



# Write Turn

A publication of the NT Writers' Centre

Vol.15 No.1 March 2009



*An Intruder's Guide to East Arnhem Land* by Andrew McMillan won the *Territory Read NT Book of the Year*. Outgoing Arts Minister Marion Scrymgour performed the honours of announcing the winner in front of a packed room. Andrew won \$5000 courtesy of the Chief Minister, as well as a range of promotional/employment opportunities that Andrew will enjoy throughout the year. In addition to this, Andrew and his publisher, Niblock Publishing, will derive benefits in the form of increased book sales, as will the other NT authors who were short listed in this inaugural award.

Comments on the winning book included the following:

*'This is an extremely valuable book, full of the kind of knowledge and storytelling that promotes illumination and understanding ... We're speaking of innovation, communication, a book that really engages the imagination with questions of national identity and story in a compelling way ... If Andrew never writes another book, this one is a very major and satisfying achievement.'*

Peter Bishop

*'In my view, it's the greatest book that's been written in northern Australia and the only book which stands comparison to Xavier Herbert's 'Capricornia'.'*

Nicolas Rothwell

Congratulations to Andrew and all the short-listed writers. If you work in a library, school or bookshop and would like any of the writers to appear at your venue and/or deliver workshops, contact us at the Writers Centre: [festival@ntwriters.com.au](mailto:festival@ntwriters.com.au)

The other books short listed for Territory Read, NT Book of the Year are:

*A Monster Wrote Me a Letter* - Nick Bland

*Alone on the Soaks* - Alec Kruger/Gerard Waterford

*Out of Place* - Jo Dutton

*The Dog That Dumped on my Doona* - Barry Jonsberg

*You and Me: Our Place* - Leonie Norrington with illustrations by Dee Huxley

As a direct result of winning the award, Andrew McMillan has been invited to the Sydney Writers Festival, Brisbane Writers Festival, Ubud Writers & Readers Festival and the Alice Springs Writers' Festival.



Above: Andrew McMillan accepting the Territory Read, NT Book of the Year Award © Angela Schoen

## NT WRITERS IN 'EYE OF THE STORM' ALICE SPRINGS WRITERS' FESTIVAL

The NT Writers' Centre would like to congratulate all Territory writers who will be featured at this year's star-studded festival. So far, the list of NT participants includes:

**Jo Dutton, Ali Cobby Eckermann, Kieran Finnane, Tanya Heaslip, Andrew McMillan, Jennifer Mills, Barry Nicholls, Leonie Norrington, Mary Anne Butler, Danielle Powell, Ptilotus Press, Kenny Laughton, Mardijah Simpson, Michael Watts, Kelly Lee Hickey.**

# Greetings from Sandra

Hi Members,  
Welcome back to a year of writing. I hope you're all doing well.

It's hard to believe I've only been back at the desk for the last three weeks. During that time, we've had: the announcement of the Territory Read winner followed by an extensive promotional campaign; a day of planning with the Committee of Management; the annual audit; the engagement of new staff members; and now, I'm just back from Sydney where I participated in a meeting with the Australia Council and other writers' centres and organisations from across Australia. All this while, we have been organising the *Eye of the Storm*, the Alice Springs Writers' Festival, and the annual program for 2009 that kicks off with the NT Literary Awards Sophie Cunningham tour (see next page for details).



We introduced you to a few new staff members late last year. In case you missed that news, we still have Michael Giacometti (Alice Springs Project Officer), Leisa Baldwin (Bookkeeper, Darwin) and myself (EO, Darwin) in our previous positions. Dael Allison has left for NSW (as mentioned last year) and has had to be replaced by not one, but two people who are Andy Ewing (Publicist) and Natalie Sprite (memberships & Darwin program). Natalie used to live in Darwin in the early-mid 1990s when she was much loved as a performance poet. She has since moved on to prose, travelled the world and become a mother before returning to Darwin and this office. Your membership enquiries are in capable and caring hands. Finally, we are in the process of engaging an Indigenous Project Officer who will commence work in March. This officer will mostly be working on our national, Indigenous youth project that we manage in collaboration with the Fred Hollows Foundation.

The Territory Read announcement on February 4 was a moment of great pride as we applauded the work of seven fine Territory authors, all vying for the NT Book of the Year award, generously supported by the Chief Minister and ArtsNT. The short listed writers, as profiled in Write Turn last year, were Alec Kruger & Gerard Waterford, Leonie Norrington, Jo Dutton, Nick Bland, Barry Jonsberg and Andrew McMillan who received the Territory Read Book of the Year award, 2009, for *An Intruder's Guide to East Arnhem Land*. Apart from the \$5,000 cash prize, Andrew will enjoy a plethora of promotional benefits, including NT and national media coverage and participation in major, national literary festivals. You can catch Andrew at the *Eye of the Storm* writers' festival, Alice Springs, May 1 - 4.

This year is shaping up to be a big year of Territory books with a number of new titles due to hit the shelves. James Murray's *My Life in the Sea of Cars* is due for an April release and Marie Munkara's *Every Secret Thing* will be launched later in the year. Meanwhile, we have already received advance copies of Nicolas Rothwell's *The Red Highway* and Jennifer Mills' *The Diamond Anchor*. The Anchor will enjoy a launch at the *Eye of the Storm* festival that is rapidly becoming more of a hurricane than a storm (see inside for details). The festival will also see launches of Ali Cobby Eckermann's debut poetry collection, Ptilotus Press's new anthology of Centralian writing and the inaugural anthology of NT Indigenous writing (published by IAD Press and developed in association with the NT Writers' Centre). And these are just the books! Our fine NT writers continue to produce quality screenplays, theatre scripts, song lyrics and more, some of which we will be enjoying over 2009.

With all of this literary activity going on, the NT Writers' Centre is on the lookout for new members of its Committee of Management, famously known as 'the sexiest committee in the NT'. The Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 26 in the Frog Hollow Conference Room, starting at 7 pm. If you are a member of the NT Writers' Centre and would like to be nominated for a position on the committee, you can pick up a nomination form from the Darwin office or download it from our website: [www.ntwriters.com.au](http://www.ntwriters.com.au). Of course, NTWC members who don't wish to be on the committee are warmly invited to the AGM, as well. Take the opportunity to swan about with your fellow writers, absorb yourself in our annual reports and drink away your membership fees on this once-in-a-year get-together of the NT literati.

Hope to see you there!  
Best,  
Sandra

**Angus & Robertson** at The Galleria in Darwin have come on board as a new supporter of NTWC Members. Show your members card to get a 10% discount (with some exclusions eg vouchers/gift cards, nett items, sale priced items)

## Write Turn

Newsletter of the  
**NT WRITERS CENTRE**

Editors:

Sandra Thibodeaux  
& Andy Ewing

Production & Layout:  
Andy Ewing

## advertising

1/8 page = \$40

1/2 page = \$100

Inserts = \$30 per 100

Please note, specific  
regions can be targeted.

Deadlines for advertising  
bookings is the middle  
of the month or by ar-  
rangement. Adverts in  
electronic form are pre-  
ferred. Please provide as  
300dpi tiff or jpg files.

## new members

Catherine Harris  
Heather J Bryce  
Alan Whykes  
Deidu Frances Hooker  
Kris Larssen  
Jennifer Smith  
Jane Harrison



### Disclaimer:

The information provided  
in this publication is pre-  
sented in good faith as  
a service to members of  
the NT Writers' Centre.  
The views expressed by  
contributors, advertisers  
& other organisations  
are not necessarily those  
of the NTWC. While the  
information is believed to  
be correct, the NT Writers'  
Centre takes no responsi-  
bility for its accuracy. No  
liability is accepted for any  
statement of opinion or  
any error or omission.



## MASTERCLASSES



With Sophie Cunningham

## MEANJIN'S SOPHIE CUNNINGHAM ... ON TOUR IN THE NT

It's time to dust off those rough drafts as we prepare again for this year's NT Literary Awards. Our guest tutor this year will be Meanjin's Sophie Cunningham who will be delivering masterclasses and workshops from Darwin to Alice Springs in the short story and travel writing genres. While the workshops will provide opportunities for instruction, examples and exercises, the masterclasses will be focussed upon participants' existing drafts. The masterclasses and workshops will be extremely useful if you are thinking of submitting work in either the *Arafura Short Story Award* or the *CDU BookShop Travel Short Story Award*. However, if you're not intending to compete, you are still most welcome at the classes and will no doubt be inspired to enter the awards in another year.

While Sophie is in the NT, braving floods and the tyranny of distance, she will also perform at various events in Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs. Details on these events, and on the workshops/masterclasses, are below.

### DARWIN

**Saturday 7 March** - NT Literary Awards Masterclasses @ NT Library, Parliament House.

10am - 1pm: Short Story - cost: members \$40 / 25 conc. non-members 50 / 30 conc.

2pm - 5pm: Travel Writing - cost: members \$40 / 25 conc. non-members 50 / 30 conc.

Special for both workshops: members \$70 / 40 conc. non-members 90 / 50 conc.

Please submit drafts of your work to [info@ntwriters.com.au](mailto:info@ntwriters.com.au) before Monday, 2 March. Contact: 89412651

**Saturday 7 March**

**Off the Page @ The Groove**, 6:30 pm

### KATHERINE

**Sunday 8 March** - International Women's Day exhibition and performance @ the June Tapp Room, 4 pm

**Monday 9 March** - NT Literary Awards Masterclass @ Katherine Regional Arts office

5:30 - 8:30 pm: This class can accommodate either short story or travel genres. Cost: members \$40 / 25 conc. non-members 50 / 30 conc.

Drafts of work should be submitted prior to the masterclass to [info@ntwriters.com.au](mailto:info@ntwriters.com.au). Contact: Toni Tapp Coutts: 0419 839 033

### TENNANT CREEK

**Thursday 12 March** - NT Literary Awards Writing Workshop @ Barkly Regional Arts, Pyramid Building

4:30 - 6:30 pm: This free class can accommodate any creative writing genres. Drafts may be submitted prior to the class to [arts@barklyarts.com.au](mailto:arts@barklyarts.com.au).

Contact: 89622799

**Thursday 12 March** - Performance evening @ Pyramid Building

7:00 pm: After the workshop, stay on for an evening of performance with Sophie Cunningham. All local writers and musicians invited to perform in the open mic.

### ALICE SPRINGS

**Friday 13 March - OFF THE PAGE**,

venue: Bluemoon Restaurant, 17 Undoolya Rd 7 pm  
This evening will feature Sophie Cunningham and local golden girl Jennifer Mills who will read from her new poetry chapbook, *Treading Earth*.

**Saturday 14 March** - NT Literary Awards Masterclasses, venue: Desert Park Education Room

10 am -12 noon: **Travel**

cost: members 30 / 20 conc. non-mem 40 / 25 conc.

1:30pm - 4:30 pm: **Short Story**

cost: members 40 / 25 conc. non-mem 50 / 30 conc.  
Special for both workshops: members 60 / 40 conc. non-members 80 / 50 conc.

Drafts of work should be submitted by Thursday 5 March to [alice@ntwriters.com.au](mailto:alice@ntwriters.com.au). Contact: 89523810

## NT WRITERS' CENTRE 2009 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Thursday March 26 from 7pm**

Frog Hollow Conference Room, 56 McMinn St, Darwin

**ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.**

*Please join us for refreshments after the meeting.*

**Business:**

-to accept the Annual Financial Report, Auditor's Report and President's Report

-to elect the Committee of Management for 2009

-to change the name of the NTWC Committee of Management

Agenda, nomination forms and membership applications available at [www.ntwriters.com.au](http://www.ntwriters.com.au)

T: 08 8941 2651 E: [info@ntwriters.com.au](mailto:info@ntwriters.com.au)





## From the Centre : Michael Giacometti

Welcome to 2009! After all the summer rain, it is great to get out walking with waterholes and birds everywhere. The next few months in Alice are going to be very busy on the literary front.

Sophie Cunningham, current editor of one of Australia's premier literary journals, Meanjin, will be in town to run workshops in Travel Writing and Short Story. It is a great way to improve your writing and get feedback from one of the country's most experienced editors. While in Alice, Sophie will also feature in a Spoken Word event. Look out for details.

Jennifer Mills is back in town and revving up for the release of her debut novel *The Diamond Anchor* (published by UQP) on April Fool's Day. No joke! After winning several recent literary awards, Jen's book will be launched in Alice during *Eye of the Storm: Alice Springs Writers' Festival* at the start of May.

The Festival! Four days of literary events, panels, workshops, readings, lunches, stories, heartbreaking moments. Running from May 1-4, it is the first time the NT Writers' Festival has been staged in Alice Springs. It will be frenetic, but truly inspiring. More details to follow in the next newsletter.

To stage the festival in Alice, we still need more volunteers to drive people around, stage manage events, run the information tent, and much much more. If you can spare some time over the long weekend and are willing to help, please contact me.

Leading up to the festival, the Alice office will be open pretty much everyday. Pop in for a chat or cuppa. I am keen to know what you want programmed in Alice this year, next year, the year after. To this end, I'll be sending out a questionnaire soon.

### COMING EVENTS IN ALICE

OFF THE PAGE ALICE SPRINGS Friday March 13

Featuring Meanjin editor and novelist Sophie Cunningham & Jennifer Mills.

