



In Print



The Official Newsletter of The Society of Women Writers, WA Inc

August 2009

President's Patter

Dear Friends,

August is now with us. The horse has had another birthday and we have another AGM. I hope you have taken the opportunity to think about joining the committee and will put your hands up for a position. Also at the last General meeting Tricia handed out a questionnaire so please take the time to fill it in. This will be helpful to the incoming committee.

Rondo Bernardo brought along some forms for Scribblers Literary Competition 2009 and many of us were lucky enough to grab one. I have already written some poetry and am now working on an entry for the Short Story and this time will send them off. Sometimes it is hard to enter competitions because we can be our own critic and much harsher than anyone else. Putting our work out there, to be judged is a necessary part of writing. Many of us write and hide our notebooks or begin a story and leave it hanging. Writing is fun; it tries our patience and is a solitary career or hobby. It is time to join a class, enter a competition or read your work at the AGM. By sharing our work we write and the more we write the more we improve.

Yours in Writing,

Linda Blackshaw.

Next General Meeting 18th August 2009

This meeting is the A.G.M. – no guest speaker. Nominations for Office Bearers and for positions on our Committee please to Linda Blackshaw 9275 9794, or Mavis Evans on 9379 8419

Launch of Mary MacGregor's *From the Pen of Mary Mac*

Members' Writing this month:

**Mary Hicks, Jan Napier, Jacqui Stewart and Sheila Williamson
and Ode to Night by Rondo Barnardo – our last month's guest speaker**

Also included is *Summer Renga* by members who attended last year's retreat

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MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING – JULY 21ST 2009

Minutes of General Meeting held on **July 21, 2009** at Citiplace Community Centre, Perth Railway Station.

The meeting commenced at 12.15pm.

PRESENT: 25 Members Visitor: Teresa Sutton

APOLOGIES: Claire Grose, June Cornock, Maude Michell, Kathy Browne, Frances Richardson, Jenny Browne, Angela Smith

PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Previous minutes were read and accepted.

Moved: Janet Woods **Seconded:** Geraldine Day

BUSINESS ARISING:

Ideas Fest- tabled at Committee Meeting. Tricia Sagers brought an update and handed out a questionnaire for all members.

Writers' Workshops - President Linda Blackshaw reported on the positive feedback from participants. We have received two "thank you" emails. Ros Armstrong attended along with her daughter, who has now joined the Society, and Lyn White. Both of these members were very happy with the workshops.

A reminder that membership fees are due for renewal. If not a current member, you cannot enter the Bronze Quill.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Apologies to those members who receive their Newsletter via Australia Post. This was three days late this month because of printing delays that were unfortunate and beyond our control.

Mavis Evans made enquiries for the cost of locating our Committee meetings to the Conference Room no 2, at Citiplace and the Committee made the decision to commence these from the August meeting.

Mavis Evans requested that we incorporate the cost of tea and coffee in the entry fee for General Meetings. So decided.

Discussion regarding the Honorarium for the Co-coordinator of the Writers' Circles and this is to be increased to \$150.00 and the Writers' Circles Editors increased to \$100.00

Treasurer Stella Hewson reminded members that we should do more to support Writers. Instead of always concerning ourselves with saving money; we do have funds available.

Pat Fletcher spoke on the Retreat at Fairbridge. Until this morning, we only have 5 members wishing to participate. Pat proposed that due to lack of numbers we cancel the retreat. **Seconded Anne Summers.** All were in favour.

Linda Blackshaw proposed that as this was now off the agenda, we run a weekend retreat at Saint Catherine's. The accommodation available was 15 individual rooms. **Seconded Judith Hyams.** Linda would approach Vivienne Glance to see if she would be available, even for one day.

Jennifer Langley-Kemp moved we change to Workshops one year and the following year we hold a Retreat. This is to be left for the incoming Committee to decide.

Anne Summers has agreed to be our Returning Officer for the Annual General Meeting.

MAIL: Received from Ena Taylor and a reply sent to Ena.

