David Finnigan: Sun Drugs

Throughout the latter half of 2009 and the first months of 2010 Booranga has been running performance poetry workshops under the banner of ‘The Booranga Spoken Word Group’. We have a small but committed group of performance enthusiasts who have been coming along once a month to the Riverina Community College to hone some writing techniques, as well as work on delivery. The next stage of this project will be the group’s first performance, a support slot for visiting performer David Finnigan.

David Finnigan (aka ‘Blind’) is writer / performer with many years experience in both creative writing and theatre forums. He will be presenting a self-written one man show, the half hour performance Sun Drugs (directed by Naomi Milthorpe).

On the night we will also be lucky to have Melbourne based spoken word artist Emilie Zoey Baker (pictured left) on hand to perform some of her work.

The performances of the 12th April including the Booranga Spoken Word Group is supported by a cultural grant from the Wagga City Council, and by organisational support from the Wagga City Library. This performance is also a part of the Re:generate Youth Festival.

*Booranga advises the performance of the 12th April may contain sexual content. Audience members should be 16 years and over, or accompanied by an adult guardian.*
Booranga Annual General Meeting

Booranga will once again be holding our annual general meeting in the Wagga City Library, on Wednesday 7th April. This night is always a great way to catch up with fellow members, and get a run down of what has been happening over the past year.

If you are interested in getting involved more with the organisation of Booranga, there will be nomination forms available for positions on our executive committee. Being a part of the committee can be a good way to have some input into what we plan for each year, and the commitment only entails attending an evening meeting once a month.

Guest speaker on the evening will be CSU lecturer Dr. Anna Poletti. Anna’s PhD research focussed on zine-making, and she will be speaking at the AGM about self publishing.

5pm, 7th April, Wagga City Library

PechaKucha Night

Pecha Kucha is a world wide phenomena that originated in Japan. On 18th March Wagga Wagga will be hosting its first of a series of Pecha Kucha evenings planned for 2010.

The format is simple but effective: There will be 12 guest speakers on the evening (including myself, and Booranga President David Gilbey) and each speaker will present a series of 20 images, images that in some way relate to their topic of interest. Each image will be displayed for no more than 20 seconds, resulting in a concise talk about a specific subject, lasting for 6 minutes and 40 seconds.

There will be a diverse array of speakers featuring at Wagga’s first Pecha Kucha evening and it should be a really interesting night.

6pm, 18th March, The Museum of the Riverina’s Historic Council Chambers Venue. * Further information can be found at: http://www.pecha-kucha.org/night/wagga-wagga/1

2010 Calendar of Booranga Events

March

18th Pecha Kucha: 6pm, Historic Council Chambers
20th Monthly Writers’ Meeting: 2pm, Booranga
28th Booranga Spoken Word Group Meeting: 4pm, RCC

April

7th Booranga AGM: 5pm, Wagga City Library
11th Performance Poetry workshop (with David Finnigan): 9am, Booranga
12th Performance: ‘Sun Drugs’ by David Finnigan / Emilie Zoey Baker / Booranga performance poets: 7pm, Basement Theatre

May

6th - 20th Writer-in-residence: Louise Waller

June

30th Submissions close for fourW twenty-one
Writer-in-residence: Louise Waller

The second writer to officially visit the region in 2010 will be Louise Waller. Louise is an award winning Queensland poet who has recently relocated from Yeppoon (central coastal Queensland) to Verona Sands in Southern Tasmania.

Since moving to Tasmania in late 2009, Louise and her partner Ray have purchased a small beach shack at lovely (and quiet) Verona Sands. With views overlooking the beautiful and ever changing D’Entrecasteaux Channel, the location is inspiring and is currently influencing her work on a series of poems based on the music of Gustav Mahler. Louise has titled the developing sequence ‘Figuring shells with Mahler’.

Louise has had her poetry published in numerous venues including foam:e, Blue Dog, Famous Reporter, Papertiger and notably The Best Australian Poems 2009. She has also been a contributing editor of the online journal foam:e for a number of years. Louise has been commended twice in the Arts Queensland Val Vallis Poetry Award and took second place for this award in 2006.

A full itinerary of Louise’s events will follow in the next issue of this newsletter, but her feature reading at the Wagga City Library has been confirmed for Thursday 13th May, 5pm. Visiting poet David Reiter will also be reading some of his work on the night.