### NT LITERARY AWARDS MASTERCLASSES

with SOPHIE CUNNINGHAM Saturday March 14 TRAVEL WRITING and SHORT STORY writing

(See page 2 for details.)

From the heart,  
Michael

NTWC Alice Springs  
office hours: 10am-4pm  
RedHOT Arts Space, cnr Bath St & Stott Tce  
T: 8952 3810, E: [alice@ntwriters.com.au](mailto:alice@ntwriters.com.au)

## NTWC Members' News

### JENNIFER MILLS

Alice Springs author Jennifer Mills, whose debut novel *The Diamond Anchor* will be published in April, has not restricted herself to fiction. Her debut poetry chapbook has just been published by PressPress. The chapbook, *Treading Earth*, consists mainly of poems written while living in Alice Springs.

PressPress says of *Treading Earth*: "Its strength and muscularity mark it as a book which will be remembered" and praises the poems for their "original vision and clarity".

*Treading Earth* is available for purchase for \$9.90 from [www.presspress.com.au](http://www.presspress.com.au), or directly from the author.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO ...

**James Murray** whose work *My Life in the Sea of Cars* will be launched in April

**Bob Foster & 'Renegade' Renehan** who recently published *Beyond Birdum*  
(available from Dymock's, Smith St Newsagency & MAGNT bookstore)

**Bronwyn Mehan** who won third prize in *The Age short story competition*  
(the story was published on 17 January)

*Interested in attending Eye of the Storm 2009 for free? Phone Michael on 8952 3810 and register as a volunteer.*

# 2009 - A Year of Play with Peter Matheson

In 2009, the NT Writers' Centre kicks up its heels for a Year of Play. This year will see a focus upon writing for the stage, with an ArtsNT-funded initiative that will develop, promote and employ playwrights (as well as other theatre practitioners). The Years of the Novel (2006), the Screenplay (2007) and Life Writing Genres (2008) - affectionately known as YONI, YOTS and WALY - saw NT writers develop manuscripts within those genres. However, these were mostly workshop-based courses. The Year of Play, by comparison, will see most of the playwrights' development occurring within the context of mentorships, although workshops/masterclasses will occur, as well.

The Year of Play will be staged in Darwin and Alice Springs. In Alice Springs, the NT Writers' Centre will be partnered by Red Dust Theatre as they prepare for their season of Bite-Sized Theatre. Within this collaboration, playwrights will develop works that will go on to be produced by Red Dust in August. Meanwhile in Darwin, the NT Writers' Centre will be collaborating with Darwin Festival upon readings of developed scripts.

The Year will commence with intensive masterclasses taught by Peter Matheson, by the end of which, participants will emerge with rough drafts of short plays. The best of these scripts will then be selected for further development, with the relevant playwrights enjoying the guidance of Australia's best-loved dramaturg, Peter Matheson. Finally, the selected plays will be read/performed in both Alice Springs and Darwin as part of Bite-Sized Theatre and the Darwin Festival.

The initial schedule for the Year of Play is as follows:

Sunday 22 March - Darwin Class 1, 10-5

Wednesday 25 March - Darwin Class 2, 5:30-8:30

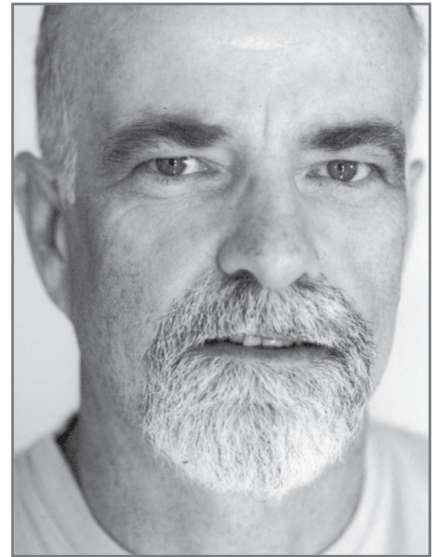
Wednesday 1 April - Alice Springs Class 1, 5:30-8:30

Saturday 4 April - Alice Springs Class 2, 10-5

After the masterclasses, the participants will submit their drafts for consideration for ongoing development and reading/production. Playwrights who go on to this second stage will be paid a commission for their work.

If you're interested in writing for the stage, register your interest at [executive@ntwriters.com.au](mailto:executive@ntwriters.com.au). T: 89412651.

Alice Springs - [mail@reddusttheatre.com](mailto:mail@reddusttheatre.com); T: 89533305



## ABOUT PETER MATHESON

Over the last five years, Peter Matheson has worked dramaturgically with Brink Productions (for STC of SA), Darwin Theatre Company, Kite Theatre Company, Kooemba Jdarra Indigenous Theatre, Jute (2006 Enter Stage Write Program), La Boite, Legs on the Wall (for the 2004 Sydney Festival), Northern Rivers Writers Centre, PlayLab, QPAC (for the 2004 Out of the Box Festival), QTC (with their Emerging Writers Program and with the Queensland Premier's Drama awards), Red Dust Theatre in Alice Springs and Street Theatre in Canberra as well as the Residency Program at the 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006 Australian National Playwrights Conference and has taught playwrighting at the ANPC for the five years previous.

In 2007, he travelled under the auspices of the Australia Council to Alice Springs, Cairns, Darwin and Hobart and developed the scripts of 41 regional writers; as well as being involved in the Young and Emerging Playwright Program with Jute Theatre. He was a keynote speaker at the 2006 Jute Playwrights' Conference in Cairns, and an international guest at the 2003 and 2006 Aotearoa Playwrights Conferences in New Zealand and the 2005 Banff Playrites Colony in Canada.

## off the page...

Saturday 7th March @ The Groove Cafe



NT Book of the Year Award winner,

**Andrew McMillan**

'Absolutely monumental.' - Mark Mordue, HQ

novelist, publisher and editor, **Sophie Cunningham**

child genius freak, **Finn O'Branagain**

& live music from the "extraordinary soulful vocals." (the Age) of

**Jillaine Jones**

MC: Librarian Idol, **Andrew Finegan**

6.30 pm start (sharp) and open mic registration  
Enquiries: NT Writers Centre : 8941 2651  
Email: [info@ntwriters.com.au](mailto:info@ntwriters.com.au)  
Cost: \$6 NTWC Members Concession  
\$10 Non-members, open mic performers free  
Book @ the Groove, 8948 2773, or just roll up



NORTHERN TERRITORY  
Writers' Centre





# Opportunities... Awards ...

## **New grant for Emerging and Established artists/writers**

A new grant category for artists is being offered by Arts NT with emerging artists (i.e. writers) now able to apply for up to \$10 000 in any art form to further their artistic career. Grants of up to \$15 000 are also available to established artists for arts development, presentation and promotion, and skills development.