RAFFLE: First prize won by Lorraine SpringSecond Prize won by Leila Daniels

Meeting closed at 1.00pm and after a short tea break, Lorraine Spring introduced our Guest Speaker, Rondo Bernardo

RONDO BERNARDO - OUR JULY GUEST SPEAKER

Our July guest speaker was Dr Rondo Bernardo, Cardiologist, Specialist Physician and Fellow of the Australian Medical Acupuncture College.

After consideration Rondo decided to present his talk on Alternative Medicine in Australia, in particular acupuncture, believing that amongst the audience most people would have tried some form of alternative medicine.

Rondo explained that alternative medicine is not part of conventional medicine, nor is it, in any of its many forms, included in a medical undergraduate course. He indicated that the user market increases by 30% each year, to bring Australia's user-ship to 16% of the population, a long way short of the German population where 95% of the people have used alternative medicine. He gave many reasons for its use, from 'lack of success from conventional treatment; intolerance to certain medications; natural therapies, not synthetic; holistic approach to health; lifestyle changes'

He explained the history of acupuncture, that the Chinese have used it for 3000 years, and also explained that the traditional Chinese Dr will look at all physical aspects of a person from symptoms, to appearance, to nutrition, pulse and tongue. If a practitioner of acupuncture the Dr will then suggest several practical solutions, in conjunction with acupuncture.

Rondo explained the importance of diet in conjunction with acupuncture, and stressed that drinking herbal tea, including green tea, can boost the body's antioxidants, and thus the immune system.

He pointed out that several of our conventional medicines come from natural materials.

Rondo concluded by stating that alternative medicines together with conventional medicines can only improve people's wellbeing.

While Rondo is President of Scribblers Writing Group, he did not specifically speak on the skill of writing, he did however, present his winning poem 'Ode to the Night' in a unique way, by having it presented on a screen with appropriate night sky backgrounds, Lorraine Spring reading it, and Rondo himself, accompanying it on his violin.

Rondo has also won prizes for article writing. As this year our Bronze Quill is article writing, we were fortunate in being shown in his talk the research needed to write a winning article.

Lorraine Spring



Our July guest speaker Rondo Barnardo with SWW Committee Member, Lorraine Spring.

The Bronze Quill

Are you writing for the BQ?

Remember – this year it is for an article.

For how to write an article:
See June Newsletter or email daisyblue@westline.net.au
for a copy

Entry forms and rules: See our web page:
www.swwofwa.com

“FROM THE PEN OF MARY MAC” IS THE TITLE OF A DELIGHTFUL SELECTION OF FACT & FICTION, PROSE & POETRY WHICH WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE AUGUST MEETING.

ANNE SUMMERS WILL LAUNCH MARY MACGREGOR'S COLLECTION AND READ SOME OF MARY'S FAVOURITE PIECES.

THE BOOK WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE MEETING

Ideas Fest Survey

At our last general meeting, Committee Member Tricia Sagers handed out an Ideas Fest survey which she asked members to complete and return. We would urge you – if you have not already done so – to complete and return this survey because it will give information to your Committee of where you would like to see SWW WA direct its attention in the future.

If you were not at the last General Meeting, would you kindly look at the attachment to this newsletter and return it a.s.a.p. either by email or post. If you could do this prior to the AGM it would greatly benefit our new Committee.

What do you want from SWW?

Since I have been involved with the Newsletter and have been able to attend some General Meetings I have become more aware of the way our society operates. Yes, I have always read newsletters in the past and yes – quietly from afar - I have applauded our successes, bought our anthologies, purchased members' C.Ds and books. The competition section, and I think this applies to many of our members, has kept me writing and submitting. I have even managed to attend some retreats having travelled, I remember, from Tom Price for one. I have also tried to attend as many Bronze Quills as I could.

But there are some things which concern me, particularly when I ask myself, what do I want from The SWW WA Inc? I think we really must stop continuing with some of the practices in which we now engage.


For those who attend General Meetings the first thing one faces is to hand over money. We should not have to pay to attend General Meetings. We do not need to raise funds at present. I see we can now enjoy a “free” cup of tea. Our raffle should be the only fund-raising at General Meetings. I would also like to see an Agenda which is published and to which the meeting adheres. I would also love to hear voices from the floor!

