

Boroondara Writers' Bulletin — August 2009

Boroondara Writers' Group is a supportive and knowledgeable community of writers, working in all genres, and at all skill levels. Our monthly workshops are designed to encourage, to improve and to applaud members' writing.



from the coordinator

Every month I get many emails offering special deals at book fairs, publishing opportunities and other less credible proposals. Sometimes however there is something a bit different. This month I received an email from Tim of Adelaide, who is looking for a writing collaborator. If you are interested please email him at tdleeder@bigpond.net.au.

I also had correspondence with Martin Foot from the City of Boroondara about the Literary Awards. He says:

"I'm concerned about the future of the Open Short Story section, given that the local service model adopted under the Arts and Cultural Strategy requires maintaining a healthy proportion of local entries compared to national ones. It has been dropping in recent years from around 100 to about 70, while overall numbers have risen to around 340. So please encourage your members to enter."

Most of you have excellent stories in your bottom drawer, why not take one out and enter? Entries close August 28, 5pm. Entry forms available at council offices and libraries.

REMEMBER: Please email your workshop piece to Rebecca before the meeting at beckybrl@vicnet.net.au

Members Anthology 2010

In the past we have produced an anthology of members' writing every 2 years, which means that 2010 is the next publication date.

Membership is the only prerequisite for inclusion, however members must :

- wish to be included – let me know if you want to exclude some or all workshopped pieces from inclusion
- be of regular attendance (does not need to be every month)
- have writing that has been workshopped between the closing date of the 2008 anthology (around the end of 2007) and the closing date for 2010 – probably November workshop, 2009.

Members who wish to be included but are unable to submit final copies by email or on disc, please advise me asap so that I can arrange for selected pieces to be put on computer.

The selection committee reads all qualifying workshopped pieces over the Christmas holiday period and choose their preferred pieces usually to a cap of about 3000 words per author. We then request the latest version of the pieces selected, to be provided in a PC compatible form (not MAC), preferably in WORD.

When we have our content the production team goes to work and 'hey presto: anthology 2010.'

This sounds easy enough but it is very time-consuming and onerous for the selection and production people, so please be prompt to do your part. If you do not wish to be included, please advise us asap. You will understand that it is not amusing for three different people to read 5000 words or more, followed by discussion and selection, only to be told then that the author does not wish to be included.

Writers for lunch?

Café FM invites all writers to join their writers' 'open lunch' on Tuesday, August 18. They meet at 1.30pm every Tuesday at Café FM, 636a Glenferrie Rd, Hawthorn.

The lunch is social rather than workshopping, but conversation naturally covers each person's writing experience, and can be inspiring. All levels of experience are welcome.

Meetings are held weekly, but some people come fortnightly, or just drop in if it suits. Whatever works for you.

If you have any questions or to RSVP, please call Joel Magarey on 0431 535 835 or email joelmagarey@hotmail.com

Meeting Dates For 2009

Saturdays

August 29, Sept 26, Oct 31, Nov 28

Wednesdays

In abeyance for the time being

August Theme

'TAKING A STEP BACK'

Interpret the theme as loosely as you like.

Prize for Wrinkly Writers

Just for once you don't have to be young! Scribe publishing house is launching the CAL Scribe Fiction Prize for an unpublished manuscript by a writer more than 35 years old who may or may not have been published before.

The winner of the CAL Scribe Fiction Prize will be awarded a book contract from Scribe and a prize of \$12,000.

Scribe's Fiction Acquisitions Editor, Aviva Tuffield, said, 'For a number of years it has concerned us that the Vogel Prize is only for writers under 35 because it seems that many novelists, especially women, only find the time and have acquired the life experience to write novels later in life.'

The prize is open for entries now and you can find out more on scribepublications.com.au/prize.

So dig out those abandoned manuscripts and give it a go. Entries close 15 October 2009.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WRITERS

Closing August 31

Lord Mayor's Creative Writing Awards

Short story, poetry, 3 hour book (print format) and 3 hour book (E book format)

See website for details

www.melbournelibraryservice.com.au

Closing September 25

Julie Lewis Biennial Literary Awards

Short story to 2000 words

Poetry to 50 lines

See website for details:

<http://petercowancentre.homestead.com/blog.html>

Closing October 31

Gum Leaves Competition

Prose fiction/non-fiction 200-1000 words

See website for details:

scribbligum.com

Bookmaking And Book Arts

Any members who may be interested in taking part in a community project about bookmaking and book arts in 2010, please let Caroline know.

Robyn Peck, Mardi Spencer and Caroline Carruthers took part in a project last year which was both challenging and amazing.