

# write turn

a publication of the nt writers' centre

## WORDSTORM BLOWS DARWIN AWAY



Images courtesy of 105.7 ABC Darwin

The 'Storm has been such a long time coming that it is hard to believe its over already! What a rich few days we had, whether we were dining with Germaine Greer or Tim Flannery, listening to luscious verse or great music, or considering weighty political and social issues. And who in attendance could ever forget that wild night over at Mandorah? The faithful

Humbug pulling at the leg of a poet's pants? Dizzy and Barry getting down at Brown's Mart? Or the vision of Wendy Harmer pole dancing in her own bedroom? Sharanya Manivannan captivated us with her sensual suggestions about strawberry jam, Deborah Cheetham carried us away with her stunning performance at Darwin Entertainment Centre, and words melted in mouths at

the poets breakfast. Leonie Norrington shared some of her fabulous knowledge of tropical food gardening over crocodile fillets with mango chutney. Children built fairy castles in Kim's Cubby. Writers drew us into their own fractured childhoods, explored the wild ride of adolescence, took us on road trips and journeys from the page to the stage, carried us from the coast to

the interior, and considered the return to home. As writers make that journey home and the dust settles in their wake, the NT Writers' Centre extends its thanks to all the writers, volunteers, venues, sponsors, supporters and audiences for making it a great festival in 2010. We hope to see you all again in 2011 at Eye of the Storm festival, and for the next WordStorm in 2012.

### WRITE A SCRIPT IN 10 DAYS

Ever wanted to write a film script or a stage play, but

not sure how? Mary Anne Butler returns to Darwin to conduct *Spicing up the*

*Shorts*, an intensive two-weekend workshop covering everything you need to know

about writing for stage and screen. – places are limited – seomore on page 3.

# greetings from sandra



Sandra @ the Wordstorm closing night party at Brownsmart (drawing by Alison Dowell)

Hi members,

Well, the dust is starting to settle on WordStorm, although I'm still waking up at night wondering where Wendy Harmer's car is, why we've missed the boat for the comedy debate and how come we're not at the Tim Flannery dinner. My brain is slowly starting to register that it's all over, and that I'm now safely in my Wagait Beach bed, reveling in the glory of beating fishing, fair and square (well, sort-of - I hear breasts were involved in one judge's decision) - yes, beating sport, fellow writers, at our WordStorm comedy debate. Well done, team.

Well done, too, to all of the staff, volunteers, board members, writers, publishers, technicians, sponsors

and partners who together pulled off the most amazing WordStorm yet. We're still sifting through the finances, statistics and feedback, but it appears that this festival had significant impact upon the NT community, at greater levels than ever before. Furthermore, its impact continues, world-wide, as 105.7 ABC Darwin and ABC's Big Ideas broadcast online various festival sessions and events. Please go to the ABC website to access these.

Despite the end of the festival, the Centre is continuing to pump, with workshops and events coming up soon in Alice, Darwin and other towns. I hope to see you out and about.

Finally, 'well done' to this year's NT Literary Awards winners and other high achievers listed below.

Take care,

Sandra

## members' news

Congratulations to Bronwyn Mehan whose poem, *He thought she was a blanket*, won 2nd prize in the Henry Kendall Poetry Award 2010, judged by Michael Sharkey.

Congratulations also to the winners of the NT Literary Awards: Karen Manton for *Susannah* in the Dymocks Arafura Short Story Award; Leni Shilton for *Thoughts of the Desert* in the Dymocks Red Earth Poetry Award; Kathleen Epelde for *Learning to Read* in the Charles Darwin University Bookshop Travel Short Story Award; Glenn Morrison for *Two Towns Called Alice Springs* in the Charles Darwin University Essay Award; Renato Marocchini for *Guilty* in the Dymocks Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Writers' Award; Kierra-Jay Power for *Familiar Strangers* in the Kath Manzie Youth Literary Award; Mary Anne Butler for *Dragons* in the Darwin Festival Script Award; Jane Hampson for *Between the Lines* in the Birch Carroll and Coyle Screenwriting Award; For the complete shortlist see [www.ntl.nt.gov.au/news/literary\\_awards](http://www.ntl.nt.gov.au/news/literary_awards)

## write turn newsletter of the ntwriters' centre

Editors: Natalie Sprite  
Sandra Thibodeaux

Production & Layout: Natalie Sprite

### advertising

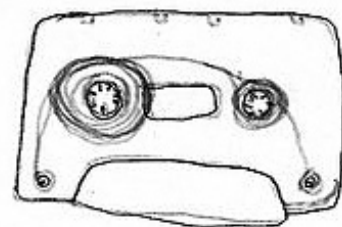
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### new members

Alyssa Vass  
Kate Smith  
Cheryl Galpin  
Susan A Denton  
Elizabeth Znidersic  
Vanessa Johnston  
Kellie Harpley  
Rob Stewart

### Disclaimer

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SONGS THAT MAKE ME  
THINK OF YOU. WITH  
WORDS THAT SAY WHAT  
I'M NOT SAYING.