I also think that to have an Achievements Book placed at Meetings to be completed by members and then passed to our Secretary who then has to convey this to Anne Dyson or myself is extremely inefficient. I did not even know this book existed until a few months ago. Surely if members want their achievements acknowledged they can email Anne or telephone her. These details have been in the newsletter for months.

What I did want from SWW was the recently cancelled retreat. Why? My reason was that Pat Fletcher was facilitating this and it would have given those attending time to write away from the distractions of everyday life. This retreat was not aimed at sessions which I did not need or more “writing stimulation” exercises. I just wanted to retreat and write. Am I alone in this? Does our Society only exist for new and emerging writers? Yes, I know some like creative writing lessons, but that is not my idea of a retreat. And now I read that in the same meeting when Fairbridge was cancelled – a weekend retreat has been proposed and seconded. Why? Did we ask how many would attend? Should we not consider if SWW should run retreats before putting energy into organizing yet another one? If a retreat is to be organized, why not one in say Northampton at the old convent? In the spring? Cheap and cheerful with places to walk, explore and retire.

What I would also like to see SWW doing is to consider our country members more – there are many of them whose only contact is perhaps our newsletter. They get very little else for their membership. For a society which is a Western Australia society, we are doing very little for anyone who is more than 100 kms from Perth. There are approximately 50 of our members who are in the country or at least a couple of hours from Citiplace.

Just a few thoughts of what I would like from SWW WA. I would also like to see it flourish, continue and admit (with a smile) that we are now in the 21st century.

Frances Richardson – (Editor on a rainy farm in Wannamal) ... and let's have a recruitment drive – encourage young women writers, and ... 

Hahndorf

Wrapped in tranquility
old woman dreaming
shawl clutched round bony shoulders
Hahndorf basks in Sunday sun
beneath her gleaming purple hills
orchards, cottages and vineyards
where wine tasting tempts tourists.

in Hahndorf spirit of Hans Heyson moves
under her ancient elms and chestnut trees
in folk museums and galleries
while bakeries with apfelstrudel
and black forest cakes
awaken memories of German immigrants
fleeing to this sheltered place
finding time
to make preserves
build model trains
construct their intricate clockwork toys
and say their prayers in peace.

Mary Hicks

On Page 7 and 8 you will find a Renga
which was written by members who
attended last year's retreat. I do not
have space to detail what *exactly* rengas
entail, but this **Summer Kasen Renga**
has exquisite images.

My thanks to Helen Iles for all her work
in running this at the retreat and for
collating it for the newsletter.

Any volunteers to read this at our next
meeting?

SUMMER VISITOR

*The little green frog that is my friend
has returned.
His coming marks the days
when the cold tap is never cold.*

*At first I thought him a piece of jade
dropped
from a bracelet.
Elegantly moulded, he looked at me
with inquiring eyes,
gravely alert
as if by my stillness he sensed
his welcome.*

*Perhaps he recalled a time
when the clear water of his gaze
was clouded,
as a technicolour shape flushed
him away in fright.*

*I peered at him
as he sat in his pool,
the faint pulse beneath his chin,
signalling
I'd passed some kind of test.*

*I shut the lid
left him to rest, leisurely inspect
his summer residence.*

*To name him
would be to attempt ownership*

Simply his presence honours our house.

Jacqui Stewart

**Coming Home – Jan Napier**

A year to wait. A year before each homecoming. A year before she could see, touch and smell the world she'd made her own. A year to wait before the laughter, the hugs, the kisses, the bowls of soup, the friendly competition for her attention. The delightful squabbling over whose caravan would welcome her first. The warmth and tea, the yellow light, and all the while, the constant door slam as more and more people crowded in to say hello and good to see you, as the word went round.

And the stories. Oh, the stories. An entire year's worth. One leading into another as this one and that debated details, joshed and teased, and assured each other of their failing memories. And all for her. She felt like a queen surrounded by her courtiers.

Beyond the door, music blared, barkers insisted, and the scream of thrill sick kids on mechanical steeds of their choosing were spun, swivelled, rocketed and thrust to the apex of their anticipation. The machines gulped cash, and she could hear the occasional shout as a few coins cascaded into a lucky winner's hands.