Booranga Monthly Writers’ Meetings

The first of our monthly writers’ meetings was held last month, February 13th, with a group of members turning up to discuss the literary inspiration of Valentine’s day. (All three poems included in the members’ work section of this newsletter were workshopped on the day.)

Booranga remains committed to facilitating these meetings every month, and I’m sure our regular attendees would testify to the usefulness of them. Writing can at times be a solitary pursuit, and there is no way around this, but there is also no better way to get an idea of how you are going, or to get a new perspective on your work, than to share it with some other writers. Over 2009 I saw many of our members develop in confidence and benefit even just from the self-enforced deadline each month. Our next meeting will once again be held at the Booranga Writers’ Centre, on Saturday 20th March.

Saturday 20th March, 2pm, Booranga Writers’ Centre, McKeown Drive, Charles Sturt University, Wagga
Recent Booranga Events

fourW twenty launches...

In 2009 fourW was launched in three separate locations - Wagga, Melbourne, and Sydney. All three launches were well attended, demonstrating that as well as having a strong regional following fourW is recognised by writers across the country as a worthwhile venue for publication. Approximately 50 people attended the Wagga launch at the City Library; around 40 attended the Melbourne launch at the Carlton Courthouse; and once again the upstairs room at Glebe Books was packed out, with around 70 attendees.

In Wagga fourW twenty was launched by Dr. Carmen Moran and many members and contributors from around Wagga turned out to read a sample of their work. In Melbourne the book was launched by former Wagga resident and Booranga members Dr. Christine Ferrari. It was fantastic for me to launch the book here for the first time, as it allowed us to connect with a cohort of contributors that might otherwise have just remained names on the page. In Sydney the book was launched by well known Australian poet Peter Minter. Peter’s launch was extremely entertaining - he created a collage poem featuring his favourite lines from every single piece of work in the book.

Perhaps due to our connections with three major centres in 2009, there are hardly any copies of fourW twenty left out at Booranga. If you have a copy be sure to hang on to it. Like other selected issues of fourW it is now a rarity, and sure to become a collector’s item in the future.

Much thanks goes out to CSU’s Department of Humanities and Social Sciences who again funded the production of fourW in 2009. Also, thanks must be given to the editorial team that worked long hours in a volunteer capacity to bring fourW twenty to life.

(Images on this page feature the drawing, and awarding of the lucky door prize at the Wagga launch of fourW. Thanks to Olivia Markham for donating this prize, won by Michael Crane)

Submissions for fourW twenty-one are now open!

Get your writing in before 30th June 2010.
Members’ news

It’s always great to hear about the writing and publication success of our members. It can be really helpful for fellow members to find out that writers, people in the same situation as themselves, are doing well. If you do have work published or are awarded prizes, or other acknowledgments, please send an email and let me know.

The following members have had some recent success:

- Louise D’Arcy’s story ‘Flat Daddy’ was judged winner of The Age short story competition. This prestigious competition attracted over 1400 entries, and past winners of the award have gone on to publish collections and novels. A story about Louise’s success can be found on The Age’s website: http://tinyurl.com/ydark2q

- Kelly Shaw has had a short play selected to be produced in the local 10X10 short play festival. This festival attracts many entries from all over the country. Make sure you get along to see Kelly’s play at the Wagga Playhouse 14th 15th & 16th May this year. Full details of the festival will follow in the next newsletter.

- Well known fourW contributor Dr. David King was commended in the IP Picks competition for his manuscript Memento Mori, and as such will have this first collection of short stories published by IP. Over half of the stories in the collection were first published by fourW, and this is a testament to the high quality of works published in out journal. Details of how to order David King’s book will be published in the next newsletter.

- Robynne Young will have a poem published in the forthcoming anthology Short and Scary, published by Black Dog Books. Other contributors to this volume will include Andy Griffiths and Shaun Tan!

- David Gilbey has been invited to read at the Japan International Poetry Society’s 23rd October gathering in Kyoto. While there he will be attending the Japan Writers’ Conference 10/11 October in Tokyo, and also the launch of 40 Stories – in which he has three ‘haibun’ pieces included.