It seems too soon to be all over, yet winging away from *Wordstorm* less than twelve hours after last drinks were downed in an upper room apartment overlooking the marina seems too soon. After a week of non-stop fourteen-hour-plus days, the magic of *Wordstorm* rose above the cesspit of organised chaos beneath. It always surprises me how quickly a site can be dismantled, leaving only some muddy and yellowed patches of grass as a briefly impermanent reminder that thousands of people were inspired and provoked by four days of literary discussion.

The best thing about writers' festivals is being exposed to new and vibrant voices, ones that I would not hear otherwise. Despite toiling endlessly behind the scenes, I was able to get to some sessions and discover some beautiful storytellers and stories: Alice Pung, the highly emotional reading by Andrea Hirata of *Rainbow Warriors*,

and the electricity in the main tent for Germaine Greer.

Prior to *Wordstorm*, Arnold Zable performed an encore-raising reading at the Todd Tavern with the support of Michael Watts, Meg Mooney and others in an excellent standard of open mic readings. Arnold's full day workshop the following day was the best writing workshop I have ever attended. He is a highly observant and compassionate teacher, and he is keen to return, possibly next year, for a weekend retreat.

The mayhem of May (*Wordstorm* fever) settles in June. Keep your eyes posted to the fortnightly e-news for future events and workshops, including *Off the Page* readings in July, and poetry masterclasses with Keri Glastonbury, poetry editor of literary-journal *Overland* in September/October.

Michael



Michael Giacometti

Alice Springs Office: 8952 3810,  
alice@ntwriters.com.au

Alice office hours: 10am-4pm (Mon & Tue) RedHOT Arts Space  
cnr Bath St & Stott Tce

## year of the edit



Shelley Kenigsberg has worked in publishing for 23 years as an editor, publisher, trainer and writer.

### Editing for Business & Government

July 23 (Alice)

July 26 (Darwin)

A practical editing workshop suitable for those writing (or interested in writing) for government departments, businesses and NGOs.

Darwin workshops will be held in the Frog Hollow conference room

Next up in our year of editing are some workshops to be delivered by the very dynamic and pragmatic Shelley Kenigsberg. This time around, Shelley will be examining structure with writers/editors, and providing guidance for those writing in business and government. Please note that the Alice Springs workshops will only proceed if there are sufficient bookings. Please assist us with our planning by booking early (without payment) by Friday, 18 June.

### Structural Editing

saturday july 24 (Alice)

sunday july 25 (Darwin)

9am - 4pm

While copyediting looks at words and sentences, structural editing looks at the 'big picture', to find the best shape. This workshop presents practical techniques for identifying problems and developing the logic and flow of a text. Learn how to design elegant solutions.

### Drawing the writers

At the *Wordstorm* closing night party, local artist Alison Dowell, started scetching what she saw. This is some of what she made.





# highlights of the lit-life...

photos courtesy of Angela Schoen  
and 105.7 ABC Darwin



## wordstorm - a writers' perspective

Writing, for most of us, is a solitary pursuit. So it's always a treat when a festival like this comes along, offering in the space of just a few days, a chance to mix with, and learn from other writers. As well as going to numerous panels and readings, I squeezed in a three-hour workshop on TV Scriptwriting with the knowledgeable and entertaining Nick Parsons.

*Wordstorm* 2010 also offered R & R for the lonesome scribbler. On Friday night, I joined seven members of my bookclub at the Germaine Greer - 40 Years of Influence dinner at Pee Wees. Prof Greer was a humorous, thought-provoking and generous speaker. On Saturday night, it was off to the Mandorah pub for the highly entertaining comedy debate and on Sunday, it was Closing Night with Dizzy Doolan (Australia's Missy Elliot) and boogieing to Barry Brown and the Get Down.

For an emerging writer, *Wordstorm* 2010 has been, hands down, the most valuable festival I've

attended. A huge highlight for me was meeting and working with the writers at the three sessions I facilitated - Utopia, Islam and her Longing and Memoir/Biography. This was my first time in this role of 'panelbeater' and, while it involved a good deal of preparation and nervous energy, it was a very rewarding experience.

