



Words Out West

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Central West Writers' Centre Newsletter

Winter 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 the Radio Plays Other Side of the Line Project, 2008 Banjo Paterson Writing Awards, Charlotte Calder book launch and drop in days for writers.

It was fantastic to have double the number of entries this year in the Banjo Paterson Writing Awards. This year a total of 214 entries were received with 46 in Bush Poetry, 72 in Open Poetry, 76 short stories or prose and 20 in the Children's Section. You can read all the winning entries on the Central West Libraries website.

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

Winter ... what can I say, I'm wrapped in seven layers – yes – seven I am a “frog” after all – there's the socks, the trousers, the shirt, jumper, jacket, rug yes I forgot one – there are two pairs of socks and the scarf and fingerless gloves (for typing) don't count. It means I can barely move and am doing the best Michelin Man impersonation but hey? I'm warm. There is something about winter – maybe the really good excuse to stay home and curl up with a good book or keep warm with a glass of red wine or more time to spend indoors working on a writing project or watching DVDs, or reading, or thinking about writing.

But while the weather is cooling down, things are hotting up in the writing world: we have an author talk by Mike Keenan about his latest book *The Shadows of Horses*, a beginners writing workshop, poetry workshop, visiting writers to meet and competitions to try and exciting upcoming events to mark in your diary. Read on...

News

2008 Banjo Writing Award Winners

Congratulations to all the winners of the 2008 Banjo Paterson Writing Awards. Entries in the Open Poetry had topics ranging from drought, to love and loss, nature, camping, flies, trees, growing up, homelessness, Olympics, magpies and the circus. The Children's Writing entries also showed variety with holidays, butterflies, seasons, sharks and adventures featuring prominently. The Adult Prose or Short Story Section featured writing of a high standard making the judging extremely difficult with many works showing great potential. The Awards recognise Orange's literary history and further encourage writers to develop their craft. Our judge's report stated the winning story "Exposure" was beautifully written, building up the atmosphere of the piece with a skilled control of language and metaphor. The descriptions of the natural world are original, and enchanting, emotionally charging the landscape with a sense of dread and foreboding. The winners are:

Prose: Margaret Betts from VIC for "Exposure"

Greg McFarland of Orange for "The Tractor"

Neridah McMullin from VIC for "Bart and the Underground Water Supply"

Open Poetry: Jo Mills from WA for "Walyunga"

Jillian Pattinson from VIC for "E H Holden"

Pamela Sherpa from Jindabyne for "Drought"

Bush Poetry: Ron Stevens of Dubbo for "Distant Dialogue"

Children's Writing Awards:

Thomas Whitehead, of Orange, poem "My Favourite Holiday"

Eleanor Delaney, of Orange, poem "Winter" (\$100)

Holly Fredericksen, of Orange, short story "Bushed" (\$100)

The Yvonne Zola Encouragement Award (\$100) goes to Sarah Stackman of Lewis Ponds, for her poetry. All the winning entries can be found on the Central West Libraries website: www.cwl.nsw.gov.au and click on Reading and Writing.

Generation of Change – History of Parkes

A new history book about Parkes has been published titled Generation of Change which traces the way in which the Parkes community has evolved over the past 25 years. The book was launched in May by Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, Governor of New South Wales, as part of Parkes 125 Local Government Centenary Celebrations. The book is available for \$40 soft cover for \$50 in hardcover. Contact Parkes Shire Council on 6861 2333 for more details.

Inspiration Thrives in Oberon

The Oberon Writers' Workshop celebrated its first anniversary at the May meeting. From three founding members the group now has up to eight regular participants traveling from Hampton, Bathurst, Isabella as well as from Oberon. In March the group hosted a successful seminar "The Writer's Bag of Tricks" in which the presenter covered many aspects of the art including plot and character development, maintaining story momentum and some hints on copyright and getting your work published. Apart from individual goals, the group is planning to collect and publish an anthology of works by writers from the Oberon district. The Oberon Writers' Workshop meets on the third Monday of each month in the Oberon Community Centre. Please phone Anne Russell on 6337 0363 for further details.

