



# Write Turn

A publication of the NT Writers' Centre

Vol.15 No.2 April/May 2009

## EYE OF THE STORM

Alice Springs Writers' Festival  
MAY 1-4 2009

A storm is brewing in Central Australia ... of a literary kind. Writers and readers of all persuasions are invited to a rare and delectable feast of words and ideas at *Eye of the Storm*, the Alice Springs Writers' Festival. Join national, Territorian and a healthy dose of Centralian writers in a festival like no other. Take in the awe-inspiring MacDonnell Ranges, the unearthly quietude of Simpsons Gap and all that the red centre of Australia's heartland has to offer as you listen to some of Australia's most brilliant thinkers, philosophers and cultural observers as they carve out their thoughts on today's social, cultural, literary, poetic and imagined worlds.

Highlights include Jennifer Byrne in conversation with hilarious crime writer Shane Maloney, the launch of *The Diamond Anchor* by Alice's own rising star, Jennifer Mills, a literary lunch with the brilliant and effusive Kate Grenville, Linda Jaivin and Yvette Holt, an Afghan feast and a magic carpet ride under the desert night sky with Arnold Zable and many others, transporting you to other worlds in '1001 nights'. NT Book of the Year winner, Andrew McMillan, will discuss his monumental book, *An Intruder's Guide to East Arnhem Land*, with the legendary Peter Bishop from Varuna ... And an Alice Springs festival wouldn't be the same without a road trip! Join the most brilliant company imaginable on a trip out to Simpsons Gap, with music, bush tucker and storytelling in an event designed to deliver epiphanies, revelations, inspiration and memories you will carry in your heart forever - see 'Words in the Dust' in the program.

Prepare to be moved - come to *Eye of the Storm*. Book your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

Program, tickets and bios are available online:

W: [www.ntwriters.com.au](http://www.ntwriters.com.au) >>click on >>festivals>>eye of the storm



L-R: A few of our *Eye of the Storm* guests-Linda Jaivin, Steve Gumerungi Hodder, Jennifer Byrne, Shellie Morris, Arnold Zable

## Greetings from Sandra

Greetings,

It's festival time once again. This time, we're in Alice Springs where fine literature rises from the red dust. There's a great hum of excitement around this festival, and I hope to catch you all there as you enjoy the likes of Kate Grenville, Shane Maloney, Yvette Holt, Jennifer Byrne, the wonderful Romaine Moreton (a recent addition to the swelling line-up) and Arnold Zable, as well as local greats Steve Gumerungi Hodder, Michael Watts, Jen Mills, Kenny Loughton, Ali Cobby Eckermann, Jo Dutton and many more.

March came and went too quickly, as did the wonderful Sophie Cunningham who did the Stuart Highway long-haul from Darwin to Alice Springs. Sophie's workshops and events were enjoyed by all, some of whom have gone on to be published in *Meanjin* (edited by Sophie). This was a great opportunity for Sophie to meet some of our NT talent. Sophie was particularly wowed by the (mostly) new writers of the Barkly who just keep growing in number and output (you can catch some of these Barkly gems at *Eye of the Storm*).

The AGM also came and went, and a new Committee of Management is now in place, comprised mostly of 2008 members, and – luckily – still headed by the very super Megan Nevett. I'd like to thank ongoing and new members for their commitment, and outgoing members for all they contributed in 2008.

Meanwhile, the Indigenous anthology project clicked into production phase with a final list of 31 works (out of a total 110) being selected. 24 NT Indigenous writers are represented in this inaugural anthology that is being published by IAD Press. Interestingly, a third of the selected writers hail from the Barkly region.

Another ongoing initiative is the *See my World* project (a collaboration with the Fred Hollows Foundation). *See my World* 2009 is being managed by Ali Cobby-Eckermann who will be mostly based in the Darwin office when she is not on the road, facilitating writing workshops for Indigenous youth in remote parts of Australia (see inside for more). The NT Writers' Centre would like to thank Deb Dank for her great work on this project last year, and for her continuing involvement from the Fred Hollows side of the desk.

Post-*Eye of the Storm*, the literary activity will keep on coming with workshops to be delivered by Harry Laing, Rhonda Whitton, Jan Cornall and Linda Jaivin, with play readings at the *Darwin* and *Bite-Sized Theatre* festivals, with the popular *Meet the Publisher* initiative, and more.

That's all for now. Hope to see Darwin people at the forthcoming Shane Maloney events, and everyone in Mparntwe/Alice Springs for *Eye of the Storm*.

Best, Sandra



## 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

Lily Chan  
Lee Frank  
Merryn Dearsden  
Skye Raabe  
Katherine Hay  
Irena Kobald  
Richard Dickenson  
Michelle Fraser  
Gailan Hoshi Ali  
Chips Mackinolt  
Fred Van Sant  
Heather J Bryce  
Kristy Schubert  
Janet Hutchinson  
Joy Billings  
Suzi Lyon

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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.