*Wordstorm* 2010 was rich in performance. Stand outs for me were the playreadings, especially Caroline Reid's *Prayer to an Iron God*, expertly read by the young Corrugated Iron actors and *The Kitchen* by dynamic Indonesian duo, Lily Yulianti Farid and Luna Vidya. The Reading Tree proved to be a great spot for both entertainment and cool contemplation. I was proud to be one of four DAGS (Darwin Authors Group) members to read there. It was a privilege to hear Deb Cheetham read from her libretto, *Pecan Summer*, and to hear the wonderful women writers from the Barkly tell their stories.

Bronwyn Mehan

Relive the festival. check it all out online [www.ntwriters.com.au](http://www.ntwriters.com.au) Also if you have any photos or memories of the festival you would like to share please send them to [info@ntwriters.com.au](mailto:info@ntwriters.com.au) and we'll do our best to get them up on our webpage.



# how to write a script in 10 days...

## an intensive with Mary Anne Butler

Ever wanted to write a brilliant script but weren't sure how to start? Or how to finish? Or maybe what should go in the middle? This is the workshop for you! Taught over two weekends, it will cover everything you need to know about writing a great script:

- Effective dialogue
- Subtext
- Themes
- Plot and structure
- Character stakes and arcs
- The role of the visual
- Filmic conventions and layout
- Stage conventions and layout
- Use of index cards for plot and structure

On completion, participants will have a short film screenplay or stage play which contains the following elements:

- An identifiable protagonist
- An identifiable antagonist
- A clear theme
- Clear character arcs and character stakes
- A clear and coherent plot
- Australian standard film layout
- Standard stage play layout

They will also develop

- A one sentence 'pitch' for their piece
- A 100 word synopsis
- A short film/stage 'Treatment'

Each participant will also receive up to one hour online one-to-one support with Mary-Anne. Completed scripts due at the end of the second on-line week.

Students will have the opportunity to have scripts publicly performed as a script reading.

Mary Anne recently delivered a similar unit to BIITE creative writing degree students, with the following feedback:

"..after this week, I have a very definite view of what's required to write a film."

"The best aspect was being able to understand, plan and write a 10 min film."

"Excellent. Thoroughly enjoyed learning this week!!"

"... the plot work was fantastic."

"Everything about it was good - no time to get bored!! Class exercises were especially helpful for me."

"It's hard to improve on something that good."

"It's opened up doors and switched on light bulbs."

Place numbers are limited. To book, please call 89 412 651 or email [info@ntwriters.com.au](mailto:info@ntwriters.com.au)

## SPICING UP THE SHORTS

with Mary Anne Butler

An intensive workshop across two weekends: learn the tools of good script writing and leave with a completed short film script or stage play.

June 12 and 13th  
June 19th and 20th



Full \$260 / member \$220 / concession member \$190  
For bookings, email [info@ntwriters.com.au](mailto:info@ntwriters.com.au) or ring 89 412 651

# competitions ... awards...

## FAW MORNINGTON PENINSULA PRIZE 2010

Closing 30 July

Short stories to 3000 words. \$300 first prize. Entry \$7.50.

E: [peninsulafaw@bigpond.com](mailto:peninsulafaw@bigpond.com)

## ARVON INTERNATIONAL POETRY COMPETITION

Closing 16 August

Founded by Ted Hughes and now in its 30th year, the first prize of £7,500 is one of the largest available for a single poem. The competition is truly international, welcoming entries from around the world.

W: <http://arvonfoundation.org/p236.html>

THE FRANKI SHOW is seeking talent to get on board as cast, crew and storytellers. The Franki Show, an Original Multi-Platform Online Series, will film in and around Alice Springs from May to September. The Franki Show is the winner of The LIONSGATE Best Drama Pilot at the National Association of Television Programming Executives in Los Angeles 2009.

Casting enquiries: [casting@thefrankishow.com](mailto:casting@thefrankishow.com)

Crew enquiries: [crew@thefrankishow.com](mailto:crew@thefrankishow.com)

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

## YOUNG WRITERS to contribute to Y NEWS

The Y pages of Monday's NT News are looking for contributors. Illustrations, poems, opinion pieces, reviews or creative writing welcome.

E: [y@ntnews.com.au](mailto:y@ntnews.com.au)

## REHEARSAL INTERNS at NATIONAL SCRIPT WORKSHOP

Calling young and emerging playwrights, directors and dramaturgs. Want to work with some of the country's best theatre makers and develop your experience of new play development? Up to four internships are available, working full time or part time for two weeks from 28 June to 9 July (Monday to Friday) in Sydney.