Bush Poetry returned to Gladstone Hotel

An appreciative crowd enjoyed Bush Poetry at the Gladstone Hotel in Orange on Friday 20 June. Kevin Pye, of Mudgee, won with his performance *His Mother's Touch*. Second was Greg Beileiter, of Orange, with *Mary's Gone a Mothering* and Anthony Condon, visiting the district from VIC, with *Tippee Toes*. A total of seven poets performed with Canowindra poet Frank Daniel leading the way with his many humorous tales. He also judged the performances, congratulating them on their originality. A crowd favourite was performed by Sam Fitzgerald who stepped out from behind the bar to do *Poetry in the Pub*.

Poetry in the Pub

Schooner of new and a bags of nuts says
The farmer to the barman,
When's it gonna rain he cries,
Me sheep are bloody starvin'!
Lucerne, silage and even soybeans
I've given them all a go,
The poor old buggers won't eat again,
If I can't get a thing to grow.
It just won't rain and things are grim,
And the mine has took me water,
If things stay bad for another month
I'll have to sell my daughter!
I'll have a bet on the trots
To try and change my luck
'Coz without no rain or feed supply
I surely will be stuffed.
And with a final mouthful from his schooner
The farmer let out a cheer
With all the dust and bloody mess,
At least we've still got beer!

Events Coming Up

Writing Workshops in July at Orange with Deb Westbury

The inspirational poet and educator Deb Westbury hosts two writing workshops at Orange in July. Deb has been a familiar and respected voice in Australia poetry since her work was first published in 1975. Her poetry has since been widely anthologised, including the Oxford Anthology of Women's Verse. Deb was born and has spent most of her life on the NSW coast south of Sydney, developing a dual career as a writer and teacher. She teaches courses in creative writing at university and high schools and now resides in the Blue Mountains. The **first workshop is for beginner writers:**

Writing from the Senses

Saturday 5 July, 10am to 1pm in the West Room, Orange Regional Gallery, Byng Street, Orange. The **second workshop is for those interested in poetry:**

Making Metaphor

Sunday 6 July, 10am – 1pm same location.

The cost for each workshop is \$35.

To book your place, please call the Central West Writers' Centre on 6393 8125.

Mike Keenan Author Talk and Book Launch *The Shadows of Horses*

Mike Keenan returns to Orange to launch his latest book *The Shadows of Horses* at Orange City Library, Byng Street, Orange on **Friday 4 July at 6.30pm**. Mike's first book, *The Horses Too Are Gone*, only told a small part of his personal story. Now, though his memoir of growing up on the family property, Myall Plains, and later running it, he explores many aspects of the Australia bush and its way of life that are so close to his heart, along the way telling some terrific bush yarns as well as hair-raising anecdotes from his years on the bush racing circuit. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Dates for your Diary

Look out for the upcoming **2008 Books Alive** program for a local event in Orange. Also add this event to your diary: **Poets on Wheels** are rolling into Orange on Tuesday 21 October at Orange City Library at 6.30pm. Come along to hear readings by **David Brooks, Mark O'Flynn and Marvis Sofield**. The public are also invited to read their own works for a prize on the night. The visiting poets will also host a workshop on Wednesday 22 October from 12 – 3pm for \$10 per person. The workshop is for adults and please bring along pen, paper and ten copies of one of your poems. Please call the Writers' Centre on 6393 8125 to join in the workshop.

The **Pageturners book discussion group** next meeting, second Wednesday of the month, 9 July from 5.30pm to discuss *The Hamilton Case*, *Rose Grower* and *The Lost Dog* by Michelle De Kretser. Michelle de Kretser was born in Sri Lanka and emigrated to Australia when she was 14. *The Lost Dog* won the Christina Stead Prize for Fiction and **Book of the Year in the NSW Premier's Literary Awards for 2008**. It is about Tom Loxley, holed up in a remote bush shack trying to finish his book on Henry James when his beloved dog goes missing. What follows is a triumph of storytelling, as *The Lost Dog* loops back and forth in time to take the reader on a spellbinding journey into worlds far removed from the present tragedy.

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 27 June, Friday 25 July and Friday 29 August. See you there.

Byron Bay Writers Festival

The Byron Bay Writers Festival has released its full program for 2008. The Festival takes place 25–27 July, with workshops from 21 July. Enjoy the luscious menu of lunches, launches, theatre and feature events, plus five busy marquees. Information and tickets at www.byronbaywritersfestival.com but be quick: tickets are selling fast!