## CONSULTATIONS IN ALICE SPRINGS

**VARUNA consultations with PETER BISHOP Mon & Tue May 4 & 5**

Only 4 places remaining for a 50-minute one-on-one consult with Peter Bishop from Varuna - the Writers House. Peter will offer his expert advice on your manuscript.

Book early as these places will fill quickly.

You will need to provide the first 20 pages of your MS by mid-April.

Venue: RedHOT Arts Space

Cost: free for financial NT Writers' Centre member

Bookings: Michael 8952 3810, [alice@ntwriters.com.au](mailto:alice@ntwriters.com.au)

## NEW AUSTRALIA COUNCIL Literature Board funding consultations with NICOLA EVANS Tue May 5

Nicola Evans of the Australia Council (affectionately known as OZCO), the national arts-funding body, will be in Alice Springs for the writers' festival. She is available on Tuesday morning for one-on-one consultations about funding for 'developing and established' writers. *Bookings essential.*

Venue: RedHOT Arts Space

Cost: free for financial NT Writers' Centre member

Bookings: Michael 8952 3810, [alice@ntwriters.com.au](mailto:alice@ntwriters.com.au)



# Off The Page at Bogarts



L-R Foxy Empire, Shane Maloney, Tracey Bunn, Alex Ben Mayor, Marie Munkara

## Off the Page - April 26th at new venue, Bogarts

Feature artist for April's *Off the Page* is the brilliant, seedy and very funny, **Shane Maloney**. Maloney is the creator of Australia's most successful crime novel series - the Murray Whelan novels: *Stiff*, *The Brush-Off*, *Nice Try*, *The Big Ask*, *Something Fishy* and *Sucked In*.

Described by the Courier Mail as "one of the funniest writers in the land", Maloney has won the Ned Kelly Prize for Crime Fiction and been shortlisted for the Premier's Literary Award. In 2004, *Stiff* and *The Brush-Off* were adapted for the screen by John Clarke and made into movies with David Wenham in the role of Murray Whelan. Rolling Stone described Maloney's books as "funny and gripping," and Ian Rankin of *The Age* said, "There's no doubting the brilliance of the writing."

**Marie Munkara** is the winner of the 2008 Uniapon Award. Marie was awarded the prestigious prize for her darkly funny and beautiful book, *Every Secret Thing*. A warm and engaging performer, Marie will be premiering new work at *Off the Page*.

Also appearing on the night will be writer, director and performer **Alex Ben Mayor**. His first professional work, *Darwin's Dangerous Idea*, was staged in 2001 at La MaMa to great acclaim. Since then, Alex has performed in works for the Carnivale Festival (Sydney), the Darwin Festival, the Melbourne Fringe, and the Melbourne International Arts Festival. As part of *Off the Page*, Alex will be performing a short scene from the upcoming production, *Origins*.

Providing music for the night is the inimitable **Tracey Bunn**. As one half of the provocatively named Toe Sucking Cowgirls, Tracey released three independent recordings that received nominations in various music awards, including Tamworth's "Golden Guitar Awards". Now working as a solo artist, Tracey's music is characterized by warm vocals and gutsy performances. "... a fine writer, observer and teller of tales. Whether as one half of the Toe Sucking Cowgirls or a solo performer, she is a lady who demands we listen and then delivers." [Michael Mee, *Maverick Magazine*, UK] Tracey's influences include KD Lang, Lucinda Williams, Neil Young and Paul Kelly.

The night will be MC'd by the fabulous drag queen **Foxy Empire** who lists her hobbies as men, politics, stilettos, being chased by paparazzi, food, pleasure, crocodile-egg-collecting, clay pigeon protection squad, dancing and collecting DNA.

*Off The Page* is on **Sunday, April 26th**, at Bogarts Bar and Grill in Parap. Registrations for the open mic section are from 5pm. There are great and delicious prizes for the best performance of a 5-minute original short story or poem.

For more information, contact the NT Writers' Centre on 8941 2651 or at [info@ntwriters.com.au](mailto:info@ntwriters.com.au). Cost is \$6 members/concession; \$10 non-members; open mic performers free. Book at Bogarts 8981 3561, or just turn up.

## Shane Maloney workshop 'Cooking Up a Plot'

This full-day, intensive workshop will begin with a discussion of common writing problems and how to overcome them, based on Shane's own experience. The group will then work with Shane to devise a setting and cast of characters for a classic murder mystery. The participants will then devise a storyline utilising these 'ingredients'. Along the way, the class will discuss characterisation, motive, dialogue, narrative voice and other essentials that can be applied to the participants' own writing projects. The workshop will conclude with a small writing exercise.

Cost: \$150 (waged) / \$120 (waged member) / \$100 (conc) / \$80 (conc member) E: [info@ntwriters.com.au](mailto:info@ntwriters.com.au)



## From the Centre : Michael Giacometti

It feels like a high-pressure system of energy is swirling anti-clockwise from the NT Writers' Centre office. With *Eye of the Storm* only weeks away, things are very busy. You can read all about it on the front cover of this newsletter. Make sure you pick up a program, and book now as some special events will sell out.