W: [www.pwa.org.au/AboutUs/Internships/](http://www.pwa.org.au/AboutUs/Internships/)

## JOBS: EDITOR at ISLAND LITERARY MAGAZINE

Based in Hobart commencing early June. Salary 0.75 load at \$65,000 FTE. Email for a job package.

E: [normanreaburn@legalaid.tas.gov.au](mailto:normanreaburn@legalaid.tas.gov.au)

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

## JOBS: IAD PRESS seeking a PUBLISHER

IAD Press, the award-winning Indigenous publishing house based in Alice Springs, is seeking a new full-time publisher.

W: [www.iad.edu.au](http://www.iad.edu.au)

## PETER BLAZEY FELLOWSHIP 2011

Closing 18 June

The Fellowship is awarded annually to writers in the non-fiction fields of biography, autobiography and memoir, and is intended to further a work in progress. Cash prize of \$15,000 and a one-month residency at the Australian Centre.

W: [www.australian.unimelb.edu.au/public/awards/blazey.html](http://www.australian.unimelb.edu.au/public/awards/blazey.html)

## GRIFFITH REVIEW 30: WRITING FROM THE RIM

Closing 25 June

Writing from the Rim will focus on the Pacific region - what binds us, what pulls us apart, how can we make sense of such a diverse region connected by a vast rolling ocean?

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

## banQuet 2011 ANTHOLOGIES OF QUEER WRITING

Closing 25 June

We are looking for new (previously unpublished works) by emerging and recently established queer Australian writers/artists. Challenge and surprise us. Introduce us to your complex and flawed protagonists. Take us for a ride on the seamy side! Submission guidelines from the website.

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

## POETS UNION 2010 YOUNG POETS FELLOWSHIP

Closing 29 June

Poets Union / Australian Poetry Centre Fellowship for a poet aged 19-30 years. The Fellow will receive a mentorship with an experienced poet, publication of a chapbook, and more.

W: [www.poetsunion.com/fellowships](http://www.poetsunion.com/fellowships)

## DESERT WRITERS with Jan Cornall

June 26 - July 3

We head out from Alice Springs to walk and write on the Larapinta and newly opened Ilpola Trails. Meetings with Traditional owners Mavis and Herman Malbunka and Arrentre guides, workshops on and off track with writing tutor Jan Cornall, supported camping and walking, medium grade fitness. Bring an existing writing project or start a new one.

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

P: 0414929768 or 0415921303

## BLACK INC. BEST AUSTRALIAN ESSAYS, STORIES & POEMS 2010

Closing 30 July

Recent work only, published or unpublished. Published work must have been published after August 1, 2009.

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

## AUSTRALIAN BOOK REVIEW - seeking contributions

Australian Book Review is now publishing short stories and is seeking contributions.

W: <http://www.australianbookreview.com.au/>

MASCARA LITERARY REVIEW - is now accepting submissions of short fiction and essays (as well as poetry). Mascara is an online journal particularly interested in the work of contemporary Asian (as well as Australian) writers. Pay: \$50 for reviews/essays, \$75 for two or more poems.

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

## CORIOLE WINE POETRY GIVEAWAY

Submit a poem (maximum 15 lines / 100 words) to win two bottles of Coriole wine. To enter you must be an NTWC member. Submissions can be made at any time throughout the year. Send entries with subject header 'Coriole Poetry' to:

E: [executive@ntwriters.com.au](mailto:executive@ntwriters.com.au)

## TEXT PRIZE FOR YOUNG ADULT & CHILDREN'S WRITING

Closing 4 June

Published and unpublished authors of all ages are encouraged to enter manuscripts suitable for a young adult or children's readership. The winner will receive a publishing contract and a \$10,000 advance against royalties. More entry details from the website.

W: <http://textpublishing.com.au>

# opportunities...

## LETTERBOX DREAMS POETRY COMPETITION

Closing 9 June

Max 50 lines. Prizes \$1000, \$300, \$200. Entry fee is \$5 for 1 poem or \$12 for 3 poems.

W: [http://web.me.com/letterbox\\_dreams](http://web.me.com/letterbox_dreams)

## 2010 BLAKE POETRY PRIZE

Closing 11 June

The 2010 Blake Poetry Prize offers a cash prize of \$5,000 for a new poem that best explores the religious or spiritual. The prize is non-sectarian and encourages Australian poets to write a new work of up to 100 lines.