My trip to "Madhuban" India

I am flying to the Brahma Kumaris world Spiritual University, Rajasthan, North West India. On arrival at Delhi my first impressions are dirt, noise, more hi-rise than I expected, car horns beeping constantly for no apparent reason, pushbikes with 2 or 3 people aboard, shops full of gorgeous materials and jewellery and people swarming everywhere. A twenty four hour lifestyle where they live and trade on the streets, sleep wherever and whenever, beggars who appear from nowhere, some with horrendous deformities. They have been maimed at birth to become professional beggars. This is a real lesson in mental detachment as I have been told if I give to one a hundred more will appear! Crossing the road is hair raising: there doesn't appear to be any rules.

From Delhi to the university at Mt. Abu is an 18 hour train trip, an experience in itself! If you vacate your seat it will be taken. We chain our suitcases together, I fight my way over sleeping bodies to the toilets with a roll in my bag, the Indians squat and wash. On the way back an Indian man offers me some white powder, I shake my head and smile. The poverty gets worse as we travel to the country. There are paddocks to live in, paddocks for cremating the dead bodies and one is a toilet paddock. Lots of goats, pigs, cows and monkeys. I see women digging with shovels, men watching.

We travel up the steep, winding, narrow road; a holy man lives in a cave up here. I see eagles soaring. We arrive at "Madhuban" which means "forest of honey". There is an incredible vibration of peace, everyone smiles and welcomes us. I settle in, then go for a walk, watch the woman in the village beat their washing on the rocks at the river's edge. They also bathe here. Back at the Ashram I get used to using two buckets and a jug for washing and to the stand up toilets [good for the thigh muscles.]

The day begins with meditation at 4.30a.m. Later I head for the kitchen to help chop vegetables. There are over 1000 people here from many different countries; the food preparation goes amazingly well, everything is done with love. In one kitchen they make 'toli' a sweet confection the Indians love. I love the Indian tea "chi" made by adding herbs like ginger, cardamom, cinnamon and nutmeg to tea, sweeten with honey. Today they are making ice-cream for all us visitors. There are mischievous monkeys that steal anything and are so quick. One of the brothers works full time chasing them.

Today a woman from Mauritius died; we had a cremation ceremony for her. We walk in a long procession through the village to the cremation grounds, the villagers bow and make way for us. The body is lovingly wrapped in white, sprinkled with ghee and flowers, gently lifted on the pyre which has been built. Incense is lit, as the fire burns we meditate and send good wishes to the soul. A much nicer atmosphere than our funerals, more a farewell celebration.

I talk with Indian brothers and sisters who have been meditating for a number of years. Intoxicating and positive souls whose only interest is to serve humanity. They have hospitals and schools and are with the United Nations. Their religion is peace and they share their knowledge for free. They tell me this is my home and hope to see me again. India is a land of such contrast, poverty to riches just around the corner, yet there is an acceptance and spirituality we have lost. The women with so little materially, yet colourful and graceful in their exotic costumes and always a beautiful smile on their faces.

India is a land of festivals, today is Holi, a Hindu celebration symbolising God colouring us with virtues. We have been warned if we go to the village today to expect coloured paint thrown over us. We have also been warned about not walking after dark as bears and tigers prowl. We are up near the Himalayas; there is a gigantic rock where we go to meditate at sunset. You can see the eagles soar, feel the wind, hear birds, look way down the valley, a magic place.

A last walk through the village to stock up on oils and incense. In every street a tailor sits at his sewing machine. I am approached from all sides by vendors selling everything from jewellery to bongo drums. The streets abound with cows, horses, camels, pigeons, colourful people and beggars. I think to myself if I was a beggar and had to choose between stealing or dying, well there isn't much choice is there?

The bus ride down the narrow mountain road where I close my eyes round the hairpin bends. Driving here has to be seen • to be believed, yet miraculously there are few accidents. We stop halfway down at the Brahma Kumaris Lotus flower complex where the fruit and vegetables are grown. They also make soap, vim, and hand and body lotion and give us samples. On the overnight train to Delhi we chain our cases; I strap my money belt tight and manage to sleep quite well this time.