If the attendances at Sophie Cunningham's workshops and *Off The Page* (with Sophie and Jennifer Mills) were anything to go by, then attendance at the festival will be big – even with a number of other events occurring in Alice at the same time. Sophie, the editor of one of Australia's premier literary journals, *Meanjin*, is always on the lookout for emerging talent. She was very impressed by the quality of writing and writers in Alice Springs. At least one work of Centralian short fiction will appear in *Meanjin* this year as a result.

Several book launches by local writers will feature in the festival: *Fishtails in the dust – writing from the Centre*, Ptilotus Press's follow-up to the highly successful *The milk in the sky* (May 1); Ali Cobby Eckermann's debut poetry release *little bit long time* and Kimberley Mann's *Awake During Anaesthetic* (May 2); and Jennifer Mills' debut novel, *The Diamond Anchor* (May 4).

Thanks to the 40% of members who responded to the e-questionnaire I sent out recently. Your input is vital in programming workshops, events and services that cater specifically to your needs. Some of your ideas will come to fruition during the festival; others I will work into programming for the second half of 2009, and for 2010.

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 everyday. Pop in to purchase your festival tickets.

From the heart,  
Michael

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

## NTWC Members' News

**Mary Anne Butler** had two short plays produced on the national circuit as part of the international Short & Sweet competition. 'Drive' was performed in Melbourne in December, and '.../Am...' hit the boards in Sydney in January where it received the judges' second for the week. Mary Anne's full-length play *Half Way There* will premiere in Cairns in August this year, before coming across to the Darwin Festival and then touring to Alice Springs and Townsville. A co-production between Knock-em-Down Theatre, JUTE, Darwin Theatre Company and Darwin Festival, *Half Way There* is a black comedy set in regional Australia. It deals with themes of love, loss and development. It was funded for both development and production by the Australia Council for the Arts and Arts NT.

Following on from the success of winning the *NT Book of the Year Award*, **Andrew McMillan** has been invited to the Sydney Writers' Festival, Melbourne Writers' Festival, Brisbane Writers' Festival, Ubud Writers' & Readers' Festival, as well as our own *Eye of The Storm*, Alice Springs Writers' Festival.

**Michael Giacometti's** essay 'Kwatye' was highly commended in the Wildcare Tasmania Nature Writing Prize 2009, co-judged by former NT Writers' Centre office manager and 2007 winner Dael Allison.

**Ali Cobby Eckermann** is invited to the Sydney Writers' Festival, The Dreaming Festival and Overload Writers' Festival this year.

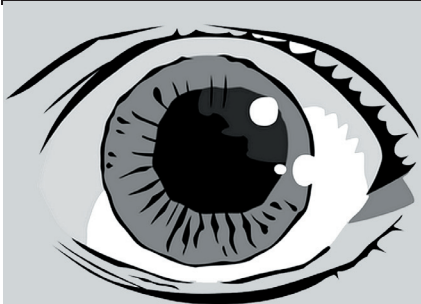
**Nick Bland's** *A Monster Wrote Me a Letter* was an Australian Honour Book translated into French, Bulgarian & Korean. *I Lost My Kisses* was picked up in the US and won an honorable mention in a US book prize and is still selling well in the States. *Aussie Jingle Bells* has sold over 100,000 copies in Australia. *The Very Cranky Bear* has been picked up in the US on standing orders (a minimum 100,000 print run) and continues to sell well in Canada. Hodder UK have also picked it up and will publish it this year - a notoriously hard market to break into. Nick's latest book, *The Wrong Book*, has just been released.

**Rohan Wightman's** short story *Terra Nullius* won 1st prize in the Phoenix Park Neighbourhood House short story contest.

Got any news? We love promoting NTWC members' success stories! Email us at [executive@ntwriters.com.au](mailto:executive@ntwriters.com.au)



# See My World-with Ali Cobby Eckermann



## SEE MY WORLD

It is exciting to be working on this project as Manager in 2009. I was involved last year as an author/mentor, travelling with Deb Dank to Wilcannia where we quickly found 3 eager young writers of poetry and song, to attend the national workshop in Adelaide later in the year. It was such an inspiring time for me. So I am very happy to be on board, and to continue the great work that Deb initiated in 2008.

*See My World* is a great writing project shared between the Fred Hollows Foundation and the NT Writers Centre. Six workshops will be held in remote and isolated areas, aimed at nurturing young Indigenous writers between the age of 15-25. Established Aboriginal writers will attend the workshops, to act as role models and to share their skills and stories. An anthology of these written works will be published down the track, to be distributed back to those involved and their communities. From what I read last year this book will prove to be quite a read!

Being back in the Territory, and in particular Darwin, has flooded my brain with many memories. I flew to Darwin from Katherine in an air-ambulance after a bad motorbike accident at Edith Falls and spent the next 12 months in a wheelchair. It is wonderful to see old friends again who helped me through those times. Following that I got married, bought 5 acres at Humpty Doo and got divorced. No regrets – poetry and writing is a much more challenging companion.

Working with the NTWC team at Frogs Hollow has been a joy. I have always prayed for an office filled with laughter. Believe me, sitting at the computer listening to Sandra T and Andy E makes one laugh. And the food is always good around here too.

