

Members' Noticeboard

Wanted: people to deliver promotional flyers

Occasionally we produce flyers, which are placed on noticeboards or shop windows in various places. I'd like to thank our willing band of volunteers who help us already, but we still have a few areas not covered. Lara Community Centre, Clifton Springs, Lethbridge, Rokewood, Bannockburn, Apollo Bay, St. Leonards (Community Centre, Aurora Cafe & Springdale Community Centre,) Drysdale (Health Centre & Lavender House,) West Geelong (Diversitat & Books Around,) City (Felix Cafe, Barwon Booksellers & The Courthouse.) Please contact the secretaries if you are willing to help.

Booking for events

We love running events, but sometimes we misread the demand and stage a lemon. In order to conserve your precious funds, we will be introducing a cancellation policy. This will require you to pre-book for events, and to leave a contact number so that we can call you if there are not enough takers. All future advertising for events will state whether there is a requirement to pre-book.

Wanted

Any unloved SF *Pulp* Magazines, eg: *Amazing*, *Fantasy* and *Science Fiction*. Phone David 5243 2125.

If undeliverable, please return to:
Geelong Writers
c/- 16 Reid Street, Barwon Heads 3227

Postage Paid
Australia

Get involved in our forums

Non Fiction Forum <http://au.groups.yahoo.com/group/GWnonfiction>
Short Fiction Forum <http://au.groups.yahoo.com/group/GWshortfiction/>
Poetry Forum <http://au.groups.yahoo.com/group/GWPoets/>
Novel Forum <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GWnovels>

Geelong Writers Subscription Form

New Member Subscription renewal (tick box applicable)
Name: Ph: Silent No: Yes/No
Address: Postcode:
Email:
I wish / do NOT wish the GW secretary to forward breaking news by email
Signature Date

Enclose cheque/money order for \$20. Subscription is for financial year.
Post to: The Treasurer, Geelong Writers, 16 Reid St, Barwon Heads 3227

May 2005

Geelong Ink

Newsletter of Geelong Writers Inc.

www.vicnet.net.au/~gwriters

(A0039857E)

Coming up in May

6-8 May: Emerging Writers' Festival

Where Victoria Hotel, 215 Little Collins St, Melbourne.

Cost Weekend Pass: \$35/\$30 concession/\$25
Express Media and Victorian Writers' Centre members. Daily Pass: \$25/\$20/\$15. Single Session Pass: \$10/\$6/\$5.

Express Media, in partnership with the Victorian Writers' Centre, presents the second annual *Emerging Writers' Festival*: the best Australian writers you haven't heard of – yet! Featuring readings, panel discussions, an independent publisher's trade fair, and workshops with Dorothy Porter, Andrew Masterson and Christos Tsiolkas.

Visit www.expressmedia.org.au for a program.

7 May and 28 May: Booksignings at Torquay Books

Where Torquay Books, 1A/9 Gilbert St Torquay

Come along to Torquay Books on 7 May and meet local author Gregory Day. He'll be signing copies of his new book, *The Patron Saint of Eels*. Andrea Mayes will be signing copies of her new release *The Rose Notes* on 28 May.

Ring 5261 2311 for more details.

14 May: Launch of David McCooey's *Blister Pack*

Where Geelong Gallery

When 2pm

Member of *Geelong Writers* and senior lecturer in literary studies at Deakin University, David McCooey is the author of the new collection of poetry, *Blister Pack*. Published by UK-Australian publishers Salt and launched by renowned Australian poet, Chris Wallace-Crabbe.

Visit <http://www.saltpublishing.com/books/smp/1844710521.htm>

In this edition

- ▶ Jill Blee on *Using the Past to Write Fiction*
- ▶ *Hunger* by Jan Hale
- ▶ A new Members' Page
- ▶ Plus more competitions than ever, and an even bigger Youth Page

Don't miss our Poetry Afternoon!

28 May: GW Event

Where: Newcomb Library, Bellarine Hwy, Newcomb (meeting room entry from Wilson St)

When: 2:30-5:30 Saturday afternoon.

Cost \$5

Our Treasurer, Maurice Alexander, will chair an afternoon of readings and discussion of poetry for members and others interested. We will be talking of a GW Poets publication, the potential of the GW Poets web forum, reading recently published members' poetry, and, as time permits, inviting all comers to read poems. This is a good private meeting space and we should have a good roll-up. People may wish to follow the meeting with a night out together.

And for all you short story writers, we haven't forgotten you! We'll be holding a members' reading night in June. Details TBA next month.

Room 101: Writing Radio

Thank you sincerely to all the writers who have dragged themselves into the humble surrounds of 94.7 *The Pulse* to share their written work with us. Radio can be a daunting thing, especially when you're reading live to air. The Geelong Writers segment has been an anchor for Room 101 on Sunday mornings – while other artists come and go, the writers of Geelong have been there every week to showcase our wonderful local talent.

Jayne Harris

Geelong Writers' Contacts Secretaries

David and Carmel Reid, Ph 5243 2125
(general enquiries between 6pm & 9pm)
Email: davencarmel@ozemail.com.au

Editors

Brooke Davis 5261 6869
Catriona Ebeling 5233 1418
Please email copy to
geelongink@yahoo.com.au
Or mail to 2/1234 Horseshoe Bend Rd, Torquay 3228
Or 340 Coragulac-Beeac Rd, Warrion 3249

Geelong Ink Deadline

Note: new deadline is 17th of month.

Editorial

Wow, what a month it's been for Geelong Writers! We're busy planning poetry and short story nights, and Geelong Writers' members Lyn Chatham, Anthony Lynch and David McCooey have all had book launches. If you missed them, email Lyn on lync@webaxs.net for a copy of *Martino's Story*, or visit Winchelsea Hospital, Geelong Historical Records Centre or Wholefoods Natural Store. For a copy of the fabulous collection of new writing Space, try your luck at the Geelong Art Gallery or Griffiths Bookstore, email Anthony on Anthony.Lynch@bigpond.com or visit www.whitmorepress.com/space (not .au as was said in last month's newsletter – we sometimes get a bit over-excited here at Geelong Writers).

And we've changed the format on you again! We hope you like it.

The Editors

Brooke Davis Catriona Ebeling

Competitions and Opportunities**29 April: ABC Radio Regional Production Fund's Short Story Project**

If you live in regional Australia and you have a story to tell, here's your chance. Theme: Open, but stories should be vibrant and engaging. Keep in mind that you are writing for radio and not for the page. And that the competition is for Australian living in regional areas only. Word limit: 650 words. Prizes: \$650 plus your story will be commissioned, produced and broadcast on ABC Radio. *Write* Short Stories Project, ABC Radio Regional Production Fund, GPO Box 9994, Perth WA 6848. *Ring* Niamh Mangan 08 9220 2654. *Email* shortstories@your.abc.net.au.

30 April: Mum's the word competition

Word limit: 500 words. Entry fee: Members of Ballarat Writers free, non-members \$5. Prizes: A gift voucher from Ballarat Books. The best entries will also be read on 107.9 ABC Ballarat. *Write* Ballarat Writing Council, PO Box 2738, Bakery Hill 3353 with an SSAE for an entry form. *Visit* www.ballaratwriters.com.

8 June and 13 July: The Society of Women Writers NSW Inc National Short Story and Poetry Competitions

Theme: Open. Closes: short story closes 8 June, poetry closes 13 July. Word limit: 2 500 word short story, 40 lines poetry. Prizes: First prize short story \$1 000; first, second and third prize poetry \$300/\$200/\$100. Entry fee: \$10 per short story, \$5 per poem. *Write* for short story: The Receiving Officer, Susan Steggall, National Short Story Competition, PO Box 15, Manly NSW 2095. For poetry: The Receiving Officer, Beverley Earnshaw, National Poetry Competition, 15 Hamer St, Kogarah Bay NSW 2217.

The Sleepers Almanac

Sleepers will be publishing another Almanac for 2006. They're looking for letters, short fiction, monologues and non-fiction from local, national and international writers of any age and nationality and of any length up to 10,000 words. Send submissions via post only. Theme: The nervous system. Closes: 30 June. *Visit* www.sleeperspublishing.com. *Email* sleepers@sleeperspublishing.com. *Ring* 9417 0686

dotlit

QUT is relaunching *dotlit*, its online literary journal of creative writing in July 2005. The journal will have an emphasis on new and innovative writing. *dotlit* is published twice a year. They accept fiction, poetry, creative non-fiction, reviews, hypertexts, digital storytelling and scholarly articles about the practice of creative writing – all previously unpublished. Word length: prose max 4 000, scholarly articles max 7 000, reviews of multiple titles max 4 000, single titles max 1 000. *Email* dotlit@qut.edu.au (electronic submissions only) *Visit* www.dotlit.qut.edu.au

New Writing 14

British Council is now accepting short stories, poetry, essays or extracts from works in progress for *New Writing 14*. Closes: 30 June. Word limit: no limit, but longer items will stand less of a chance of acceptance. *Write* New Writing, Film and Literature Department, British Council, 10 Spring Gardens, London SW1A 2BN. *Visit* newwriting.britishcouncil.org

Verandah 20

Closes: 31 May
Word limit: Fiction/non fiction/poetry maximum 2 000 words, scripts max five minutes. Prizes: 1st prize poetry \$200, 1st prize prose \$200 worth of Penguin Books. *Write* Verandah, c/o Faculty of Arts, 221 Burwood Hwy, Burwood VIC 3125. *Email* verandah@deakin.edu.au (enquiries only, no email submissions) *Visit* www.deakin.edu.au/arts/verandah-res

Module 2 from Accredited Creative Writing course: Language and Style

Where GATE. *When* Thursdays 6:45 – 9pm for 8 weeks beginning 5 May. *Tutor* John Bartlett *Ring* John 0421 646 643 for enquiries. Heather 5229 0663 for enrolment.

From the secretaries**The Big Board**

Geelong Writers Inc. now has a permanent public face, thanks to the Geelong Library. They have generously agreed to loan us a substantial section of their noticeboard for publicising GW and our events. The GW banner signage was provided courtesy of Artisan Signs. I'm hoping that the most useful feature of the board will be that writers will be able to post personal notices: 'For sale - mint signed first edition of Aust Writer's Marketplace – call Rhonda.' Drop in and check it out.

Publicity

We are always more than happy to publicise events for members. However, Geelong Ink is produced by a small group of volunteers, and as a consequence, we cannot guarantee publication on any given date. The deadline for all submissions is the 17th of each month, and publication will usually be in the first week of the following month - but not necessarily. While we will do our best to print your ad, the editors may not always be able to fit you in. Aim at publicity two months in advance. News of events staged later in the month has a better chance of reaching our members in time.

Are you in the loop?

Currently I have around 40 subscribers to the GW Breaking News e-newsletter. These members receive a lot of information which misses the print newsletter deadline. Usually, this information relates to competitions, launches and other events. Sometimes I might include a link if I think it's particularly brilliant, but I do my best to keep the frequency of the mailings down - I hate spam too! If you'd like to be in this particular loop, email the secretaries (davencarmel@ozemail.com.au).

Thank you

This month, GW would like to acknowledge the support of:

- ☺ Wilson's Copy Centre, 121a Pakington Street, West Geelong
- ☺ Artisan Signs, 141 Marshalltown Road, Grovedale
- ☺ Kylie Warne and the Geelong Regional Library Corporation
- ☺ Special thanks to Jayne Harris, GW member and former Pulse FM's Room 101 liason. John Pedler will take over this role.
- ☺ And remember – all subs are due by 1 July.

The Secretaries

David and Carmel Reid

Youth Page

Competitions

20 May: Taronga Foundation Poetry Prize

Prizes: Total \$28 000 including cash, book vouchers and free passes. Winning and commended entries will be published in an anthology published by *Random House*.

Sections: Junior (to 11 years), Intermediate (12-15) and senior (15-19), wildlife prizes (all ages to 19 years).

Visit www.zoo.nsw.gov.au for more info and an entry form.

27 May: Charlee Marshall Bush Poetry Competition

Theme: Traditional bush verse.

Word limit: 100 lines.

Prize: *The Silver Budgie Award* (for under 16) and \$50 prize money.

Visit www.banana.qld.gov.au/index.php/64 for more info and an entry form.

Ring 07 4992 7362.

Write Charlee Marshall Bush Poetry Competition, PO Box 412, Biloela QLD 4715.

18 June: Young Yellow Moon Poetry Competition

Theme: Haiku, tanka, limericks, cinquain, lantern, short nature poems or short free choice of topic poems.

Word limit: between 6 and 12 lines.

Entry fee: \$1 per entry per section.

Write PO Box 37, Pearl Beach, NSW 2256.

Visit users.mullum.com.au/jbird/YM-yym-forms.html.

June 30: Gawler National Short Story Competition

Theme: Open.

Prizes: Under 12 years \$50, 12-18 years \$75.

Visit www.gawler.sa.gov.au.

Write Denise McCann, Gawler Public Library, PO Box 130, Gawler 5118

Ring 08 8522 9213

Email library@gawler.sa.gov.au.

Opportunities

Smarter Than Jack

The creators of the *Smarter than Jack* book series are searching for true animal stories from Australian school children. So far this series has raised over \$200 000 for animal welfare. They are creating a special edition and need true stories from children and their families. The top stories will go into a book to be used as a fundraiser for RSPCA Australia.