Wagga - Melbourne Connections

It has been pleasing recently to see a number of connections between Booranga and its writers with the very literary city of Melbourne. fourW twenty was of course launched in Melbourne at the Carlton Courthouse last year. This year too, both David Gilbey and myself have travelled down to present feature poetry readings at the Cafe Sospeso (David is pictured giving his February reading). This is a regular poetry event that happens to be run by former Wagga resident (and Booranga committee member) Laura Smith. And finally, completing our list of connections, later this year Sospeso open-mic winner Emilie Zoey Baker will be travelling to Wagga to perform.

The Cafe Sospeso readings are held once a month in Hawthorn. Check out the blog for updates: http://sospesoreadings.blogspot.com/
Olivia’s Choice

Do consider using the time to work on something to send to Olivia Markham for Olivia’s Choice! Poetry, short-stories, essays...the choice is yours!

(Send contributions of creative writing for Booranga News to booranga@csu.edu.au and place ‘Olivias Choice in the subject line). In coming editions of Booranga News Olivia will be giving you prompts for new writing, as well as her feedback on your own submissions.

Dilemma - 13th February 2010
- by Claire Baker

How to write a Valentine’s Day poem
without trite phrases
or resorting to long-stemmed roses,
beautifully wrapped chocolate selections,
the use of the L O V E word
or red pulsating hearts?

Keep it specific, precise and never waffle.

Focus on concrete images, vivid and fresh.

Forget rhyming lines and clichés
they’re uninspiring, boring, passé.

So here it is:

We met
Pheromones reacted
We married

Existential Bling - by Joan Cahill

There is a touch of Titania in my wardrobe
finally fashion frees me.

Sparkles on jeans
sequins on T shirts
beaded shoes
layers of necklaces
bright bauble bracelets
my sensible parents would
not have approved

A childhood of plainness
vivid auburn hair a contradiction
my yearning Christo wrapped
this skinny bride, sleek, unadorned
small children consuming the sixties
working life of basic colours,
sensible shoes.

Longing in the back of the throat
I swing back fitting room curtains
perambulate, peruse
dare to purchase.

Three score years and ten
and a closet fairy princess.
La Belle Dame (for Kumagai)
- by David Gilbey

We’re caught in the crowded, single-lane peak-hour of Route 44 in Kumagai’s green sports car.
Tail-light watchers, we talk carefully across cultures about our lives, work, marriages.
Pachinko parlours, service stations, love hotels light up the grey suburbs with promises of fuel for imaginary journeys into night.

Finally, too late, near Furukawa, it’s too dark to see Lake Keshonuma
where, legends shadow the kanji, women change their shapes from banshees, sirens to swans, herons, ibis.

Near the information centre dark against trees:
the reconstructed Jomon meeting house reincarnates another iron-age world closer to ghosts and gods than our own.

We pull off the winding forest road, to a parking area.
This is not really a place for men, says Kumagai, the omens are menacing.
The night breaks into jagged black sound bites.
Thousands of invisible birds split the sky screaming, honking.

We walk down granite steps to the lake, take a piss apart in reeds, doubly exposed –
the air is buffered soup, gargling our conversation.
Furukawans aren’t brave enough to swim in this pond, says Kumagai.

It’s not just the swan shit, I think. It’s palpable a membrane between worlds:
nothing like the transformation of lovers on last week’s blue television screen, the pas de deux from Tchaikovsky’s Swan Lake: a whirling mesh feathers and gauze, legs and arms, necks and heads:
the aroused, dying creature’s balletic climax.

Here we’re taken into Leda’s embrace by the suffocating swan god
male and female lost in power play can’t help our sense of pathetic fallacy in this cloak of turbulence.

We’ve both read and travelled enough to recognize our selves in the legends:
wanting sex and fearing death.

(All three poems in this section were pieces workshopped at the last Booranga Monthly Writers’ Meeting)
**Theatre / Screen / Radio**

**ABC Radio National 2010 Ian Reed Writers-in-Residence program**

The Ian Reed Foundation is offering two residencies for Australian writers during 2010 at ABC Radio National to produce new works for radio performance.

The residencies will be based with drama producers at ABC Radio National in Adelaide, Melbourne or Sydney.

All writers who have not previously written for radio – whether poets, essayists, journalists, songwriters or creators in others forms - are encouraged to consider nominating themselves by first consulting the guidelines at abc.net.au/rn/airplay. New works and adaptations of existing work will be considered for selection.

**Applications close on 30 April 2010.**

All details available via abc.net.au/rn/airplay

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**Poetry**

**The Boree Log Award for Bush Verse**

Prize for a Ballad to be written in perfect rhyme and metre, within a maximum of 80 lines, with an Australian bush theme.