The first workshop will be held at Yuendumu 27-30 April, thanks to the support of Artback, Northern Territory Arts Touring. The workshop will be delivered by Romaine Moreton, Yvette Holt and myself, backing up to the *Eye of the Storm* festival in Alice Springs. Catch me for a chat or stay tuned to *Write Turn*. There will be plenty of great stories that evolve from the *See My World* project.



Ali



Romaine



Yvette



The Fred Hollows  
Foundation



# Opportunities... Awards ...

## DESERT WRITERS '09 27 June – 4 July

A unique walking and writing journey along the Larapinta Trail near Alice Springs. Stunning desert locations, activities with Central Arrente artists and two nights with Ipolera Community at Gosse Bluff. Supported walking and camping, medium level fitness. Photo gallery, itinerary & booking form on:

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

T: 0414929768

## U-ART: OUR VOICE

### Deadline Friday 8 May

Alice Springs artists, poets, song writers, etc., have been asked to creatively respond to the uranium mining and dumping issues challenging our town. Quality art works will make up an exhibition around World Environment Day. The exhibition will run 29 May – 26 June at the Alice Springs Public Library.

More info: Unanyntji

T: 0488266478, E: [unanyntji@hotmail.com](mailto:unanyntji@hotmail.com)

Anneke

T: 8950 0515 E: [arose@astc.nt.gov.au](mailto:arose@astc.nt.gov.au)

## NT LITERARY AWARDS

### Entries due by May 31

Calling all NT writers to enter the 2009 NT Literary Awards, with over \$5000 in prize money up for grabs. Short Story, Poetry, Essay, Travel, Youth, and Indigenous sections.

The Awards acknowledge written works of outstanding literary merit and reward the achievements of Northern Territory writers.

Categories are:

Charles Darwin University Essay Award

Charles Darwin University BookShop Travel Short Story Award

Dymocks Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Writers' Award

Dymocks Red Earth Poetry Award

Dymocks Arafura Short Story Award

Kath Manzie Youth Literary Award.

Entry is free and entry forms are now online:

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

## 2009 ACT POETRY PRIZE

### Closing 5pm on Wednesday 27 May

The ACT Government offers four prizes (three open nationally) that recognise excellence in poetry:

For a Collection of Poetry

- The Judith Wright Prize for a published collection by an Australian poet (valued at \$10,000)

- The Alec Bolton Prize for an unpublished manuscript by an Australian poet (valued at \$5,000)

For an Unpublished Poem

- The Rosemary Dobson Prize for an unpublished poem by an Australian poet (valued at \$3,000)

- The David Campbell Prize for an unpublished poem by an ACT poet (valued at \$2,000)

For more info, visit the artsACT website at

W: [www.arts.act.gov.au](http://www.arts.act.gov.au) or T: (02) 6207 2384

## BUSH LANTERN AWARD

### Closing 29 May

For Bush Verse. Each poem (max 100 lines) must have good rhyme and rhythm and an Australian theme. Prizes \$200/\$100/\$75

More info and entry forms, Jayson Russell T: 0411 360 922

E: [blanata@bigpond.net.au](mailto:blanata@bigpond.net.au)

## TALKS AT THE PARLIAMENT HOUSE LIBRARY

**'An Intruder's Guide to East Arnhem Land' Andrew McMillan**

Thursday 16 April 12.10pm

**'A Conversation with Mick Dodson' with ABC's Mark Bowling**

Tuesday 21 April 12.10pm

**'Ochre & Rust' Philip Jones**

Thursday 14 May 5.00pm

Winner of the 2008 Chief Minister's *NT History Book Award* and the *Prime Minister's Book Award*

**Frances Watts and David Legge**

Monday 18 May 5.00pm

Get some tips from award winning children's author/illustrator team, Frances Watts & David Legge

## ALL SESSIONS FREE

Bookings preferred – 1800 019 155 or [libraryevents@nt.gov.au](mailto:libraryevents@nt.gov.au)

## CREATIVE WRITING TERM 2 (Wed April 29 - Wed June 17)

### at Adult Night School, Casaurina Senior College

This 8-week course will cater for both new and continuing students. It offers:

- in-class writing activities
- skills-building in a range of techniques & genres
- regular tutor feedback and workshopping
- a strong focus on getting published

Course cost \$150; to enrol, phone 8920 1200.