Visit www.smarterthanjack.com.au

frank magazine

frank is a free magazine for young women distributed by email and the internet, and was created to provide young women with tools and information to make smart life choices about their careers, relationships, personal growth and the environment, as well as fun and credible content on entertainment. They are looking for submissions of articles and photography relevant to young women.

Write Jessica Kiely, *frank* magazine, PO Box 339, Pennant Hills NSW 1715

Email Jessica@youth2youth.com.au

Visit www.frankmag.com.au.

Interface

Interface is the new magazine put out by *Vibewire* which contains diverse articles on political, cultural and personal issues by some of Australia's best young writers.

Visit www.vibewire.net/interface

Website of the month

Click on www.theprogram.net.au for heaps of up to date information on what's going on the world of arts for young people.

Events

School holiday writing camps with John Marsden

There are still places available for a writing camp at John Marsden's Tye Estate in Melbourne, running from the 2-4 July.

Visit www.panmacmillan.com.au.

Coming Events

13-14 May: Williamstown Literary Festival

Guests include George Negus, Bob Graham, Andy Griffiths, Tony Wilson, Shaun Micallef and Gideon Haigh.

Where Williamstown Town Hall

Write Williamstown Literary Festival,

Williamstown Town Hall, Williamstown 3016

Ring 9397 1766

Visit willyfest.org.au

6-27 May: Ballarat Mechanics Institute's Autumn Twilight Talks

Where Ballarat Mechanics Institute, 117 Sturt Street Ballarat.

When 5pm for 5.30 start.

Cost \$5 inc refreshments.

May 6 Wendy Jacobs The Mechanics Institute

May 13 Lloyd Jenkins The Houses of Ballarat

May 20 Michelle McFarland The Woman on the \$5 note Catherine Helen Spence

May 27 Graeme Boscoe The Crime Fiction Novel More Than a Thumping Good Read.

Visit BMI website www.library.org.au.

Ring 5331 3042

9-10 June: Geelong Regional Library Corporation events.

George Negus is a veteran journalist, well-known for his current affairs work on 60 Minutes, Foreign Correspondent and Dateline. He is the author of numerous books, including *Across the Red Unknown*.

Ben Kozel was not only shortlisted for *Cleo's* Batchelor of the Year in 2002, but is also the author of several books detailing his exploits while trekking overseas, including *Three Men in a Raft* and *Five Months in a Leaky Boat*.

Watch this space for more details!

10-13 June: National Celtic Festival Portarlington

The National Celtic Festival is Australia's largest and most diverse celebration of Celtic culture. The three-day program is structured around a series of concerts, small acoustic performances, workshops, a community stage, community dance, dramatic performances, displays and street performances.

Write National Celtic Festival, PO Box 1314, Geelong VIC 3220.

Ring 5225 1200 (GPAC)

Email celtic@pipeline.com.au.

Visit www.nationalcelticfestival.com

In Memoriam

Carmel and I lost one of our writing buddies this week. We met Dr. Ralph Sacks at one of John Bartlett's classes, and he was a founding member of our private social writing group. You might remember him as the very distinguished gentleman who read at Words at the Gallery, and won third prize in the GW Short, Short Story competition. We attended his funeral, which just served to reinforce the futility of attempting to summarise any life in a paragraph or two - especially the life of a man who was a writer, philosopher, artist, photographer, who served in the RAF during WW2, who treated a quarter of a million patients and delivered two thousand babies during his lifetime. He was a prolific writer, contributing to medical journals and a regular column on *General Practice* in a trade publication, yet we'll always remember his deeply evocative fiction, written as only a man with such a gloriously colourful past can write. We'll remember his humour and miss his bottles of red. I suppose he always struck me as a cross between Hemmingway and the Major from *Fawlty Towers*. It was a short illness, which was only fair. Characters such as Ralph shouldn't fade away.

CYA Ralph

David Reid

Using the Past to Write Fiction

The past defines who we are, what experiences we have had and how we view the world in which we live. It is not surprising then that everything we write is coloured by our own past and that of generations who have gone before us whether we are writing fantasy or thrillers, or setting our stories in a particular historical timeframe. Our imagination needs some basis on which to build the creations that will fill our pages.

To invent strange new worlds as some fantasy writers do, a knowledge of how this world has changed its nature due to forces within its core, and how it has been managed and mismanaged by the people who have lived on it, can act as a yardstick for developing catastrophic happenings elsewhere in the universe. While the creatures which populate these worlds in other galaxies may be more bizarre, more brutal, or more disgusting looking than we believe was ever possible on Earth, their behaviour and characteristics are merely an extension of what we know and understand about the range of human activity on this planet.