Competitions and Opportunities

The Bridport Prize 2008

Anyone can enter the richest open writing prize with 1st prize = £ 5000 in both categories short stories and poems. It is a maximum of 5000 words for short stories and maximum 42 lines for poems. You can enter online. Closing date 30 June 2008. Each entry costs £6. Go to the Bridport prize website for entry details and rules <http://www.bridportprize.org.uk/index.htm>

Poets Union Poetry Prize

Here is a competition for poets. First prize \$3000 for poem on any theme, max 100 lines. Entry fee \$15 (\$10 Poets Union members) and judged by Elizabeth Webby and Ron Pretty. Winner announced at *State of Play: Australian Poetry Now*, the 6th Australian Poetry Festival, 5-7 September. Entries due in 25 July 2008. For entry forms go to the Poets Union website

<http://www.poetsunion.com/>

Newcastle Poetry Prize

The Newcastle Poetry Prize is now open for 2008 and entries will be accepted until Friday July 4. This year's open section judges are Jan Owen, Philip Salom and Richard Tipping. The new media judge is Jayne Fenton Keane. Prize money is \$13,500 in total, with an Open Section of \$11,000 and a New Media Section worth \$2000. The highest placed local entry from the Open Section will receive an award of \$500. Entry forms and conditions of entry are available for download at www.hwcentre.com or by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to:

Hunter Writers Centre
PO Box 71
HAMILTON NSW 2303

Cost is \$20 per entry for an unpublished poem of up to 200 lines or an unpublished suite of related poems totalling 200 lines. Entry must be accompanied by a completed entry form and payment (cheque or money order). A judges shortlist will be published in an anthology which is launched on the same day that the winners are announced at the end of November, 2008. For further information Ph: (02) 4926 3485.

ABR Reviewing Competition

Take part in the Australian Book Review Reviewing Competition 2008 with 1st prize \$1000 and publication of the review in ABR and at least two future commissions; 2nd prize: \$250, 3rd prize: a set of Black Inc. books, valued at \$200. All reviewers are eligible – including past and present ABR contributors. All categories of books are eligible, including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, children's and young adult books. Reviews should be 800 words. The book being reviewed must have been published since January 2006. Entries close on 31 July 2008. Download an entry form from the ABR site under competitions: www.australianbookreview.com.au

Write an SMS Short Story

Energised is calling creative writers to submit a story of 160 characters or less (including spaces). Your short story could be commissioned as part of the Write Around the Murray Festival to be sent to thousands of mobile phone numbers. A total of three commissions will be awarded. The selected energised stories will be "published" immediately after the announcement of the commissioned writers at the opening of the Festival on 27 July 2008. The selected stories will be sent followed by another text message that acknowledges the author and the Write Around the Murray festival. A fee of \$500 will be awarded to the author of each work that is selected for publishing. A total of three works will be published. The payment of this fee licenses Albury City to publish the story in the SMS format. Copyright will remain with the author. Closing date for entries is 5pm Monday 30 June. For more information call Narelle Vogel, Cultural Development Coordinator, on 02 6023 8753 or visit Write Around the Murray website at <http://www.writearoundthemurray.org.au/>

Play Now Act Now

If you live in NSW and are aged between 16 and 25 and know how to party smart then read on..... Do you want the chance to share in \$12,000 in cash and prizes? Then start filming, writing or designing NOW. Play Now Act Now is a film, graphic design and writing competition for young people aged 16 to 25 in NSW. Play Now Act Now recognises that young people do and will drink alcohol and use other drugs, and sets out to minimize the harms associated with this. This year's theme is party smART. Finalists from each category will be showcased at an Award Presentation and on the 2008 DVD & Education Resources. For entry forms and more information visit the website www.playnowactnow.net.au or contact Katrina Douglas on (02) 9356 1818 or email: partysmart@metroscreen.org.au. Play Now Act Now is a collaboration between NSW Health & Metro Screen, proudly support by Artshub, Screenhub and the NSW Writers' Centre. Entries close on 25 July, 2008.

Getting Hitched website – short fiction

Original short stories required. Stories must be about relationships and fit the theme of the month but can be in any genre. Submissions close on the second Friday of each month. Length can be anything from 200 to 2000 words. Payment is a flat fee of AU\$45 (+GST for registered authors). See <http://www.gettinghitched.com.au/fiction/> for more information. Themes for 2008: July – Suspicion, August – Food, September – A New Start, October – Birthdays, November – Sunburn, December – Christmas.