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

## BIG BREAK SCREENWRITING CONTEST

Closing 15 June

The Big Break is an annual, global screenwriting contest designed to launch the careers of aspiring writers. The Big Break Contest rewards screenwriters with cash, prizes, and A-list executive meetings. Winners and finalists alike have had their screenplays optioned and produced and have secured high-profile representation as well as lucrative writing deals.

\$20,000 cash prizes. Entry fees: \$40 – \$65

W: [www.finaldraft.com/bigbreak](http://www.finaldraft.com/bigbreak)

## FAWNS VIBRANT VERSE POETRY COMPETITION 2010

Closing 18 June

Two categories: Free verse, open style, open theme; or Traditional, rhymed or structured verse, open style, open theme. Maximum 60 lines (both categories). Prizes: 1st \$100, 2nd \$50, Entry fee: \$5.

<http://sites.google.com/site/fawnorthshoreregional/>

## VARUNA / NEW AUSTRALIAN STORIES SHORT STORY COMPETITION

Closing 30 June

Winners will be published in Scribe's New Australian Stories 2.0, and/or awarded a week-long residency at Varuna to work with Cate Kennedy.

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

## KATE CHALLIS RAKA AWARD FOR INDIGENOUS POETS

Closing 18 June

The \$25,000 award is offered in a five-year cycle to a different artistic discipline. This year is for poets.

[www.australian.unimelb.edu.au/public/awards/raka.html](http://www.australian.unimelb.edu.au/public/awards/raka.html)

## POETS UNION POETRY PRIZE 2010

Closing 30 June

Prize for a single poem to 100 lines. Entry \$15 First prize \$3000, with up to five shortlisted entries receiving \$100.

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

## SCRIBBLERS INC. LITERARY COMPETITION 2010

Closing 30 June

Prose to 200 words and poetry to 40 lines. Entry \$5 per title. First prize \$350 in each category

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

# prizes...

## BRYAN KELLEHER LITERARY AWARD for BUSH POETRY

Closing 30 June

Australian bush poetry competition with prizes up to \$1000.

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

## BRIDPORT PRIZE 2010

Closing 30 June

£5000 first prize for a short story (of up to 5000 words); and £5000 first prize for a poem (of up to 42 lines). £1,000 for the best short, short story of under 250 words. It costs £7 per story, £6 per poem or £5 per short, short fiction.

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

## ERIC ROLLS PRIZE for ENVIRONMENTAL or NATURE WRITING

Closing 30 June

Prize for prose fiction or nonfiction in the genre of natural history writing. Maximum 6000 words. Entry \$10. First prize \$1000, plus participation in the 2011 Watermark Literary Muster, including airfares and accommodation.

[www.watermarkliterarysociety.asn.au/About/About-Prizes.htm](http://www.watermarkliterarysociety.asn.au/About/About-Prizes.htm)

## RICHARD BURTON AWARD FOR NEW PLAYS

Closing 2 July

The Richard Burton Award for New Plays, with a prize pool of \$30,000, is awarded annually to works that have not yet had a production. The Award rewards our most unique and gifted playwrights. The winning play will be staged by the Black Swan State Theatre Company.

[www.bsstc.com.au/the-richard-burton-award-for-new-plays/](http://www.bsstc.com.au/the-richard-burton-award-for-new-plays/)

## REASON-BRISBANE POETRY PRIZE 2010

Closing 2 July

Open theme. Prizes: 1st \$1500, 2nd \$500, 3rd \$300.

W: [www.daylesfordonline.com/poetryprize](http://www.daylesfordonline.com/poetryprize)

## 'PLACE AND EXPERIENCE' POETRY PRIZE 2010

Closing 5 July

Enter one poem to 60 lines for a share of \$2000 prize money.

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

## NEWCASTLE POETRY PRIZE 2010

Closing 9 July

Prize pool of over \$10,000. Unpublished poems to 200

[newcastlepoetryprize.com/](http://newcastlepoetryprize.com/)

## 2010 CJ DENNIS LITERARY AWARDS

Closing 23 July

Four categories – \$200 first prize in each. Poetry (to 50 lines) or short story (to 2500 words) on the theme 'Year of the Tiger'; open theme poetry (to 50 lines) or open theme short story (to 2500 words).

E: [peter.lane4@bigpond.com](mailto:peter.lane4@bigpond.com)

## BRUCE DAWE POETRY PRIZE 2010

Closing 30 July

\$1500 award to encourage poets throughout Australia. Entry is open to any aspiring or established poet.

[www.usq.edu.au/daweprize](http://www.usq.edu.au/daweprize)



# the world of e with Liam ...

## It's a book, Jim, but not as we know it

By the time you read this, the iPad will be available in Australia (unless it's delayed again). If you frequent the interweb as much as I do, then no doubt you would have come across the iPad as an eBook reader debate. If not, google 'ipad vs kindle' and see what you get. Whatever your opinion of Tablets vs eReader devices, they're here to stay, and they're going to be very popular.