This has been a life changing experience, in one way I'm sad, it's like we're coming back into the dirt, yet the challenge is to keep this positivity and what I have learned and use it in interactions with others and situations.. I have gained much inner strength and realise that getting control of your thoughts to stay positive is what meditation is to me. It keeps one sane in this crazy world. It keeps the mind stable and young people would find it beneficial and the rewards are endless. Now *I* am looking forward to a nice, hot shower.

Sheila Williamson

Summer Kasen Renga**Retreat Challenge**

Contribution

wind eddies swirl red
as earth cracks beneath the feet
in a rainless land

An orange orb burns on high
As sunflower faces smile

A black crow wings by
Breaking the silence around
With a raucous sound

The cat watches from a log
Then sits among windblown leaves

The pale moon rises
Russet colours in layers
Cover the brown earth

Falling leaves tumble earthward
Leaving trees in nudity

Wise men look kindly
The earth in changing colours
Progressing the year

Our hearts sing with an old song
To bring joy to our young friends

Sensual passion
Like silk over heated skin
Lips dance together

What is this feeling we have
Tingling kisses, joy abounds

Joy abounds around
Lovers show their true colours
A closeness is felt

Apricot blushed roses dance
On warm early morning's breeze

Cool wind chills the air
Clouded moonlight casts shadows
On a sleeping land

From indigo sky rain falls
Making puddles to jump

Horse drawn caravans
Roasted hedgehogs wrapped in clay
Gypsies dance with joy

A carnival atmosphere
Merry-go-rounds, ferris wheels

Birds chirp happily
Flowers are in full bloom
Spring is here at last

Butterflies flitting past
Birds being fed in the nest

Chirping happily
In the branches of the trees
While their mothers fly

Dark clouds gather, birds hover
Then tumble, crazed, from the sky

Words forming ideas
Flights of imagination
Reborn every day

Once born images inspire
Spurring minds to recreate

Balmy breezes blow
Roses blooming everywhere
Scented perfumes hang

Zephyr-like the breeze rustles
Leaves dancing in deft reply

Branches sway and dip
Cranes unite forever two
Eternal partners

I adore your sweet red lips
Let the honey flow dear heart

After many years
Old hearts come together again
Loving knows no age

Tranquillity brings rewards
To loving partners in life

Fading of the orb
As darkness falls all around
Shadows grow much longer

In the dark shade blossom dies
The cold sun moves to the west

The damp smoke-filled leaves
Rise in September mornings
Our days grow longer

Continued ...

Now is celebration time
Folk come together with joy

Emerging from mist
Struggling to keep warm from cold
Leave the cave behind

Fragile nests warm unborn life
Vulnerable to birds of prey

Coloured tulips bud
A display admired by all
Nature's beauty glows

A dry land thirsts for water
No break in the dry season

**Written by the attendees at last year's retreat
at St. Catherine's**

SWW WA Website

Have you visited our web site lately?
www.swwofwa.com

You can keep up to date with what is happening, download newsletters if you have lost them, read members' writing and view photographs from the recent July workshops.

Why not put yourself and your writing on a page – it is well worth it - \$30 for a page and \$10 for an acknowledgement section.

Any help needed just email Helen on:
linpress@tpg.com.au



DREAM TALK

*Last night I talked with Henry Lawson.
Oh, my mind told me it couldn't be Himself. ---
his suit was fashionable, shoes shone
beard and hair trimmed, hands clean ---
My spirit warmed to him, yet even in a dream
I knew the years awry. We were contemporaries,*

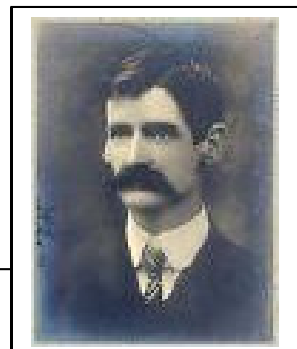
*But all the adulating crowd and academics
at Summer School attested it was he
insisting that I go to his first lecture.
So I went. He bored me to my bones.
Nervous, fumbling for words, his speech
punctuated by long silence. He embarrassed me.*

*So I walked out; went to the beach
and sat down on a rock. my ideals shattered.
Then he was beside me, his hand upon my shoulder.
"You couldn't stand the literary clap trap
any more than I." Nervousness, his and mine
dropped like shabby garments. Words flowed
confident and strong. Though both were deaf,
we understood each other as we talked
of bitterness, and poverty, of mateship
and the triumph of the bush.*

*He was clothed in dignity.
This man would never drown in drink
or cadge advances from The Bulletin.
Lawson as he might have been.*

*At last he said with a wry grin,
"Best we go back before those critics wake
and make up reasons why my mode
doesn't fit their pattern
any more than back in 1900
Sydney University refused me
when my pants began to go."*

Mary Hicks



ODE TO THE NIGHT

I love to watch the sunset
When shadows grow dark and long,
Where blue skies turn to orange
Like an autumn song.