## OLVAR WOOD FELLOWSHIP AWARD

### Closing 29 May

Writers can submit an unpublished manuscript (to 50,000 words). Winning entrants receive full MS appraisal; a week long retreat at Olvar Wood; three monthly feedback sessions; and membership. Entry fee \$10 donation to ACF, Wilderness Soc. or Greenpeace  
W: [www.perilousadventures.net/Olvar/fellowshipaward.html](http://www.perilousadventures.net/Olvar/fellowshipaward.html)

## PRESSPRESS CHAPBOOK AWARD 2009

### Closing 31 May

For an unpublished chap-book length manuscript of poems. The winning manuscript receives \$500 and a chapbook publication with PressPress. Entry fee \$15

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

## VOGEL LITERARY AWARD

### Closing 31 May

The Australian Vogel Award is awarded to an unpublished manuscript by a young writer. For guidelines and entry form:

W: [www.allenandunwin.com/vogelawards](http://www.allenandunwin.com/vogelawards)

## WESLEY MICHAEL WRIGHT POETRY PRIZE

### Closing 31 July

Administered by the University of Melbourne, for a poem, suite of poems or a collection of poems, min. length of 50 lines. Prize value of \$4000. Info E: [artprizes-info@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:artprizes-info@unimelb.edu.au)

## BILLILLA ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM

Bayside City Council is seeking artists & writers to apply for a 12-month funded residency in one of three studios on the grounds of Billilla Historic Mansion, Brighton, Victoria.

Info: Deanna Herbison, T: 0417 327 899

W: [www.bayside.vic.gov.au/artiststudio](http://www.bayside.vic.gov.au/artiststudio)

## SOCIETY OF WOMEN WRITERS POETRY COMPETITION

### Closing 12 August

Max 40 lines. Must be unpublished and in English. Each entry on a separate form. 1st prize \$300/2nd \$200/3rd \$100

Send to 15 Hamer St, Kogarah Bay NSW 2217.

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

# Competitions... Funding ...

## CJ DENNIS LITERARY AWARDS

### Closing FRIDAY JULY 24

The CJ Dennis Literary Awards are offering a total of \$800 prize money to the winners.

### ONLY PREVIOUSLY UNPUBLISHED WORK ACCEPTED

The categories are:

"The Universe – Yours to Discover" – short story

"The Universe – Yours to Discover" – poetry

Short story – open

Poetry – open

First Prize in each category is \$200.

More info, Peter Lane E: [peter.lane4@bigpond.com](mailto:peter.lane4@bigpond.com)

## 2009 ABR REVIEWING COMPETITION

### Entries close 31 July

First prize: \$1000 and publication of the review in ABR and at least two future commissions

Second prize: \$250 plus publication

Third prize: the Short Oxford English Dictionary, Deluxe Edition, courtesy of Oxford University Press

All reviewers are eligible. All categories of books are eligible, including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, children's and young adult books. Reviews should be 800 words. The book being reviewed must have been published since January 2007.

Download the entry form: [W: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~abr/>](http://home.vicnet.net.au/~abr/)

## JEAN RINGLAND MEMORIAL OPEN POETRY COMP

### Deadline: 26 June, 2009

The family of Jean Ringland combined with Dangerously Poetic Press are offering an Open Poetry Competition in her honour.

Poets are invited to write up to 50 lines on the theme: *Coming Home*

First Prize - \$500; Second Prize - \$250

The first and second prize winners will be published in Dangerously Poetic's Anthology on the theme of Coming Home.

Entry fee: \$5 for one poem, \$10 for three, cheques made out to Dangerously Poetic, inc. maximum entry – 6 poems/poet

Info: [lshore@linknet.com.au](mailto:lshore@linknet.com.au) T: (02) 6680 1967

## SLIPPERY WHEN WET

### Closing 8 May

Slippery When Wet encourages stories with a road theme.

Examples of themes: truck driving, life on the highway, hitchhiking, travelling rural areas. Max. length 2,000 words. Previously unpublished work only. Prizes \$550/\$250/\$150 plus 10 runners-up of \$50. Most humorous entry receives \$100.

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

E: [keli@soltek.com.au](mailto:keli@soltek.com.au)

Fee: \$7.50

## COMMONWEALTH SHORT STORY COMPETITION

### Closing 15 May

1st prize £2,000. Stories can be on any theme or subject, max. 600 words. Max. 3 entries per person. Include contacts with your entry. Email with a subject line: 'Commonwealth Short Story Competition'.

W: [www.cba.org.uk](http://www.cba.org.uk)

E: [e.dcosta@commonwealth.int](mailto:e.dcosta@commonwealth.int)

## 2009 KIT DENTON FELLOWSHIP FOR COURAGE AND EXCELLENCE IN PERFORMANCE WRITING

### Closing 15 May

The Australian Writers' Foundation (AWF) has called for applications for the 2009 Kit Denton Fellowship.

The \$25,000 Fellowship was created in 2007 to honour the work and memory of Kit Denton, a respected and admired member of the writing community. The father of media personality Andrew Denton, Kit was a lifetime member of the Australian Writers' Guild, a scriptwriter, author, poet and lyricist.

Andrew Denton said the intention was to reward and support a writer who had shown courage in questioning the status quo and in determined pursuit of their passion despite falling foul of the zeitgeist.

Entries for the Kit Denton Fellowship open Wednesday 8 April and close 5.00pm Friday 15 May. For more information and to download an entry form and guidelines, please go to [www.awg.com.au](http://www.awg.com.au).

The AWF is the charitable arm of the AWG and is committed to increasing opportunities for satisfying and rewarding work, and to encouraging and promoting the excellence of Australian performance writers.

## PLAYWRITING AUSTRALIA STATE EXCHANGE

### Closing 30 April

State Exchange fosters creative relationships across state and territory boundaries. Through the state exchange programme, PlayWriting Australia supports artists working across state and territory boundaries by contributing to travel and accommodation expenses. Proposed activities must support the further development of a new Australian theatre work and must include one member of the creative team with at least one professional production credit. State exchange grants are available to a maximum of \$2,000.

More info: [www.pwa.org.au](http://www.pwa.org.au)

## THE IAN POTTER CULTURAL TRUST

### Closing date for applications falls on the first working day of February, May, August and November.

Since its inception in 1992, The Ian Potter Foundation has provided a platform for emerging Australian artists, providing a crucial kick start into their careers. The trust aims to cultivate and nurture cultural diversity and excellence within the arts and grants are provided to individuals in support of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art, community arts, conservation and moveable cultural heritage, crafts, design, literature, music, performing arts, radio, film, television, video and visual arts. Applications for funding are assessed quarterly throughout the year by the Board of Governors of the Foundation. Grant Amount: Up to \$5000

E: [info@ianpotter.org.au](mailto:info@ianpotter.org.au)

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

## CALL FOR ENTRIES

### MELBOURNE UNDERGROUND FILM FESTIVAL

#### Closing Friday 15 May 2009

The Melbourne Underground Film Festival (MUFF) is calling for entries for their 10th festival.

More info: W: [www.muff.com.au](http://www.muff.com.au)

## CALL FOR ENTRIES

### SYDNEY UNDERGROUND FILM FESTIVAL

#### Closing Friday 29 May 2009

The Sydney Underground Film Festival (SUFF) is calling for entries after a hugely successful 2008 festival that saw over 100 outstanding films being screened.

W: [www.sydneyundergroundfilmfestival.com/2009home.html](http://www.sydneyundergroundfilmfestival.com/2009home.html)



# Rhonda Whitton Workshops in Darwin

Rhonda Whitton, journalist, teacher and corporate trainer, will be in Darwin in June to deliver three writing workshops. Rhonda is a qualified journalist and experienced teacher. As well as being a well-published freelance journalist, she has published five editions of 'The Australian Writer's Marketplace' as well as 'A Decent Proposal: how to sell your work to an Australian publisher' and 'Mission Possible: how to make money from your writing'. Rhonda conducts workshops and courses at Australian writers' centres and universities, and teaches specialist writing short courses and corporate training in various aspects of business writing.

## **Saturday 27 June, 10-4: A Decent Proposal**

How to approach a publisher with a book proposal - cost \$140/\$100/\$80/\$60

## **Sunday 28 June, 1-4: Freelance Journalism**

How to write and sell articles to various journals, newspapers and other outlets - \$50/\$40/\$30/\$25

## **Monday 29 June, 9-4: Waffle-Free Writing**

How to write clearly and concisely. This one-day workshop is targeted at those writing in corporate and government sectors, although it will have relevance for writers in any field - \$150/\$110/\$80/\$60

**All workshops in Frog Hollow Conference Room.** Book for any 2 workshops and receive a 20% discount.

## Meet the Publisher

Publishers from some of the top publishing houses in Australia are coming to the Territory.

Invited publishers include: **UQP, Text, IAD, Penguin and Harper Collins.**

*Meet the Publisher* will be staged in both Alice and Darwin. The aim is for publishers to get to know our best writers and for NT writers to get advice and feedback from publishers. There will be seminars, small group discussions and some one-on-one consultations. The last *Meet the Publisher* resulted in publication outcomes for some participants.

*Meet the Publisher* will be held in August/September. *Stay tuned.*

## **MY LIFE IN THE SEA OF CARS: A LETTER FROM ARNHAM LAND**

**by James Murray**

To be launched by Andrew McMillan, author of 'An Intruder's Guide to East Arnhem Land'  
Thursday 16 April, 5.30pm for 6pm

Absolutely Books  
6/48 Marina Boulevard Cullen Bay, Darwin

Refreshments provided  
RSVP: [absolutelybooks@bigpond.com](mailto:absolutelybooks@bigpond.com)  
Phone : (08) 8941 1363

## **NTWC AGM**

The NT Writers' Centre's AGM occurred in March. Committee members staying on this year are: President Megan Nevett; Regional Vice-President Toni Tapp-Coutts; Public Officer Kaye Aldenhoven; Treasurer David Morgan; and general members Leonie Norrington, Andra Putnis, Kin Leong, Shane Thamm and Bronwyn Mehan.

Three new members joined the committee. They are Helen Pavlin, Susan Wills and Eleanor Hogan.

Committee members will be profiled in forthcoming issues of *Write Turn*.

The NT Writers' Centre would like to thank outgoing committee members Linda Wells, Jo Foley and Jessica Crockett for their work and energy last year.



## POETRY ALIVE WORKSHOP WITH HARRY LAING

### Sat 11th July 10am-1pm PoetryAlive with Harry Laing

An intense experience of poetry often acts as a springboard for participants' own creativity which can be expressed in writing poetry or writing in other forms such as story, journal, monologue.