Personally, I like reading on a Kindle device, but I prefer using the Kindle app on the iPad – where I can also do everything else (read PDFs, send emails, record audio notes, play games, interact with 3D models and access the internet...). Once I get my hands on a 3G iPad (public wifi access in Australia is terrible), then I imagine I won't have to lug my laptop around anywhere near as much either. And if Apple wasn't my thing (which it is), then there will be a whole range of other tablet devices to choose from by the end of the year. Which operating systems they will run is an ongoing debate, although Google's Android is looking good and emerging as the main competition for Apple.

I started making iPhone apps about 18 months ago. I've made a number of 'books' into apps during that time and talked to my fair share of publishers about putting their books on the iPhone. Reference books I made, such as First Aid and Knots have been the most popular.

Then the iPad was released in the US 6 weeks ago and all of a sudden there was a new device about the size of a book. So we started 'AppBooks' and are now focussing on repurposing book content and porting it to the iPad. I'm still playing with the design of the basic 'template' and I expect it to be a work in progress that is refined or adapted with each AppBook that is released. For example, today I spent the day with Graeme Base working on ideas for an iPhone and iPad app based on one of his children's books. What we discussed didn't fit into the particular code I have been working on, because what we want to make isn't necessarily going to end up anything like any of the other 'AppBooks'.



Books on the iPhone have proven to be very popular. 'Book' apps outnumber games on the iPhone and I expect them to do the same on the iPad. But one of the ongoing issues with them is the lack of consistency across different apps. There are certain 'flagship' apps – such as Kindle, GoodReader, Free Books, 3D Bookshelf and Masterpieces – that are defining a standard way to interact with apps. Apple created their own version called iBooks that is only available within the US iTunes store (with little information about when it might be available in Australia). It is similar to the other eBook reader apps. My understanding at the moment is that only 'established' publishers can submit content for the iBookstore. It is not known when (or if) Apple will open it up to self-publishers and authors.

Some have argued that the simple presentation encourages readers to focus more on the text and read each word. While I agree, authors-writers-artists now also have an opportunity to express and communicate their idea or story using animation, video, audio and interactivity. This is the potential of what I call 'AppBooks'.

A good example of the possibilities are children's AppBooks. While these range in format from simple ePub text through to media rich videos embedded within apps, there are some very good examples of beautiful design balanced with subtle interaction (such as 'Alice' on the iPad) of the type I could imagine using to lull

my nephews to sleep at the end of the day. We're still in the early stages of development and it's going to be exciting to see what will be created in the future as artists' and authors' ideas are translated to new formats.

While it's relatively difficult for an author to get their book made into a media-rich iPad app at the moment without knowing a developer or investing a fair chunk of cash in its creation (although there are several services like Vook starting to offer cheaper solutions), it is easy to convert your book into the ePub format.

For example, it's quite simple to get your book on the Kindle store. Just google 'how to sell on Kindle' and find one of the many guides on how to do it. You'll be surprised how easy it is to format, upload and preview your book using very basic software you'll already have on your computer or can download for free.

There are plenty of other eBook services out there that will create and/or sell your eBook for you. Of course, it will still be up to you to find a way to market and create some interest in it. If it's a niche area, then you could explore the 'long tail' of the internet and write a blog post or make a comment on someone else's post on your specific area.

The more targeted you are, the more chance of someone being interested ....(see following page)



# ... off the page gets on stage

a night of live theatre, sensual music, comedy and cabaret @ brown's mart

*Off the Page* in June will highlight some the amazing new work that is coming from our local playwrights. Both Mary Anne Butler and Finn O'Branagain will perform excerpts from their new plays.

The ensemble, *Company One*, will be performing original works, directed by Alex Galeazzi. Music is courtesy of the amazing and sensual voice of Jillaine Jones. MC is Vicki Kerrigan. The night

kicks off at 7pm (open mic registration between 7 and 7.30). Come early for Brown's Mart's Blue Bar and soak up a bit of local ambience (and a drink or two, too).



Mary Anne Butler, Jillaine Jones, Finn O'Branagain, appearing at Off the Page, Friday June 26th @ Brown's Mart Theatre

enough to click your hyperlink. For example, if I wrote a novel with a football theme, I could search for and join Facebook groups or fan pages and make a post about the eBook. I could @comment on twitter to AFL tweeps. I could leave comments on AFL forums, blogs, discussion groups..etc. I could search for other websites and write to the person who runs it. And so on...

I would let people know that the book was available on the Kindle store and that they can download it on their Kindle app on their iPhone or iPad (or Android if it's out). Ideally I'd provide a link to a website page with some info on it that had a link to the Kindle store.

But don't forget about other more traditional avenues to market your eBook. There is a lot of interest in this area right now, so if you've taken the initiative to get your book in AppBook or eBook form and available on several devices, it might be worth trying to get your story told or the eBook reviewed in a newspaper.

Just in case you doubt the usefulness or convenience of digital books, I wanted to share a recent experience. I recently went into a bookstore to buy a book I kept hearing about on the internet. Unfortunately, it wasn't available in Australia yet and, as a niche title, would only be available on special order. So it would be weeks before I might get to read it. But as I walked out the store, I opened up the Kindle app on my phone, found the book and downloaded it. When I got back to my computer, it was available there as well. Now I have it on my iPad. I understand it's not for everyone, but I haven't been back to the book store since.

If you're looking for a way to keep up with eBook news and a starting point for more information on this stuff, Jason's BookBee website is a great Australian resource. [www.bookbee.com.au](http://www.bookbee.com.au). He's also on Facebook. Just search 'BookBee' and you'll find him. I also recommend [www.digitalbookworld.com](http://www.digitalbookworld.com). Twitter is a great resource for staying up to date with the latest trends and I

use it daily as a way to find interesting news and blog posts. For those not familiar with it, sign up at [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com) and follow me @liamcampbell and click on my 'epub' list. You can follow a few tweeps who might be interested in the same stuff as you - and then they'll do the work of sifting through all the info on the web and link you to it. You don't even have to write your own tweets if you don't want to.

If you have any specific questions, feel free to visit my website [www.tootable.com](http://www.tootable.com) and drop me an email.

Liam

*Liam Campbell worked in Yuendumu for 14 years on a variety of collaborative media projects, including writing a historical biography on Darby Jampijinpa Ross (ABC Books). He has been developing iPhone apps since the Australian launch of the iTunes App store with several independent businesses. He currently lives in two places - Melbourne (where he makes apps) and Yuendumu (where he works with the Mt Theo Program).*

# rules for writers...

*The Guardian newspaper recently asked writers for a list of ten rules for writers. These are some of my favorites. For the full list go to <http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2010/feb/20/ten-rules-for-writing-fiction-part-one>*

*Roddy Doyle*

- Do be kind to yourself. Fill pages as quickly as possible; double space, or write on every second line. Regard every new page as a small triumph.

*Diana Athill*

- Cut: only by having no inessential words can every essential word be made to count.

*Helen Dunmore*

- Listen to what you have written.
- Learn poems by heart.

*Richard Ford*

- Try to think of others' good luck as encouragement to yourself.

*Jonathan Franzen*

- Fiction that isn't an author's personal adventure into the frightening or the unknown isn't worth writing for anything but money.

*Esther Freud*

- Find your best time of the day for writing and write. Don't let anything else interfere.

*Neil Gaiman*

- The main rule of writing is that if you do it with enough assurance and confidence, you're allowed to do whatever you like. So write your story as it needs to be written. Write it honestly, and tell it as best you can.

*David Hare*

- If nobody will put your play on, put it on yourself.

*PD James*

- Write what you need to write, not what is currently popular or what you think will sell.
- Open your mind to new experiences, particularly to the study of other people. Nothing that happens to a writer - however happy, however tragic - is ever wasted.

*AL Kennedy*

- Have humility. Remember you don't know the limits of your own abilities. Successful or not, if you keep pushing beyond yourself, you will enrich your own life - and maybe even please a few strangers.
- Defend yourself. Find out what keeps you happy, motivated and creative.
- Remember you love writing. It wouldn't be worth it if you didn't. If the love fades, do what you need to and get it back.

*Hilary Mantel*

- First paragraphs can often be struck out. Are you performing a haka, or just shuffling your feet?
- Concentrate your narrative energy on the point of change. When your character is new to a place, or things alter around them, that's the point to step back and fill in the details of their world.
- Description must work for its place. It can't be simply ornamental. It usually works best if it has a human element; it is more effective if it comes from an implied viewpoint, rather than from the eye of God. If description is coloured by the viewpoint of the character who is doing the noticing, it becomes, in effect, part of character definition and part of the action.

*Michael Morpurgo*

- The prerequisite for me is to keep my well of ideas full. This means living as full and varied a life as possible, to have my antennae out all the time.
- Ted Hughes gave me this advice and it works wonders: record moments, fleeting impressions, overheard dialogue, your own sadnesses and bewilderments and joys.

*Andrew Motion*

- Decide when in the day (or night) it best suits you to write, and organise your life accordingly.
- Think with your senses as well as your brain.
- Honour the miraculousness of the ordinary.
- Think big and stay particular.

*Zadie Smith*

- Work on a computer that is disconnected from the internet.

*Colm Tóibín*

- Finish everything you start.

*Rose Tremain*

- Learn from cinema. Be economic with descriptions. Sort out the telling detail from the lifeless one. Write dialogue that people would actually speak.

*Jeanette Winterson*

- Love what you do.
- Be ambitious for the work and not for the reward.

*Esther Freud*

- Even your own rules are there to be broken.

*Anne Enright*

- Remember, if you sit at your desk for 15 or 20 years, every day, not counting weekends, it changes you. It just does. It may not improve your temper, but it fixes something else. It makes you more free.





# ... coming soon



## Alana Valentine

Acclaimed playwright and performer, Alana Valentine, will appearing at *Off the Page* in July. Appearing alongside her will be the highly vivacious Jason de Santis. Both are preparing new works for the Darwin Festival, but for a sneak peak, come along on July 30th to Brown's Mart Theatre. More acts to be announced closer to the date.

## chris mansell poetry masterclass July 31st

Renowned Australian poet Chris Mansell is coming to Darwin to teach a poetry masterclass. Her published work includes *Head, Heart & Stone*, *Redshift/Blueshift*, *Day Easy Sunlight Fine*, *The Fickle Brat*, and *Stalking the Rainbow*. Although primarily a poet, she has also had a number of plays performed and indulges in short fiction from time to time. She's won a number of awards, been short-listed for others. A widely respected teacher, she has conducted workshops in various locations including Egypt, Spain, South America and Darwin. While in the Top End, Ms Mansell will also be launching *Extinctions*, a chapbook of original poetry by Sandra Thibodeaux.

## extinctions

a poetry chap-book by sandra thibodeaux

launch @ the darwin ski club, July 31st

presented by Kaye Aldenhoven, Bronwyn Mehan & Megan Nevett



# extinctions

# sandra thibodeaux



Sandra Thibodeaux is an influential and dynamic presence in Australian poetry - especially in the Northern Territory where she lives and works.

Her work is dramatic with a clear and accessible voice: 'a sure touch with the rackets world, a spare precision and a lyrical elegance' according to reviewer, Patricia Prime.

*Extinctions* is Thibodeaux's second PressPress chapbook and will be launched by Chris Mansell at the Darwin Ski Club on July 31st. For more details, see the website, closer to the date.

## 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: [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]: (08) 8988 2172 or [e]: [sandra@parkershousenet](mailto:sandra@parkershousenet).

The Fellowship of Australian Writers are currently in recess and urgently require a new facilitator. FAW have a strong nation wide history. If you are interested in reviving the Darwin chapter of FAW, please contact: Ted Kilpatrick on [t]: 8948 1216.

## other regions

A NEW GROUP FOR ARNHEM LAND: is now meeting in Nhulunbuy. For more information, contact Ian Maclean on E: [ian@nightsskysecrets.com](mailto:ian@nightsskysecrets.com)

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

KATHERINE REGION OF WRITERS: Contact Jill Pettigrew: [wjpp@clearnet.com.au](mailto:wjpp@clearnet.com.au) for more information.

## nt support networks

The NT Film Office provides advice on locations, policy, industry contacts and production matters, and offers support through annual grants programs. (t) T: 8951 1162. email: [film.office@nt.gov.au](mailto:film.office@nt.gov.au)

The Australian Writers' Guild is the peak national organisation for writers working in screen, theatre, radio and performance. [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!

Annie Drum is this month's winner of the Coriole poem prize.  
For your chance to win, email your poem to [executive@ntwriters.com.au](mailto:executive@ntwriters.com.au)



WORM WORDS  
Oh we're all familiar  
with the plight of beached whales  
but what of the baked worms  
curled like letters  
crispy A's and S's  
some in dark  
fresh fried Font  
others  
pale Italics  
left to die  
unsaved  
on hot pavements  
I step over them  
this wormspeak  
and wonder:  
Why do they set out  
en masse  
like lemmings  
from this side  
to that  
flipping and writhing  
to die in baked O's  
lurching G's  
like fat leaning backward lettering  
of teenage girls?  
Is this Wormese?  
Does it say  
I love Dylan?  
Alex is a slut?  
Or:  
Here I lie  
One worm fry  
4 eva



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