I love the sky at twilight,
That special hour of day
When light is slowly dimming,
Time to reflect and pray.

I love the mood that changes
When day's dark dusk will start
To stir romantic sentiments
Deep within my heart.

I love the hush of darkness
When nothing is in sight,
Sound of silence whispering
The stillness of the night.

I love the appearance of moonlight
Softly singing a piece,
Refrain so melodious
Like a gentle breeze.

I love the twinkling fairies,
Stars in moon-lit skies,
Wondrous gift from nature
Imbided by human eyes.

In all its magic moments
Of beauty high above,
The glories of the night sky
Are worthy of our love.

Rondo Bernardo



If you are on email – help us by having your newsletter emailed to you – you can print it out and can see it in gorgeous Java and Flash colour! No sounds yet!

You will also be helping your Committee who are still folding newsletters, printing out labels and all that that entails.

No computer? Telephone me 08 9655 9094 to see how you can receive your newsletter through cyberspace.

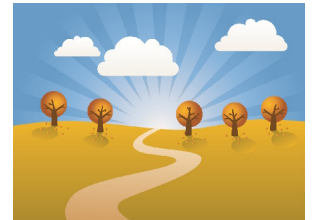
Dry Season

My roses are sad. They stand
as when I left,
in solitude
sustained by hope,
unlike that mat of weeds spreading by the tap.

Roses need love, not promises,
like young girls, eager to please
offering fragrance
until with neglect, forced
to seek another lover.

The silver march of woodchips
threatens. Dry cement
is a noisy neighbour
as they ponder their future -
promising buds
promising...

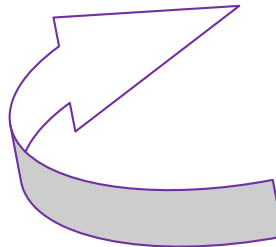
Jacqui Stewart

***Publish your writing here:***

Poems – Short fiction – Essays

Thoughts – Chapters of novels


Journal Entries – Reviews - Jokes



Been to the theatre lately? Why not write a review – for a good review see Pat Curtis' in the March newsletter.

Seen *Beautiful Kate* or *Samson & Delilah*? How about a review?

Going to Bizet's *The Pearl Fishers*? Research and write a review.

Thank you to all our members who have sent in and emailed their wonderful writing. Not in this month? Don't worry – it is in "the file." 

Send to Frances:
daisyblue@westlink.net.au
Box 130, Bindoon,
W.A. 6502
Telephone: 08 9655 9094

Send your accomplishments to:
Anne Dyson at: einnady@yahoo.com
You can even telephone her on:
9362 6916

ACHIEVEMENTS – August entries

Jacqui Stewart: Poem, *Dry Season*, was published in **Tamba** Autumn/Winter 2009

Sue Clennell: Poem, *I am just a poor deer*, accepted for August's **Speedpoets**

Jan Napier: Poems: *City of Secrets*, accepted

Positive Words, July *Looted*,
accepted **Speed Poets**, July *Scars*,

accepted **The Mozzie**, July

Corsair, US Blog site, **Here and Now**, July

Madeleine Tingey, "The Summerhouse" Melbourne Books "Award winning Aust. Short Stories

EVENTS

Voicebox Reading/Performance

7.30 to 10 pm

La Tropicana Cafe

177 High Street, Fremantle

\$5/\$3

First Thursday of each month

The Fringe Gallery

94 Bawdan Street, Willagee.

Fourth Sunday 7-10pm

•
\$5 to get in. **Refreshments available**

Perth Poetry Club

2 pm to 4 pm Saturdays

Court Hotel

Enquiries: - perthpoetryclub@gmail.com

For other events, please go to the relevant websites: featured in July In Print

The 2009 Creative Connections Art and Poetry Exhibition will be held 13th to 15th August at Centro Galleria Shopping Centre in Morley. Creation of artworks is taking place in several Disability Services Commission hostels and group homes. Poets will be producing their poems to the artworks soon. Creative Connections now has its own website, although it is still under construction, at:

www.creativeconnectionsaaape.net.au.