W: [www.arts.nt.gov.au](http://www.arts.nt.gov.au)

## **I Left This Here For You To Read**

I Left This Here For You To Read is a magazine of original Darwin material with approximately six issues a year. Copies are left in public places in and around Darwin for anyone to take – free of charge. Finders are encouraged to read the magazine and then pass it on. Only 50 copies of each issue will be made. Posted copies will be available solely to contributors.

View the Submission Guidelines for more information.

W: [www.darwincommunityarts.org.au](http://www.darwincommunityarts.org.au)

## **CREATIVE WRITING at Casuarina Senior College**

This eight week course takes the novice writer through several stages of skills development, filling their writer's toolbox with increased strategies and techniques to develop plot, character, dialogue, point of view, form and style.

## **Creative Writing**

New to creative writing or just rusty? Start with the basics whether it's fiction, poetry, or scripts, or try a sample of each. Whether you have done some writing in the past, or have only ever dreamed of putting pen to paper, this course offers you concrete advice and personal support to improve your work. Develop your own writing style by working to your own strengths and interests.

Discover how to find ideas for your writing in everyday life, adapting your own memories and experiences or using observations and overheard conversations.

W: [www.schools.nt.edu.au/csc/NightClasses/HomeLifestyle.htm](http://www.schools.nt.edu.au/csc/NightClasses/HomeLifestyle.htm)

## **2009 Neil Gunn Competition**

**Closing 14 March 2009**

The adult sections of the competition are open to writers anywhere. The theme for this year's competition is 'Living with one another' which is taken from the following quote from Neil Gunn's work 'The Serpent'.

"For at the end of the day, what's all the bother about? Simply about human relations, about how we are to live one with another on the old earth. That's all, ultimately. To understand one another, and to understand what we can about the earth, and in the process gather some peace of mind and, with luck, a little delight."

Adult Prose 1st prize £500, 2nd prize £250, 3rd prize £100

Adult Poetry 1st prize £500, 2nd prize £250, 3rd prize £100.

One entrant will be judged the overall winner and awarded a residential week at Moniack Mhor Writers' Centre, which is situated near Inverness.

Further details and entry forms are available from

W: [www.highland.gov.uk/neilgunn](http://www.highland.gov.uk/neilgunn)

E: [charlotte.macarthur@highland.gov.uk](mailto:charlotte.macarthur@highland.gov.uk)

## **MASCARA AUSTRALASIAN POETRY ZINE: NOW ONLINE**

More poetry than you can shake a stick at! Submissions welcome. Payment for two or more poems: \$75; for reviews and essays \$50.

W: [www.mascarapoetry.com/mascara\\_member.pdf](http://www.mascarapoetry.com/mascara_member.pdf)

## **Invisible Ink Short Story Competition**

**Closing dates 31 March and 30 September**

Short stories (2000 - 4000 words) in general fiction suitable for a mainstream audience. Open to unpublished prose writers.

Winner is chosen by readers votes and shortlisted entrants receive feedback from readers via the website. Entrants are invited (but not required) to support fellow writers by purchasing the current competition anthology - all proceeds go to fund future competitions and other ventures in new writing. More info:

W: [www.invisibleink.org.uk/competition.html](http://www.invisibleink.org.uk/competition.html)

## **2009 Prime Minister's Literary Awards**

**Closing 20 March**

The Prime Minister's Literary Awards celebrate the contribution of Australian literature to the nation's cultural and intellectual life. The awards, held annually, recognise literature's importance to our national identity, community and economy. A tax free prize of \$100,000 is awarded to the works judged to be of the highest literary merit in each of two categories: fiction and non-fiction. Authors, publishers and literary agents are eligible to enter books written by living Australian citizens and permanent residents. Books must be first published in the English language and first offered for general sale between 1 January 2008 and 31 December 2008.

W: [www.arts.gov.au/pmliteraryawards](http://www.arts.gov.au/pmliteraryawards)

## **Beatrice Davis Editorial Fellowship 2009/10**

**Closing 27 March**

The Fellowship is awarded biennially and offers the recipient an attachment to the editorial department of a US publishing house or houses and a literary agency for up to 12 weeks. The Fellowship has among its aims to offer recipients an opportunity to further develop specific editorial skills of benefit to themselves as well as to Australian publishing; to familiarise Australian editors with US editorial and publishing practices leading to a greater understanding of US markets for Australian books; and to recognise and reward editors for their contribution to Australian writing and publishing. The Fellowship will be awarded in May 2009 and travel must be completed within 12 months of receipt. The recipient will be an energetic and self-motivated individual, able to act as an ambassador for Australian publishing and editing. They will exhibit a preparedness and enthusiasm to disseminate information on their return from the US.

W: [www.publishers.asn.au](http://www.publishers.asn.au)

## **HAVE YOU NOMINATED FOR THE NT REGISTER OF PEERS?**

Artists and arts workers from across the Territory, including volunteer Board and Committee members, are encouraged to submit a nomination for membership of the NT Register of Peers.

Contact Hania Radvan at Arts NT on T: 8999 7082

## **PUBLISHING YOUR ARTICLES ON- [planbooktravel.com.au](http://planbooktravel.com.au)**

A new Australian website dedicated to promoting Australian content. The objective of the site is to produce interesting, insightful, stimulating and positive content on all locations in Australia.

W: [www.planbooktravel.com.au/conditions/editorial-policy](http://www.planbooktravel.com.au/conditions/editorial-policy)

## **The writer's guide to making a digital living**

The writer's guide was developed through the Australia Council's *Story of the Future* project to explore the craft and business of writing in the digital era. It includes case studies from Australia's rising generation of poets, novelists, screenwriters, games writers and producers who are embracing new media and contains audio and video content from seminars and workshops, as well as extensive references to resources in Australia and beyond.

W: [www.australiacouncil.gov.au/writersguide](http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/writersguide)

# Competitions... Funding ...

## **DARMASISWA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

### **Closing 30 March**

There are two Darmasiswa programs, one year and six months, offered to students under 35 years of age from countries which have a diplomatic relationship with Indonesia.

Participants study Bahasa Indonesia, arts, music and crafts at one of 44 universities in different cities in Indonesia.

