

Boroondara Writers' Bulletin — July 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

Some of you may have read the profile of M J Hyland in *The Age* on July 4. In it she reiterates the idea that writing fiction and telling lies are interrelated, that the 'art of persuasive lying' is fundamental to creating fiction. It is a long time since the Christian Church denounced all drama and storytelling (except their own) as the work of the Master of Lies, but as Ms Hyland tells us the Church's position had validity—writers do lie—but this validity was itself deceptive as it denied the potential value of lying.

My position is that one can usually write truth more successfully with invented scenes than by a recitation of actual events; that by constructive 'lying' we can express a greater truth than that expressed by the objective truth (assuming such a thing exists).

Where the truth really contributes to the validity of a creative piece is in the details that create verisimilitude: specific description, the use of many senses, a character's manner of speaking or personal quirks.

Which I think leads me to the conclusion that the best creative writing will be a successful merging of truth and lies.

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

Saturdays

July 25, August 29, Sept 26,
Oct 31, Nov 28

Wednesdays

July 15, Aug 12, Sept 16,
Oct 14, Nov 11

July Theme

This month's optional theme for members short on time or inspiration is:

'WET SUNDAYS'

Interpret the theme as loosely as you like.

Opportunity Presented by the Victorian Writers' Centre

LET'S NETWORK! LOOKING TO GET PUBLISHED

An opportunity for like-minded VWC members and fellow writers to get together, form new networks, exchange ideas, and strengthen literary community ties. From new and emerging writers, freelancers, non-fiction, genre fiction to editors, each month will give focus to different literary groups, along with special guest speakers attending over the year. July focuses on Publishing, featuring mentor Sydney Smith and Emmett Stinson, fiction editor at *Wet Link* magazine.

Thursday July 16, 6.30- 8pm

**The Salon, 2nd floor,
Nicholas Building, 37 Swanston St, City**

Admission free

Bookings 9654 9068

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WRITERS

Closing July 31

Wesley Michel Wright Prize

Poem(s) 50 lines +

See website for details:

www.arts.unimelb.edu.au/currentstudents/scholarships/wmwright.html

ABR Reviewing Competition

800 word review of any book published since January 2007. See website for details:

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~abr/New%20Competition.htm>

Closing August 1

Submissions invited for publication in Best Australian Essays, Best Australian Stories & Best Australian Poems 2009

See website for details:

http://www.blackincbooks.com/pdf/blincPDF/Bestof2009_Submission.pdf

Closing August 9

2009 King Island Literary Award

Poetry up to 60 lines

See website for details:

www.fawtas.kingston.org.au

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

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