2009 WA Spring Poetry Festival and National Poetry Week

Friday 28th August – Friday 4th September.

Workshop: *The Devious Art Of Plotting*

OPPORTUNITIES

Varuna Publishers Fellowships

There will be 21 one-week fellowships, selected by 7 Australian publishers. For each publisher, the Varuna selection team will create a shortlist of at least 10 projects. Each publisher will select 3.

Allen&Unwin	Literary Fiction
Pan Macmillan	Commercial Fiction
Random	Narrative Non-Fiction
Scribe	Young Adult Fiction
Text	Different Voices
Griffith Review	Essays
UQP	Poetry and Short Fiction

Deadline for applications is August 31. All we ask of the writer is a pitch, 20 pages of writing and something about themselves. You can apply with a manuscript that's arrived at its last comma –or with a manuscript that's just near its beginning. Full details at www.varuna.com.au

Submissions are now open for the **Best Australian Stories 2009**, to be published by **Black Inc.** in November. Send one story - recent work only, published (after 1 Aug 2008) or unpublished - to **Delia Falconer, c/- Black Inc. Level 5, 289 Flinders Lane, Melbourne 3000.**

Queensland Writers Centre Online Workshops

Writers from across Australia, especially those in regional and remote areas, can now access QWC's most popular writing courses. Participants don't need to be a QWC member to enrol. For more information visit the [QWC website](http://www.qwc.org.au)

COMPETITIONS

Cowboy Up short story contest

Moonlight Mesa Associates, Inc. is launching its first annual Cowboy Up short story contest.

The contest will be open from 1 June to 1 December 2009 and will be awarding cash prizes. Submission guidelines are available on the website www.moonlightmesaassociates.com

COMPETITIONS – continued

Legend Writing Awards

The Legend Writing Awards are run by the Hastings Writers' Group.

Short stories

Up to 2000 words

Prizes: 1st £500, 2nd £250, 3rd £100

Runners-up 3 x £50

Flash fiction

100 words exactly (excluding title)

Prizes: 1st £50, 2nd £30, 3rd £20

Runners-up 3 x £10

Entry fees

Short stories: £7.00 for one entry, £5.00 each subsequent entry

Flash fiction: £3.00 per entry **Closing date: 31**

August 2009 Visit the website

<http://www.legendwritingaward.co.uk/> to download an entry form.

The flash fiction competition is to write a very short story of not more than 750 words and is open to anybody over the age of 16. The story can be on any subject or theme providing it is complete in itself and not an extract from a longer work. All submissions must be written in English but can be entered **on line** from anywhere in the world.

The competition is open to published or unpublished authors but the work submitted must not have been previously published. You can send up to five stories if you wish and the winners will be published online at this website. The entry fee is £5.00 for each story submitted and the **closing date for entry is 30th September 2009.**

St. Martin's Playwriting Competition

The Competition is NOW OPEN – **submission deadline** 14th August 2009. For more information visit the [St Martin's website](#).

2009 Rolf Boldrewood Literary Awards

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The 2009 Rolf Boldrewood Literary Awards commemorate the writer and writing of Robbery Under Arms in Dubbo. They are for prose and poetry with an Australian theme. Prose is limited to 3000 words-fiction, article or essay (including family history). Poetry is limited to 80 lines and can be in any form or style.

First prize in each section is a Boldrewood bust-by sculptor Brett Garling-valued at \$100 plus \$600. Second prize is \$300

Third prize \$150.

Highly Commended and Commended certificates will be awarded at the judges' discretion.

Results announced: 7 November 2009

Entry forms are available from:

The Convenor, Rolf Boldrewood Literary Awards
PO Box 1042, DUBBO NSW 2830
or www.mrl.nsw.gov.au

Please send a SSAE for return of forms.