The past is even more important to those who set their stories in a time long gone before the art of writing and recording was available to most people. The writer only has what has been unearthed by the archaeologists. Yet what is known must form the basis around which plots and characters are created. Accuracy is important as readers are often surprisingly knowledgeable and will reject books in which the writer obviously has characters performing actions and using implements which are not typical of the period in which the plot is being woven.

Those writing about more recent times need to be even more conscious of what their readers are likely to know about the places and people they wish to create for their novels. Their research, though, will be a much easier

undertaking. They don't have to don boots and khaki shorts and tramp around archaeological digs to find their information. The libraries are full of it. Books have been written about the history of every place imaginable, letters of important people have been preserved, as have newspapers, documents, and all manner of ephemera. This does not mean that the writer has to be any less creative. In fact the reverse is true. The story being told can be much more detailed and the plots more elaborate because there is so much more knowledge about the time and place to stimulate the imagination.

The writers of contemporary fiction have just as much need to delve into the past. Characters don't just materialise and begin to act in certain ways to suit the plot of the story being written. They all have a history. How they behave under the circumstances the writer has created for them will be influenced by their birth, education and past experiences. They fall in love, do daring deeds, commit crime or solve it, in ways that depend on who they are, what their attitudes to their fellow humans are, what trauma they have experienced, or what they have learned at home, in school or on the street. Some of this past knowledge which underpins the creation of plot and characters may come from the writer's own experiences, some may come from reading newspapers, watching television, reading, or listening to others talking. Some of the information the writer calls on may only just have happened, some will be need to be recalled from memory, but however recent, it is still the past.

The fiction writer's role is to entertain, provoke, and to inform. If we have used our knowledge of the past wisely, then we will exceed at all three.

Jill Blee

Members' Page

LAST DAY ON THE FAULT

I

Coming down from the redwoods in '71
We travelled north along a ridge
That made a saddle near the coast.
Geo, our driver, smelt skunk
And asked us did we scent it too.
And then came mist across the road,
With a clear June sky above at 8 p.m.

Further on we crossed a bridge
Beside a split the quake had made -
A shining dam now, smooth and deep.
And so we left redwood and skunk,
Mist, fault and friends in America
As our plane headed west
From the airport by the bay.

II

Sonia and Barbara,
My good Frisco friends,
With your fine Jewish wit and your Yankee warmth,
One making muppets, the other smoking pot.

Your Emerald City drew you
Like a lodestar, west from New York.
God keep you from the dark, the fires,
The crumpled road, the broken bridge.

Barbara, you asked me when we met,
"Tell us, what do you think of our President?"
When I left, you wrote in my book,
"Too much to say to say anything!"

I remember you, Sonia,
With your club foot and your adored little boys.
How your dark eyes opened wide
And your voice rolled out as you said -

"When the clouds come up from the Foothills,
I sometimes think they're waves!"

Jan Hcale

Jan's poem Hunger won the Poetry Section in the Inaugural Irish Famine Literary Prize in 1998. Poem for Colin was commended in the Max Harris Literary Awards.

Geelong Writers' Monthly Challenge

Well done to Yvonne Scheider, winner of the difficult March challenge: 'A one hundred word story in which no word is repeated'. The Monthly Challenge is currently under revision – we'll keep you posted in the coming months.

At the Station

Over six feet tall he stands...alone.
Crowds scurry around him outside
Geelong Railway Station. Few notice his
furtive expression, sallow, unshaven
face and eyes, muddy coloured with
pupils dilated. A back to front baseball
cap covers dirty, unkempt hair; faded
leather jacket, worn despite summer's
heat, hides telltale tracks of drug
addiction. Now there are fewer people.
Some give covert looks toward this
suspicious character, waiting for what?
She watches, unseen. Golden hair
frames pale tear stained cheeks.
Hesitantly Sarah pushes her child
forward. 'Daddy,' the small boy calls,
running into outstretched arms.
Handover has taken place once again.

Yvonne Schneider

Congratulations Carmel Reid, Maria Takolander and Julie Brylow

Carmel Reid's witty *Verbal Confusion* (published in the March edition of *Geelong Ink*) has also been published in *A Book of Evidence*, the Deakin Literary Society Anthology. Also, Maria Takolander's poem *Storm* was a top five finalist in the inaugural *Australian Book Review* poetry competition. And Julie Brylow has received Life Membership to the Geelong Reparatory Theatre Company. Well done, girls!