young family and after working as a Volunteer Co-ordinator and TAFE teacher while running a vegetarian cooking school, she has retired to write, read, garden, and cook. Her book is the story of Cecile, a Lebanese child in an extended family, the size of a small town, in the fifties and sixties in South Africa. A child born into a household of Arabic, English, Xhosa and Afrikaans, into a world including a feasting and feuding family, African household staff, and German nuns, all with a great capacity for love and warmth. All this leads to her knowing no distinctions in her place in the world; despite living in the middle of a country that initially despised her kinsfolk, the Lebanese, she believes she belongs anywhere and everywhere. Read this extract from the book: "At five o'clock, the hospital rang, 'You'll have to get yourself another gardener, sir, this one's kicked the bucket.'... I could not see why I should remain at such a table in such a house and in such a country...The law had power of life and death over all of us and that day it had committed a murder, in our name, in my garden. Apartheid had killed Victor, our black gardener, by preventing a white ambulance officer from attending to him." To book your place contact Orange City Library on 6393 8132. All welcome.

Competitions and Opportunities

Black Institute Writing Competition

The Black Dog institute seeks essays and poems from people who have (or did have) clinical depression or bipolar disorder in adolescence, and their carers. Entries to their 4th annual competition, to a maximum of 1500 words, must address the topic of "mood disorders in adolescence – grassroots solutions". Essay 1st prize is \$2000, 2nd prize \$1000, 3rd prize \$500. Poem prize is \$500. For guidelines and entry forms go to blackdoginstitute.org.au or phone (02) 9382 4523. The closing date is 31 January 2008.

US Broadkill Review Journal

Australian writing is required by US Broadkill Review, a journal of literature, especially if it touches on **drought, farming, isolation, technology woes or other rural experiences**. The journal is looking for poetry, short stories, creative writing and short articles from experienced and beginner writers that have not been published before. Submit your poetry or short fiction (no non-fiction as yet) as an email attachment in MS Word or within the body of the email. No elaborate fonts or illustrations. Submissions of unpublished poems, articles or short stories as above can be sent to The Editor: mkhandesign@optusnet.com.au. Allow up to three months for response, as the editors hope to fill each issue with the highest quality material.

Lawson Verse and Short Story Competition

Enter the Grenfell Henry Lawson Festival of the Arts Verse and Short Story Competitions with total prize money of \$3875 plus statuettes up for grabs. There are 7 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 or by writing to the Verse and Short Story Coordinator, Gaynor England, at PO Box 77 Grenfell NSW 2810. For further information contact Gaynor England on (02) 6343 5132 or email: gaynor@gobushmail.com.au. The competition closes on 28 March 2008 with late entries closing on 4 April 2008. Late entries will incur a late fee. The Festival is held on the Long Weekend 6 – 8 June 2008.

Alan Marshall Short Story Award 2008

Nillumbik Shire Council invites writers from across Australia to enter this **annual short story competition** held in memory of great writer and former resident of Eltham, VIC, Alan Marshall. Prizes are \$2000 Open Section First Prize, \$1000 Open Section Second Prize for stories up to 2500 words. \$1000 for the Local Writers' section up to 2500 words and \$400 for Young Writers' Section (15 – 19 years) for stories up to 1000 words. For competition details and entry form go to www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au. For more details email artsinfo@nillumbik.vic.gov.au or phone (03) 9433 3359. Entries close on Friday 22 February at 4pm.

Write Your Cancer Story with the Theme "Seize the Day"

Budding artists and professional creatives alike can enter The Cancer Council Victoria Arts Awards 2008 with the theme "Seize the Day". The Arts Awards gives all Australians **touched by cancer an opportunity to share their experiences creatively through art, writing and film**. Entries close on Friday 4 April. The Arts Awards also offers entrants the chance to win cash prizes and to share their works with the public. Following the judging, selected works will be displayed in The Cancer Council Victoria Arts Awards Exhibition, which will begin in Melbourne and then tour regional Victoria. For an entry form and more information call 1300 65 65 85, visit www.cancervic.org.au/artsawards or email arts.awards@cancervic.org.au

SMH – Heckler column

There is also a regular column in *The Sydney Morning Herald* where you can submit 450 words on something they describe as "bitey" but has most likely quite annoyed you. The topic can be really anything. So why not give it a go the next time you experience a particular frustration or make an observation on something absurd in life. Usually topics are handled with humour or a least a little tongue-in-cheek. I've read some witty accounts of what sports should or should not be included in the Olympics – it was about narrowing it down to basic running, catching and throwing options. Then there was the classic about ordering spare parts to how some companies handle complaints. I could go on.... incredible offers, futile logical arguments, dating etiquette and more. Readers are invited to **send 450 words on what makes their "blood boil"** to heckler@smh.com.au. Include your daytime phone details.

Letters to the Editor

Local and metropolitan newspapers are always looking for commentary on current events. So if you have burning issue to write about, check with your local paper about how to send a letter to the editor and also find out the word length they require. You never know – **your opinion** may end up in print – remember though it can't be slanderous.

Your inspiration

Winner of the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Indigenous Writing, the David Unaipon Award and named one of the Sydney Morning Herald's best young novelists in 2007, Tara June Winch said in an interview published in Victorian Writer September 2007 that:

"I write for my community and then myself, and I enjoy that for what it is, not for what someone might judge it as."

Your words

It is time to have your say – let us know what aspect of writing you are interested in, and what you would like to be informed about and don't forget 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

Remember: Progress is like a wheelbarrow. If you don't keep pushing it, it stops.



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 bilingual programs, live readings, studio-based poetry features and on-location recordings. On January 26: *Enjoy A Stroll Through the Gardens* – poet and botanist Edwin Wilson guides you through the Sydney Botanic Gardens. For more information go to the website: www.abc.net.au/rn/poetica/