For more information about the program & application procedures, registration and forms please visit

W: <http://darmasiswa.diknas.go.id/>

## **Australian Antarctic Arts Fellowship**

### **Applications Close: 30 March**

Applications are sought from artists, researchers, filmmakers and writers with a demonstrated track record, and talented emerging artists, musicians and writers from the creative arts, humanities and social sciences. It is expected that during and following their time in Antarctica, Fellows will produce works and interpretations inspired by their experience which in turn, will foster greater understanding of the Antarctic environment. Contact the Australian Antarctic Division. T: 03 6232 3512, E: [artsfellowship@aad.gov.au](mailto:artsfellowship@aad.gov.au) Visit: [www.aad.gov.au](http://www.aad.gov.au)

## **Fish Poetry Prize**

### **Closing 30 March**

Poems to 200 words. Judge Peter Fallon, poet and poetry publisher at Gallery Press. Best five published in 2009 Fish Anthology. First prize \$500. \$100 each for four runners-up. Online \$12, post \$15

W: [www.fishpublishing.com](http://www.fishpublishing.com)

## **PressPress Chapbook Award 2009**

### **Closing date: 31 May**

For an unpublished chapbook-length manuscript of poems. The winning manuscript receives \$500 and chapbook publication with PressPress. Entry fee \$15. For guidelines and entry form,

W: [www.presspress.com.au](http://www.presspress.com.au)

## **PERIL submissions**

### **Closing 31 March**

Peril, an online Asian-Australian magazine, is looking for contributions for issue #7 themed 'Fashion and Fetish'. The magazine is supported by Ozco and pays for published works.

W: [www.peril.com.au](http://www.peril.com.au)

## **2009 Bristol Short Story Prize**

### **Closing 31 March**

Stories on any theme or subject. Entries must be previously unpublished. Max length is 3000 words. Entry fee is 7 pounds per story. First prize is 500 pounds, 2nd is 350 pounds and 3rd is 200 pounds. The shortlisted finalists will have their stories published in the 2009 Bristol Short Story Prize Anthology.

W: [www.bristolprize.co.uk](http://www.bristolprize.co.uk)

## **Ned Kelly Awards for Crime writing**

### **Deadline for 2009 nominations: 31 March, 2009**

The Crime Writers Association of Australia was set up in the mid 1990s to promote and encourage Australian crimewriting through the establishment of the Ned Kelly Awards. The 'annual Neddies' have subsequently become an eagerly anticipated fixture on the Australian literary scene.

W: [www.nedkellyawards.com/](http://www.nedkellyawards.com/)

## **Australia Council Literature information sessions**

Australia Council staff will hold information sessions and client meetings on our funding programs for individual writers and organisations. More info go to:

W: [www.australiacouncil.gov.au/](http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/)

From 2009, the Australian Society of Authors will be managing the literature board's emerging writers' and illustrators' initiative. Emerging writers and illustrators should contact the ASA directly for more information at

W: [www.asauthors.org/](http://www.asauthors.org/)

## **Australia Council grants Residencies - literature**

### **Closing date: 16 March 2009**

Residencies foster excellence in writing by providing individual writers with a supportive environment for professional development, research and creative risk-taking.

Support is available to individual writers and picture book illustrators through residencies and studios in Australia and overseas. The residencies grant category was formerly known as skills and arts development.

Writers who meet the eligibility requirements may apply for a literature board overseas studio residency:

- The Keesing Studio, Paris, France
- The BR Whiting Library, Rome, Italy
- Cit  Internationale des Arts, Paris, France
- The Tyrone Guthrie Centre, County Monaghan, Ireland
- Ledig House, Art Omi International Arts Centre, Columbia County, New York, US
- Self-organised residencies

## **New work - literature**

### **Closing date: 15 May 2009**

New work grants assist in the creation of new work by developing and established Australian writers and picture book illustrators.

New work funding is available for living allowances (including childcare) and/or assistance with travel and research costs associated with the preparation and writing of nominated projects.

Developing writers/illustrators can apply for \$15K, \$25K or \$40K. Established writers/illustrators can apply for \$30,000 or \$50,000 per year for up to two years.

Emerging writers and illustrators should apply to the emerging writers' and illustrators' initiative. This initiative will be managed by the Australian Society of Authors. W: [www.asauthors.org/](http://www.asauthors.org/)

Applications will be accepted in the following genres only:

Fiction, literary non-fiction (defined by the literature board as autobiography, biography, essays, histories, literary criticism or analytical prose), children's and young adult literature, poetry, writing for performance (theatre, radio) or new media (digital, interactive, cross-media). Multiple and hybrid genre projects are accepted.



# Eye of the Storm

## Alice Springs Writers' Festival

### MAY 1-4 2009

Featuring: Kate Grenville, Arnold Zable, Shellie Morris, Andrew McMillan, Wire MC, Jennifer Mills, Linda Jaivin, Richard J. Frankland, Jo Dutton, Peter Bishop, Yvette Holt, Shane Maloney, Ali Cobby Eckermann, Kelly Lee Hickey, Alison Lester, Kieran Finnane, Jeremy Fisher, John Maynard, Nicholas Jose, Kenny Laughton and many more.

WORKSHOPS : POETRY SLAM : PANELS : BOOKLAUNCHES : LITERARY LUNCHES  
IN-CONVERSATIONS : STORY TELLING : BUSH TUCKER : SACRED SITE TOUR



Image: 'Mparntwe storm' (detail) © Pamela Lofts 2008  
Represented by Helen Maxwell Gallery Egallery@helenmaxwell.com



**Eye of the Storm, The Alice Springs Writers' Festival**, will be staged in Mparntwe/Alice Springs, 1-4 May. After the successful 2007 *Eye of the Storm* (staged in Katherine), Centralians now get their bite of the literary action with a 4-day festival crammed with literary feasts, poetry slams, workshops, children's activities, panels, readings and unique special events tailor-made to the gorgeous Arrernte landscape.

*Eye of the Storm*: 2009 will be a celebration of Australian Indigenous and non-Indigenous writing that highlights Centralian stories and voices. Guest interstate writers will include Kate Grenville, Richard J Frankland, Shane Maloney, Arnold Zable, Yvette Holt, Linda Jaivin, Kenny Laughton, Alison Lester, Wire MC and John Maynard. Meanwhile, the Northern Territory will be ably represented by Jennifer Mills, Michael Watts, Ali Cobby Eckermann, Jo Dutton, Mary Anne Butler, Andrew McMillan (winner of Territory Read 2009), Danielle Powell and many more.

The main festival site will be Madigan's Restaurant at Desert Park. Desert Park is a beautiful site that backs onto the spectacular MacDonnell Ranges. Special events will be staged at other venues, such as the ambient Simpson's Gap (more to be announced soon!).

Don't miss this rare opportunity to feast on powerful words, juicy poetry, hip hop, story, theatre, film – all resounding within that magical, red heart of Australia.

Enquiries and bookings: E: [festival@ntwriters.com.au](mailto:festival@ntwriters.com.au); T: 0889523810 (Alice Springs office) or 0889412651 (Darwin office). Here are some biographies of guest writers to whet your appetite...more details may be found on our website.