Because poetry often taps a deeper vein – of experience, feelings, a wondering about the universe – it can be a catalyst for creative expression, stimulating an inventive use of words as well as encouraging experimentation with different shapes and styles of writing.

The workshop will include:

- following the impulse to write
- writing games
- hearing poetry from around the world
- learning to trust your own responses

DARWIN ONLY

\$50 waged non-member

\$40 waged member

\$30 concession

\$25 conc member

Book now! [info@ntwriters.com.au](mailto:info@ntwriters.com.au)

## A CONFIDENT VOICE PERFORMANCE SKILLS FOR WRITERS

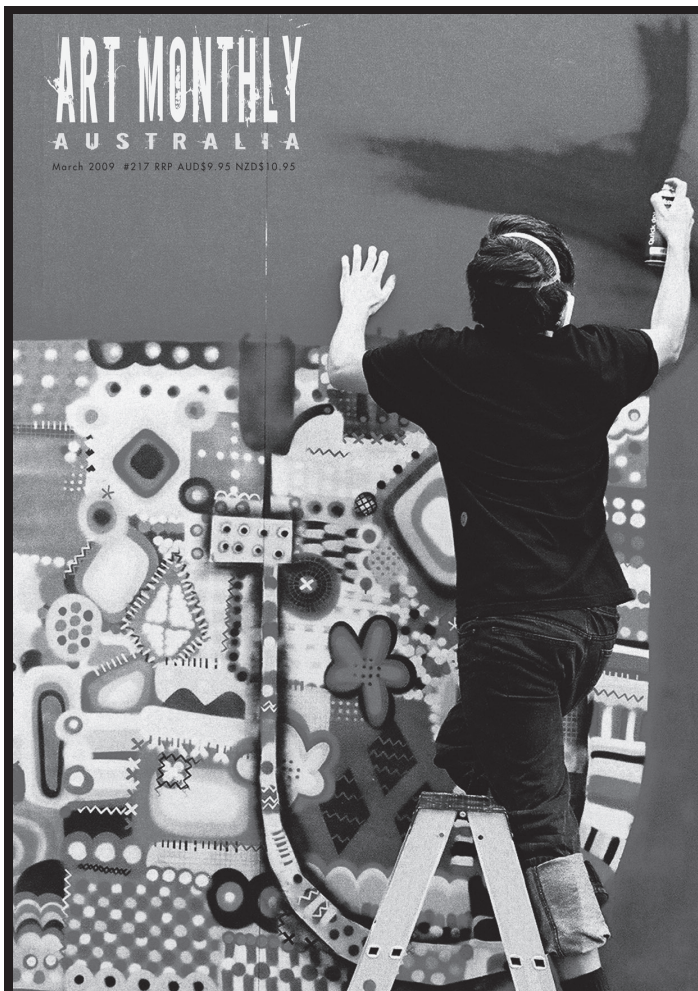
### Sat 11th July 2- 5 pm: A Confident Voice with Harry Laing

A workshop to highlight the spoken word and help writers develop confidence in reading and performing their work. Participants can practise on a wide range of material: excerpts from dramatic monologues, comic pieces and poems. This workshop would suit anyone who wants to 'stand and deliver', whether they're beginners or practised readers, rappers or sonneteers. There'll be voice-freeing exercises and techniques to help the body relax and resonate, tips on microphone technique and time for individual work. This workshop will focus on each participant's particular vocal style and qualities.

Harry Laing is a writer, performer and poetry educator. Mark O'Connor has called him 'perhaps Australia's finest reader of poetry'. He has taught many workshops, both in schools and for adults, including weekends and longer courses under the 'PoetryAlive' banner. He was a Poet On Wheels in 2006. He has written and performed in 5 one-man comedy shows. His second series of pieces for radio, 'Tales Of A Tree Changer' was aired on ABC RN in 2006. His second poetry collection, 'Backbone' is due out in 2009.

For more information about *PoetryAlive* see the website:  
W: [www.poetryalive.com.au](http://www.poetryalive.com.au)

Prices and bookings as 'Poetry Alive'.  
Participants for both workshops receive a 20% discount.



## 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

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

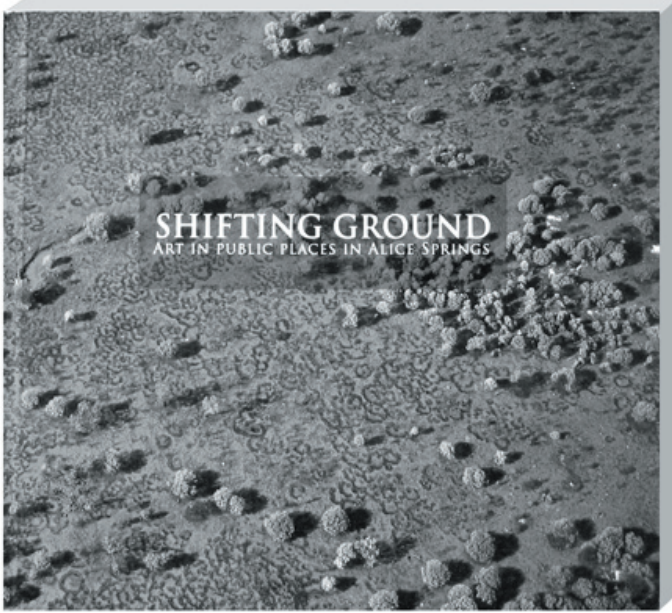
### Digital AMA:

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)

# REVIEW by Michael Giacometti



## Non-Fiction Review

### **Shifting ground: art in public places in Alice Springs**

Curators:

Kieran Finnane, Elliot Rich & Kieren Sanderson

Publisher: Ipomea Press, 2008 Pages: 64

Reviewer: Michael Giacometti

The title of *Shifting ground: art in public places in Alice Springs* is a little misleading. The book is not a showcase of the public art on display around Alice Springs, but a document of *Shifting Ground*, a site-specific program of art held in Alice Springs over 21 days in May 2007.

The event grew from a concept that was incubated during an *Art~Land~Culture* think-tank in March that year, whereby 'confrontational art', performance art that confronts and challenges the viewer, would be used to explore people's identity and cultural connection to place. The resulting program of art, *Shifting Ground*, involved 58 local, interstate and international artists; over one dozen venues, including many unexpected public places; and about 30 performances, exhibits and interactive installations.

The key aims of the innovative art project were to invigorate debate about how our public spaces are perceived, designed and used; to link people with place using art and stories; to express a yearning to connect with the physical environment and a sub-conscious yearning for a social and cultural link to the arid landscape of Central Australia. In all, it aimed to define a spiritual link with country-not with glorified perches for pigeons to shit on, but with public art as an interactive and evolving social dialogue.

The book's curators have lovingly produced a document of the ground-breaking event. The three essays by Kieran Finnane give greater context to the program of art. The first reports on the inspiration; the second gives a snapshot of the social environment of the time, immediately prior to the Intervention; the third is a review of the event. The poems by local poets are poignant, giving an insight into a foreign world, where 'rain comes ... like an act of redemption' (Carmel Williams, 'The Quickening'), domestic violence is common, and 'the whole country is VB Can Country' (Jennifer Mills, 'this amber land').

The photographs try to capture the fluidity of the event. None does so better than Mike Gillam's cover image. To the untrained eye, it appears like a typical arid landscape of spinifex and mulga in orange sand country. But it describes 'shifting ground in action': a landscape transformed by recent fire, burning the spinifex down into horseshoe-shapes and ironwood to wisps of white ash, but already responding with patches of grasses popping up.

In a 'whitefella' way, the book continues the debate of *Shifting Ground*, of questioning and defining a connection to place, and the nature of belonging to place. Through the publication of the book, a fluid moment has been concreted in time, like a fossil imprint, or the ripples of tide forever trapped in the sandstone of the surrounding ranges.

The book is available at bookstores and art suppliers, and from Ipomea Press:

T: 0410 147 526

E: [ipomea.press@gmail.com](mailto:ipomea.press@gmail.com)

## NT Writers' Centre Offices

The NT Writers' Centre offices in Alice Springs and Darwin can get quite frantic at times – particularly, in the build-up before a festival. If you would like to discuss your work with a member of staff, please book an interview time around a week in advance.

DARWIN T: 8941 2651  
ALICE T: 8952 3810



# 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@parkershousenet.net](mailto:sandra@parkershousenet.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.

## REGIONAL

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

### CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN 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://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

### 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!*

### PAID MENTORSHIPS-OYEA

As part of the Australia Council's Opportunities for Young and Emerging Artists (OYEA) initiative, 10 paid mentorships for emerging producers, agents, gallery dealers and rights managers are available for a period of 18 months under the 'emerging producers mentorship program'.

The selected candidates will have to opportunity to work directly alongside one of the following industry leaders:

- Elizabeth Walsh, Artistic Director, 10 days on the Island, TAS
- Marguerite Pepper, Managing Director, Marguerite Pepper Productions, NSW
- Steven Pozel, Director, Object : Australian Centre for Craft and Design, NSW
- Daniel Brine, Director, The Performance Space, NSW
- Clive Newman, Manager, Fremantle Press, WA
- John Oster, Executive Officer, desART : Association of Central Australian Aboriginal Art & Craft Centers, NT
- Michael Heyward, Publisher, Text Publishing, VIC
- Lee-Anne Donnelly, Executive Producer, Arts Projects Australia, SA
- Rob Gebart, Program Manager, The Arts Centre, VIC
- Bill Hauritz, Festival Director, Woodford Folk Festival, QLD

More information and application forms can be found on:

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

or contact:

Olivia Parker-Project Coordinator, Arts Development

P: 02 9215 9042

E: [o.parker@australiacouncil.gov.au](mailto:o.parker@australiacouncil.gov.au)





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## ::: NTWC MEMBERSHIP FORM :::

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Postcode..... Phone (bh) ..... (ah) ..... Fax.....

Email ..... Published? Yes / No

Writing Interests .....

New Member ☐ Renewal ☐

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

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[www.ntwriters.com.au](http://www.ntwriters.com.au)