Newcastle Poetry Prize

This prize produces an accompanying anthology which offers emerging writers the chance to be published. A substantial cash prize of \$11,000 is awarded in the open section and \$2,000 for New Media. The judges for the open section this year are Philip Salom and Jill Jones. The new media judge is Jason Nelson. Entry fee is \$20 + GST. For more information go to the [Newcastle Poetry Prize website](#).

Bruce Dawe National Poetry Prize

The nationally acclaimed poet, Bruce Dawe has endowed a national poetry prize valued at \$1,500 per annum to be administered through the Faculty of Arts at the University of Southern Queensland. The 2009 competition closes on the 14 August. You may access the [USQ website](#) for further information and copies of the conditions of entry and entry form.

Novice Christian Poetry Contest seeks rhymed and free verse from unpublished Christian writers. \$2,000 will be awarded. Deadline: August 31. For more information contact adam@winningwriters.com

The Eastern Writers Group, Biggest Little Short Story Competition 2009, **Ends** September 30. Enquiries to: easternwritersgroup@hotmail.com or telephone 03 9434 3491

COMPETITIONS - continued

Tom Collins Poetry Prize Opening Date: 1 September

Closing Date: 15 December (entries must be postmarked by this date to be eligible)

Number of lines: Maximum 60 lines per poem.

Prizes: First \$1000.00 **Second** \$400.00 4 x Highly Commended \$150.00
4 x Commended (certificate only)

Entry Fee: \$5.00 per poem (maximum of three poems per entrant)

Entries must be accompanied by Entry Form

Positive Words Magazine August Mini-Competition.

Write a poem in ten lines or less, or a short story in 100 words or less including the word – TIGER/S – at least once. **Entry fee** is \$1.10 in unused postage stamps. The prize is a six-month (6 issues) subscription to Positive Words Magazine. All entries must be post-marked by 31 August 2009. **Send** entries to **The Editor, Sandra James, PO Box 798, Heathcote 3523, Victoria.** For further information about the magazine or competitions please email positivewordsmagazine@live.com.au

Positive Words Magazine is also seeking submissions of poetry and prose for upcoming issues of the monthly magazine. Send submissions and SAE for response to the Editor, Sandra James, PO Box 798, Heathcote 3523, Victoria. For further information please email positivewordsmagazine@live.com.au but please note submissions are only accepted in hard copy. Sample copies of the magazine which aims to encourage new and experienced writers can be obtained from the editor by sending \$2.20 in unused stamps. 25 September 2009

Peter Cowan Writers Centre 2009 Julie Lewis Biennial Literary Awards

SHORT STORY: Up to 2000 words

POEM: Up to 50 lines

THEME: Open

AGE LIMIT: Open

ENTRY FEE: \$10.00 each entry or 3 entries for \$25.00

PRIZES: 1st: \$400; Runner-up: \$100; (both sections) Highly Commended & Commended certificates

CONTACT: Coby Pearson, Coordinator
Peter Cowan Writers Centre

Phone/Fax: 08 9301 2282

Email: cowan05@bigpond.com

Web: <http://petercowancentre.homestead.com/index.html>

REMINDER: Check July IP for other closing dates.

The Society of Women Writers, WA, Inc meets every 3rd Tuesday of the month from 12 noon to 2 pm at Citiplace Community Centre at Perth Railway Station Concourse, opposite the top of the Platform 9 escalator.

To find out more please visit www.swwofwa.com, email swwofwa@gmail.com or phone **0415 840 031**

Postal Address: Box 434, Northbridge, W.A. 6865.

Reg. No. A1008154AM

ABN: 55238094140

The Society of Women Writers, WA, Inc

Patron: Ruth Reid AM Cit. WA

2008 – 2009 Committee

President: Linda Blackshaw

Secretary: Mavis Evans

Treasurer: Stella Hewson

Committee: Judith Hyams, Barbara Mansfield

Silvana Preo, Patricia Saggars,

Lorraine Spring, Sally Richardson

Webmistress: Helen Iles

Writers' Circles Co-ordinator: Raelene Hall

Newsletter Ed: Frances Richardson

Competitions: Anne Dyson