BCL website – local non-fiction

Tell the world about your neighbourhood. Provide a glimpse into everyday life, an insider's view of your local area, its attractions, history, climate, peculiarities. If they publish your 150 to 200 word description on our website they'll send you a BCL mug. Imagine you're describing your area to a friend who is considering moving there. The local attractions are important, but so are the aspects of everyday life. Articles can be serious or funny but should not sound like a real estate agent or tour guide. Go to <http://www.bcl.com.au/local-area.htm> for more guidelines and a list of towns.

New rural women's writing competition The Elyne Mitchell Award

Elyne Mitchell is the inspiration of a new national rural women's writing award. *The Silver Brumby* author, who lived most of her life at Towong Hill Station in Victoria's remote Upper Murray, was a prolific writer. She published more than 35 titles and, whether fiction or non fiction, all reflected her love, knowledge and affinity with the high country. This year celebrates 50 years since *The Silver Brumby* was first published. Elyne died at Corryong in 2002, aged 88, however Friends of Corryong Library Inc. are determined her legacy will live on in the form of this encouragement for women authors with a rural story to tell. There is an open category for women over 25 years of age and an emerging writers' category for women 15 to 25 years. Each section offers \$1000 prize money and entries can be fiction or non fiction but in the spirit of Elyne Mitchell's work they must have specific reference to an Australian rural experience. Entries close at 7pm on 1 August and the winners will be announced in October. Entries must not exceed 2500 words and a shortlist of 10 entries in each category will be contacted and invited to attend the award announcement at the Elyne Mitchell Public Library in Corryong on World Rural Women's Day on October 15. For more information on the Elyne Mitchell Rural Women's Writing Award visit www.elynemitchell.com

ACT Writers Centre Accommodation

Do you need to do some research in the Australian War Memorial, the National Archives or the National Library? The ACT Writers Centre can offer you cheap accommodation upstairs in the Artsit at Gorman House Arts Centre, Braddon, plus the use of their own welcoming library as a study, downstairs within the Writers Centre. The Arts Centre is situated only 1 minute from the War Memorial, 1 minute from the city centre and 2 minutes to the national institutions. The ArtSit has a foldout sofa-bed and its own kitchen, next to a separate bathroom and toilet. Bookings can be made for any length of time, subject to availability. Writers with a body of work and teaching background can arrange to offer a workshop in lieu of accommodation payment. The location can be seen at <http://www.gormanhouse.com.au/index.php> Enquiries about self-funded writers' residencies can be made to director@actwriters.org.au

Your inspiration

“He who has a **garden and a library** wants for nothing” by Marcus Tullius Cicero Roman orator, statesman, philosopher & writer.

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 is something a little different for end note this time around. Many people ask why should I enter a writing competition? And here are just a few thoughts to consider the next time you are just “thinking about” entering a competition.

- It is worth entering a writing competition to extend yourself as a writer.
- Look for ones that offer free or low cost entry and publish the results.
- Competitions provide inspiration for topics.
- Entering a competition will provide you experience to meet the competition requirements. Most competitions ask you to write to a particular length and topic. You also have to meet the entry deadline, edit your own work and follow the entry guidelines. This is good practice for meeting editor requests.
- If you are a more experienced writer maybe you wish to try a new genres or something different like poetry or SMS or travel writing.
- If you win you can add the details to your writing resume as well as news article or website printouts.
- If you win, there is some short lived fame and glory and possibly cash. If you don't win, put it down to experience and know that every time you write, you are improving your skills.



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.

June 21st: Australia Haiku, Part 1 – a detailed exploration of this burgeoning poetic form with some of Australia’s leading practitioners.

June 28th: Australian Haiku, Part 2 – the haiku and the senryu in contemporary Australian poetry.

July 5th: The Journey – selected works by Irish poet, Eavan Boland.

July 12th: Sacre Coeur – John Kinsella recorded on location at York, Western Australia.

July 19th: Allegiance to the Kind – a meeting with American poet, Sam Hamill.

July 26th: Steel and Stone – an anthology of poems celebrating the bridges of the world.

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