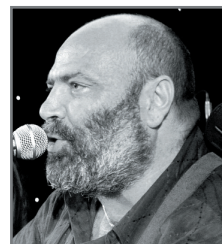
### Kate Grenville

Kate Grenville is one of Australia's finest writers. Her early works, which include *Lilian's Story*, *Dark Places* and *Joan Makes History*, have become modern classics and are admired by critics and readers around the world. Her 1992 novel, *The Idea of Perfection*, was a bestseller and winner of the Orange Prize for Fiction, Britain's most valuable literary award. In 2006 Kate Grenville was awarded the Commonwealth Writers' Prize and the NSW Premier's Literary Award for *The Secret River*, and the novel was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize.



### Richard J Frankland - Gunditjmara writer/director/musician

Richard J Frankland is one of Australia's most experienced Indigenous storytellers. He has written and directed thought provoking plays for theatre (*Conversations with the Dead*), written and directed award winning films (including Australia's first Indigenous comedy feature film, due for release in 2009) and documentaries including *Who Killed Malcolm Smith* and *The Convincing Ground*.



### Ali Cobby Eckermann

After 25 years of travelling around the NT, Ali Cobby Eckermann now resides in the 'intervention free' district of Koolunga SA. Renovations of the old General Store, writing poetry and prose and rural relaxation compete for her attention. *Intervention Pay Day* was the last poem she wrote in central Australia and won the NT Literary Red Earth Poetry Award 2008. Her first book of poetry *Little Bit Long Time* will be published early 2009 by Australian Poetry Centre in partnership with Varuna New Poets.



### Linda Jaivin

Linda Jaivin is an internationally published author of fiction and non-fiction (*The Monkey and the Dragon*, *Confessions of an S&M Virgin*), a translator from Chinese and a playwright. Her six novels include the comic-erotic cult classic *Eat Me* and *The Infernal Optimist* (short-listed for the 2007 ASL Gold Medal) Her newest book is *A Most Immoral Woman* (Fourth Estate, March 2009), a tale of sexual and other obsessions set in China and Japan in 1904 and inspired by a true story.





## THE MACQUARIE GROUP FOUNDATION LONGLINES PROGRAM 2009

For the last year of the LongLines Program, Varuna brings you a sizzling range of opportunities.

**Deadline is April 30** (with the exception of the The Australian Poetry Centre LongLines Workshop, which is June 30). Application fee is \$30, and residential fees of \$275 include all food and accommodation. And these are the opportunities:

**\* LongLines New Australian Film Stories Workshop.**

How would your novel/story/book –published or unpublished, work on the screen? Five writers with a promising story with potential for the screen will have the opportunity to work with Blackheath firm *Ink-to-Screen*, to consider the special requirements of the screen story and to explore the processes of the journey from ink to screen.

Send a pitch showing the elements of your book/story that would give it a compelling presence on the screen, plus either your published work or 5,000 words of projected work.

**\* The Playlab LongLines Drama Workshop**, October 26-31. The partnership with Playlab and its links to the best dramaturgs in the industry offers an extraordinary opportunity for playwrights. Three playwrights will be chosen to work at Varuna with two highly experienced dramaturgs.

**\* Australian Poetry Centre LongLines Workshop** is from October 5-11. The four poets selected for the Workshop will also be the four poets published in the 2009 New Poets Program. NB: Deadline for this program only is June 30.

\* And for prose writers and poets –and maybe illustrators or storytellers– there is the **Different Voices Workshop** with Creative Director Peter Bishop, October 12-18. Peter is looking for those voices that are telling stories that may not always find a place in the world of commercial publishing.

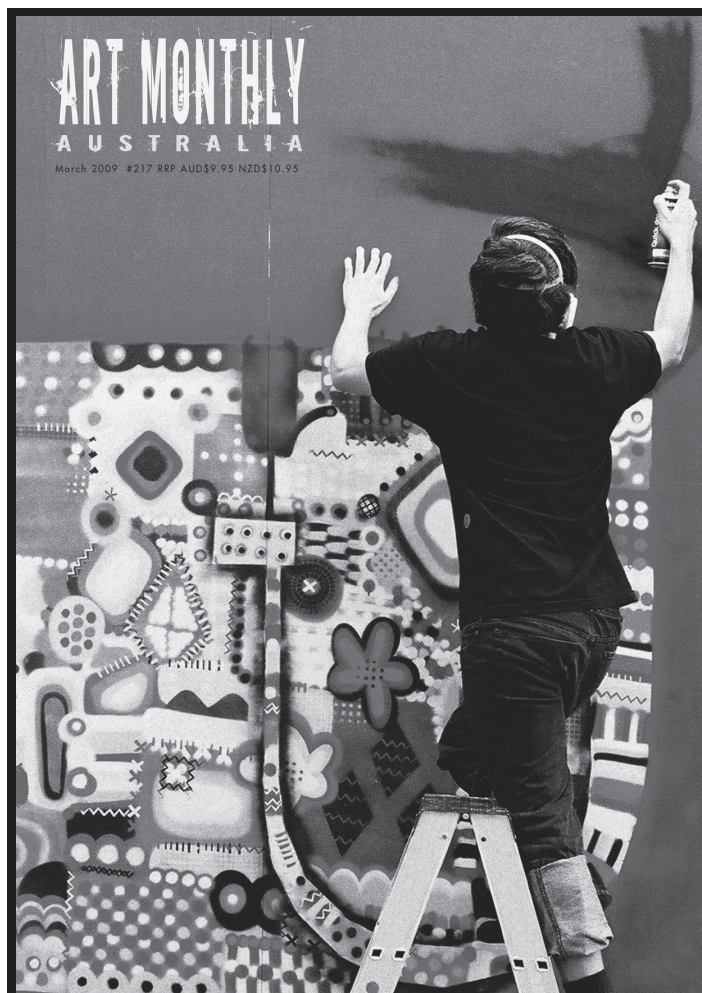
\* Writers with a publication or production record may apply for **LongLines Community Writing Week**, to take place at Varuna, October 19-26. Five writers, across all genres, will be selected for a week-long residency at Varuna, with a mixture of time designated for their own writing and time for engaging with writers who are working in the Blue Mountains.

## Macquarie Group Foundation LONGLINES NON-RESIDENTIAL WRITER CONVERSATION PROGRAM

The **Writer Conversation** is a new Varuna program. We invite you into the company of friends who think and breathe – and above all talk – writing. There are five of us – Peter Bishop, Helen Barnes-Bulley and Carol Major in the Blue Mountains, and Julie Gittus and Janet Galbraith in Central Victoria.

The LongLines Non-Residential Writer Conversation Program offers writers the opportunity to have their manuscript –as much as is available– read by one member of the Writer Conversation. The reader will discuss it with at least one other member before having an hour long conversation with you.

This is a regular Varuna service (go to [www.varuna.com.au](http://www.varuna.com.au)), available to all writers at \$295, but only \$100 for the 10 writers selected for the LongLines Program.



## Art Monthly Australia (AMA)

*Streetwise, critical and sometimes controversial*

**To submit:**

AMA welcomes article proposals from emerging and established arts writers. Please send your article ideas to the Editor: [art.monthly@anu.edu.au](mailto:art.monthly@anu.edu.au)

**To subscribe:**

10 issues per year: March – Summer

One year: \$88 (au)

Two years: \$155 (au)

To subscribe online or order back issues, visit our website:

[www.artmonthly.org.au](http://www.artmonthly.org.au)

**Digital AMA:**

Check out AMA's demonstration online issue at:

[http://digital.realviewtechnologies.com/default.aspx?xml=Art\\_Monthly\\_Australia&iid=10507](http://digital.realviewtechnologies.com/default.aspx?xml=Art_Monthly_Australia&iid=10507)

**Contact:**

t: 02 6125 3988 f: 02 6125 9794  
[art.monthly@anu.edu.au](mailto:art.monthly@anu.edu.au)  
[www.artmonthly.org.au](http://www.artmonthly.org.au)

# REVIEWS by Susan Wills

## QUARTERLY ESSAY – NOW OR NEVER A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR AUSTRALIA?

Tim Flannery

If you are overwhelmed by the science and confusion of climate change, Tim Flannery's Quarterly Essay pulls together and then unravels a gamut of complex ideas in a highly readable text. Grounded in ethics and written with a palpable reverence for the earth, he shows you the causes and scope of the crisis we face – in its fully alarming enormity – and then paints us a glorious salvation.

So, if you can visualise the future in both directions and think that green hills spinning with wind turbines is a bit nicer than pestilence, panic and mass evacuation, then this is the book for you.

Unlike the *'Weathermakers'*, *'Now or Never'* runs to a mere 25,000 words, and may take you a couple of hours to read – which I think could be the most important two hours of reading you ever do. Also unlike the *'Weathermakers'*, this essay motivates action – because it shows you how it can be done.

In terms of solutions, Flannery unpacks carbon capture, pyrolysis, geothermal power and Denmark's astounding innovations in using the 'wasted night winds' to power their transport. He explains holistic management, a sulphuric stratosphere and the truths and myths of clean coal. And he does it clearly. In one section, Flannery shows how we might restore the world's tropical forests via direct carbon trading with the impoverished people of the equatorial belt. He likens this trading to e-Bay and he makes it sound do-able. Following fast-tracked e-education in the relevant countries; ordinary Australians, like you and I, could 'directly invest in the people' who would maintain the tropical forests of the world – instead of, dare I say, sitting with a crisp white while waiting for the last tree to fall.

When I finished reading the Flannery essay I carried it everywhere like a talisman. I told my son: 'I want to put this in every letterbox in the country – everyone must read it.' He told me to send it to Kevin Rudd – with a request to post it out. So I wrote to Mr Rudd, and sent copies for Christmas, and now I am writing to you.

When you read the Flannery essay you might, as I did, find yourself asking, 'How can I help? What can I do?' I quite fancy being part of the restoration of forests through direct carbon trade or even helping to write that fast tracked e-resource. What finer investment than a life-changing read and some shares in breathable air?

*Published by Black Inc. 2008 ISBN 978-1-86395-271-2*

## THE TIPPING POINT

Malcolm Gladwell

With Flannery's ideas bubbling in my mind like a futuristic sulphurous sea (you'll have to read the essay to get this), I visited Absolutely to treat myself to some summer solstice reading. And with goosebumps, came upon *'The Tipping Point'*. For here before me was a method for my madness. If the ice caps melt while we're doing 'business as usual', then it's unmitigated climate change – and we all know what Professor Garnaut thinks about that. If our government has its hands tied by big corporations (think Gunns) then it's up to us, as voters, constituents and consumers to shake up some serious action.

And the way ahead may lie partly in this quirky off-beat analysis about 'starting a social epidemic'. Gladwell explains his theories of how ideas 'tip' through three powerful types of people that he calls Connectors, Mavens and Salesmen – and in doing so, shows the amazing transformations of the New York crime scene (where murders and violent crimes were halved in five years), the growth of Hush Puppy shoes (which tipped from \$30,000 pa to a multi-billion dollar explosion following a couple of Manhattan hipsters) and the spread of syphilis in the States. There are examples galore. And though it is light and breezy, the central premises are convincing and exciting. Even Clinton found it quotable. I couldn't put it down.

Amongst other things, Gladwell reminds us that social change follows a pattern:

**Innovators** -start a new trend

**Early Adopters** -see something worthwhile and take it on –may 'adapt' to make it more accessible to the mainstream

**Early Majority** - tip public opinion

**Late Majority** - realise that public opinion has tipped

**Laggards** - this 10% of the population are slow to follow or hold onto outdated beliefs.

What I realised is that in the past, people have followed this process in working out that the earth is round and that smoking is not great for your health, whereas right now, we're going through this with global warming.

So after reading this book, my question to the world is – where do you sit?

*Published by Abacus. 2000 ISBN 978-0-349-11346-3*

## CRIME WRITER SHANE MALONEY IN DARWIN FOR WORKSHOP AND OFF THE PAGE!

Top Enders who are unable to join us in Alice Springs for the Storm can have their own taste of the festival in Darwin on the weekend 25/26 April. Thriller writer Shane Maloney, described as 'one of the funniest writers in the land' (Courier Mail), will be our special guest. Shane will deliver a one-day crime writing workshop (Sunday 26 April, 10-4) that will no doubt produce some grimy plots and nasty little pieces of work. Register your interest in this workshop: [info@ntwriters.com.au](mailto:info@ntwriters.com.au) Following the workshop, Shane will be guest performer in an evening of 'Labor in-house bitching' (Geelong Advertiser) to be staged at Bogart's, Parap. Music, readings, bar and much, much more. *Stay tuned.*



## NT WRITING GROUPS

### DARWIN/PALMERSTON

#### DAGS

The Darwin Authors' Group is an informal network of Darwin-based writers with a common interest in sharing and discussing the craft and business of writing. Writers of all genres welcome. The group generally meets at the Frog Hollow Centre for the Arts Conference Room on the second Thursday of each month, all welcome.

For further information contact Bronwyn Mehan:

E: [b\\_mehan@bigpond.com](mailto:b_mehan@bigpond.com)

#### POW

Palmerston Own Writers meet at the Community Room, Palmerston Library, on the first Wednesday of every month from 5:30-7pm. All welcome. Contact Sandra Parker on [t]: 8988 2172 or [e]: [sandra@parkershouse.net](mailto:sandra@parkershouse.net).

#### AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF AUTHORS

The Darwin ASA contact is Helen Pavlin [t]: 0402 482 384.

#### FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS

Contact Ted Kilpatrick on [t]: 8948 1216. Darwin: PO Box 37512, Winnellie, NT 0821. The FAW meets on the first Saturday of the month at the Millner Electorate Office, Rapid Creek Shopping Centre, 2-5pm.

## R E G I O N A L

#### A NEW GROUP FOR ARNHEM LAND

A new group of writers is now meeting in Nhulunbuy. For more information contact Ian Maclean on E: [ian@nightsskysecrets.com](mailto:ian@nightsskysecrets.com)

#### KATHERINE REGION OF WRITERS

Contact Jill Pettigrew

E: [wjjp@clearnet.com.au](mailto:wjjp@clearnet.com.au) for more information.

#### ALICE WRITERS' GROUP

Currently the group is meeting at 5.30pm @ redHOT Arts on the first Tuesday of the month.

Contact Michael Giacometti at NTWC's Alice Springs office.

Phone 8952 3810. E: [alice@ntwriters.com.au](mailto:alice@ntwriters.com.au)

## NT SUPPORT NETWORKS

#### SOCIETY OF EDITORS (NT)

The society welcomes editors and writers interested in networking and sharing information.

Contact: NT Society of Editors. E: [editors\\_nt@yahoo.com.au](mailto:editors_nt@yahoo.com.au).

#### THE NORTHERN TERRITORY FILM OFFICE

Supports the development of the NT film, television and new media industry. The Film Office provides expert advice on locations, policy, industry contacts and production matters, and offers support to the Territory through annual grants programs. Guidelines can be downloaded from the Arts NT website: [W:www.arts.nt.gov.au](http://W:www.arts.nt.gov.au).

T: 8951 1162. E: [film.office@nt.gov.au](mailto:film.office@nt.gov.au)

#### AUSTRALIAN WRITERS' GUILD

The peak national organisation for performance writers working within the screen, theatre, radio and performance industries. Find out about the costs and categories of membership at [w]: [www.awg.com.au](http://www.awg.com.au).

If you know of local writers' groups open to new members, please let us know!

## youth

#### 2009 National Young Writers' Festival Closing MARCH 31

Submissions are now open for the 2009 National Young Writers' Festival (NYWF). They are seeking proposals from fiction writers, poets, journalists, zinesters, magazinesters, bloggers, playwrights, editors, curators, independent publishers, critics, activists, media geeks, comics makers, theory-heads, thinkers, performance artists, visual artists—all and sundry Friends of the Word ... to take part in the epic 2009 NYWF!

Whether you're fresh-faced and peppy-toed, or you've been around the literary block and lived to tell the tale, they want YOU

Write now, think later:

Contact NYWF at E: [submissions@nywf.org.au](mailto:submissions@nywf.org.au)

#### GOING DOWN SWINGING

Going Down Swinging accepts poetry, short fiction or non-fiction, flash, comic art, graphic art and spoken word recordings from writers and artists internationally. GDS is not a themed journal and has no restrictions regarding content or genre - we're interested in all points of view and subject matter.

GDS only accept submissions within the "window" for each issue. Submissions sent outside these windows will not be accepted (or returned). Join their mailing list to be reminded when the submissions windows are open. If you've got any pressing questions, email [submissions@goingdownswinging.org.au](mailto:submissions@goingdownswinging.org.au).

#### Project NEXT

##### Closing 16 March

ABC TV and Zapruder's other films, the people who brought the Chaser team to TV, and the creative force behind The Gruen Transfer and ENOUGH ROPE with Andrew Denton, are looking for creative young people who are original thinkers with a view about what's happening in Australia and the world, to work on Project NEXT. Visit: [www.projectnext.net.au](http://www.projectnext.net.au)

#### AUDITIONS at Corrugated Iron

Auditions are open for two exciting new shows- 'Your Music Sux!... But You're Ok', and 'Babao Fan: 8 Treasure Rice'.

CIYA are looking for actors, musicians, makers, breakers, turntablers, and new media masters aged 15-26. It would be useful to have skills in singing, dancing, or musicianship, but it's not compulsory. They also encourage people who identify as Asian Australians to audition for 'Babao Fan: 8 Treasure Rice'.

Call to register T: 8948 3200

Audition date: Monday, March 16, 2009 6:00 - 8:00pm

#### CHECK OUT WIRE MC AT 'EYE OF THE STORM

Did you know hip hop artist Wire MC is coming to Alice Springs for the Eye of the Storm-Alice Springs Writers' Festival?!

Wire MC is a descendant of the Gumbaynggirr nation from the mid north coast of New South Wales who first encountered hip hop while growing up in the town of Bowraville. Defiant and lyrically brilliant, Wire MC has performed and hosted workshops throughout Australia, recording tracks with numerous communities and with artists including Morganics and Sista Native. *Word!*



NT Writers' Centre Inc.  
GPO Box 2255  
Darwin NT 0801  
[t]: 08 8941 2651  
[f]: 08 8941 2115  
[e]: info@ntwriters.com.au  
[w]: www.ntwriters.com.au

Surface  
Mail

Postage  
Paid  
Australia

Print Post Approved  
545 393 00036

Write Turn  
Vol. 15 No.1 2009



Australian Government



Proudly supported by  
**Northern Territory  
Government**

Name ..... Organisation.....  
Postal address .....  
Postcode..... Phone (bh) ..... (ah) ..... Fax.....  
Email ..... Published? Yes / No  
Writing Interests .....

New Member

☐

Renewal

☐

Membership category (Please circle): Organisation - \$70 / Waged - \$55

Student/ Pensioner/ Unwaged/ Freelance - \$45 Concession no: .....

Payment: Cash /Credit Card / Cheque (payable to NT Writers' Centre)

To the NT Writers' Centre:

Please charge membership fees to my

Master

Visa

Bankcard

Total \$. .....

My card number is: .....

Valid from ..... Expiry date .....

Cardholder's name .....

Signature of Cardholder .....

Office Use Only

Member until \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Receipt Number .....

Membership Number # .....

Dbase ☐ Eml ☐ Let ☐

Please return this form  
and payment to:  
NT Writers' Centre Inc  
GPO Box 2255  
Darwin, NT 0801

T: (08) 8941 2651

F: (08) 8941 2115

E: info@ntwriters.com.au  
www.ntwriters.com.au