First Prize $100 plus trophy and certificate. Certificates awarded for Highly Commended and Commended places. Maximum of three entries per entrant.

Entries to be in English, the original unpublished work of the entrant and not to have won a cash prize in another competition.

**Entry Fee – $5 per entry.**

**Closing date – 31st May 2010.**

Send entries to: Competition Secretary – Boree Log (please include ‘Boree Log’)
Eastwood/Hills FAW
PO Box 4663
North Rocks NSW 2151
**BOORANGA NEWS**

**MARCH - APRIL 2010**

**PUBLISHING, COMPETITIONS and OPPORTUNITIES**

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**2010 PressPress Chapbook Award**

The PressPress Chapbook Award is for an unpublished chapbook length manuscript of poems. The winning manuscript will receive $600 and chapbook publication with PressPress.

The Award will be announced in July 2010 on the PressPress site.


Closes 31st May

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**Best of Times Short Story Competition**

Prize for humorous stories (2500 words max).

Cash prizes.

Closes 31st March.


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**Prose**

**The Gold Coast Writers’ Association Children’s Writing Competition**

Children aged 7-17, resident throughout Australia, are encouraged to enter their own short stories and/or poetry. There are three age sections: 7-10, 11-13 and 14-17.

The theme is ‘Wishful Thinking’. Prizes are $100 for first place, $50 second, and $25 third. There is no entry fee.

All entries must be received by 16 April 2010.


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**Positive Words Poetry & Short Story Competition**

Prizes for either Open Short Story (up to 2000 words), or Open Poetry (up to 48 lines).

ENTRY FEE: $3.30 per entry (or 4 entries for $11.00)

Cheques, money orders or the equivalent in unused stamps (55cent or $1.10 preferred) will be accepted as payment. Please make cheques payable to S. L. James or Rainbow Press.

PRIZES

First Prize $100.00, Second Prize - twelve months subscription to Positive Words.

Certificates for commended entries will be awarded in each section.

Entries should be marked ‘Competition’ and sent to: Sandra James, PO Box 798 Heathcote, Victoria

**Closing Date: 23 April 2010**
Booranga (trading as Wagga Wagga Writers Writers Inc.) was formed in 1987 to assist and promote local authors and their work. The group holds regular readings at local venues, conducts writing workshops, offers fellowships at Booranga, the Riverina Writers’ Centre at Charles Sturt University, and published an annual anthology, fourW, under the imprint of fourW press, and is active in promoting writing and writers throughout the Riverina.

MEMBERSHIP PERIOD 1ST JANUARY - 31ST DECEMBER 2010

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP ($33) or CONCESSION ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP ($22)
6-MONTH MEMBERSHIP ($17)

GROUP MEMBERSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE

MEMBERSHIP ENTITLES YOU TO...

- Copy of fourW twenty Anthology
- Regular newsletter (bi-monthly) & e-list mailouts
- 10% discount at Book City, Wagga
- 10% Discount at Angus & Robertson Bookworld, Wagga
- 10% discount to RTC performances
- Member discounts to readings, performances & workshops
- Invitations to writing events & get-togethers
- Access to a network of writers, book enthusiasts & other writers’ centres for information & friendship
- Use of Booranga Writers’ Centre resources, such as library and computer

Note: Student Membership ($11) is now also available for students under 21 years of age. Student members will receive newsletters & discounted admission to reading etc. but will not receive a complimentary copy of fourW nineteen.

Please fill out and send application form to:
Wagga Wagga Writers Writers Inc. Booranga Writers’ Centre,
Charles Sturt University, Locked Bag 588, Wagga Wagga NSW 2678, Phone/Fax (02) 69332688

Name: ..................................................................................................................
Address: ..................................................................................................................
..................................................................................................................
Telephone: ....................... (home) ....................... (work) ....................... (mobile)
Email: ..................................................................................................................

Enclosed is: $............. cheque/money order FOR: single / concession / student / 6-month membership (please circle)

undeliverable return to:
POSTAGE PAID AUSTRALIA
Booranga Writers’ Centre
Locked Bag 588
Wagga Wagga, NSW, 2678

* Membership prices are set to rise... Get in by June to get your membership at the low price!!

WWW & the Booranga Writers’ Centre are supported by: