Winner of the 1999 David Unaipon Award for his volume of poetry **Of Muse, Meandering and Midnight**, Samuel Wagan Watson is a Brisbane-based writer and Public Art Project Manager. He has been a salesman, public relations officer, fraud investigator, graphic artist, labourer, law clerk, film industry technician and an actor.

Samuel describes his influences in writing as Nick Cave, Tom Waites, Jack Kerouac, Charles Bukowski and Robert Adamson. His other influences are his father, the novelist Sam Watson and his mother, who is a specialist teacher.

Other publications by Samuel Wagan Watson include: *Itinerant Blocs* and *Smoke Encrypted Whispers*. Awards won by Samuel include: *FW National Literary Award (2001)*, *Anne Elder Poetry Award*.

During his Booranga Fellowship Samuel will act as a mentor for regionally based emerging poet Bronwyn Blakelock, passing on his experiences as a published and working poet. Samuel will also conduct creative writing workshops in schools in Wagga and Albury and be the guest facilitator of a Poetry Writing Workshop at the Riverine Club, Sturt Street, Wagga Wagga.

Five Islands Press
*New Poets 10 Roadshow, 2004*

*Sydney-Bowral-Canberra-Wagga Wagga-Melbourne-Swan Hill-Gawler-Adelaide-Nannup-Albany-Perth*

Five Islands Press is an independent publisher specialising in contemporary Australian poetry. In the 13 years it has been operating, Five Islands Press has gained a significant reputation as a publisher of new poetry.

Poets published by Five Islands Press have won many major awards, including the NSW and Victorian Premiers' Awards, the Banjo Award, the Anne Elder Award, the Harri Jones Award and many others.

This exciting and unique event will be touring all states of Australia including your town! The new poets performing for local audiences are: Lucy Alexander; Feathered Tongues, Miriam W. Lo; Against Certain Capture, Janine Fraser; Portraits in a Glass House, David Musgrave; To Thalia, Katarina Konkoly; Liberating Tokyo and Jen Webb, Proverbs from Sierra Leone.

These poets are to be featured with Booranga Writers’ Fellowship Writer, Samuel Wagan Watson in a public event on **Tuesday 10 August at 7pm at the Riverine Club, Sturt Street, Wagga Wagga. (entry fee: $15/$12/$5)**. For further information contact Booranga Writers’ Centre (t) 02 6933 2688.
News from Booranga Albury

Booranga Writers, Albury are once again involved in community projects. In October, 2004 Wodonga will be hosting the Learning Cities Festival. As part of the celebrations a number of community groups are shopwalking to produce Japanese style lanterns to reflect what we do. We are thinking up an activity that passers-by can become involved in that will result in the creation of a piece of writing. A very interesting challenge. Look forward to seeing photos of the event.

It is 10 years since the St Matthews Anglican church was re-dedicated after it’s destruction by fire. A number of events are being organised in celebration. The Albury Library has talked with us about inviting a writer-in-residence to work with a group over five days within the final aim being a performance. This should be a very interesting experience for any of us who are able to take part.

Under the heading One Book One Albury (Let’s get Albury reading) the Albury Library have invited people to be part of a city-wide bookclub. People are asked to choose from a shortlist of six Australian books on literary merit, the ability to provoke discussion, local authors, stories with widespread appeal. Discussion groups will be run on the book chosen. Shortlisted are: Café in Venice by Dorian Mode, Raymond’s Medal by Graham Jackson, Journey to the Stone Country by Alex Miller, Three Dog Night by Peter Goldsworthy, The Trickster by Jane Downing, The White Earth by Andrew McGahan. We are eagerly looking forward to the results of the poll.

Samuel Wagan Watson will be visiting the James Fallon High School and Albury High School and our next meeting. If he

New Kid On The Block
A Personal Experience of Booranga’s Creative Writing Workshops
(I have become a Workshop Groupie)
By Joan Cahill

Christine Ferrari’s Creative Writing Workshop was the first, and I write poetry, but as I had opened by mouth, went along to for a look. What fun! A well structured, interesting, non-threatening afternoon. We were a diverse group and each of us produced a fascinating reaction to the presented catalyst.

Next month was Les Wicks. This was a humbling experience, Les gently drawing ideas from another mixed bag of writers (or wanna-bees in my case). I was inspired and have completed (are they ever really completed?) three poems since then.

In July, David Gilbey and Sonnet Writing. This was the proverbial “big ask”. By this time, I was curious to see who would attend, whether we would actually be able to perform such a difficult task, and what inspiration he would use. I should not have been surprised that David managed to extricate the nucleus of a sonnet from most of us.

So here goes the mouth again...Some feedback on our work after the event would be appreciated so that the subsequent fruit of the inspiration does not feel as though it has been left hanging on the tree.

You see, now, I am actually beginning to think of myself as a
**THE HSC OPEN MIKE**  
*or “Listen to what you write”*

Fay Weldon writes that “To listen to what you write is important. You have to do that terrible thing that you always hated at school, which is read it aloud. Write a paragraph and then read it aloud and make yourself listen to it, and don’t believe that what you have written is sacrosanct, which many writers do at the beginning. They’re so amazed that they’ve got it out of their head they can’t bear to alter it…”

Not only should writers be prepared to read their work aloud but to read it to others, and this is what happens each year at the HSC Open Mike, organised collaboratively by Booranga Writers’ and the Wagga English Teachers’ Association. In this its third year, there were fourteen Year 12 English Extension 11 students who appreciated the opportunity of sharing and celebrating their writing, reading excerpts to a friendly audience of family, friends and regular Four W Readings’ audience members, at the Riverine Club on 16 June.

Audience members were encouraged to write feedback notes which were given to the students on the ETA Study Day, in a further feedback session with Matt Brown, of Wagga Wagga High School. The students continue to amaze with the creativity and sophistication of the compositions.

Here is the opening paragraph of Lisa Greer’s short story:

> The summer of ’73 remains tucked away in some dark corner of the minds of the people of Castle Point Beach. It was a summer of the most intense heat, bodies sweltering in the sun, the ocean calling through the shimmering air. Us kids ran like wild things through the dunes, rolling down the vast expanses of sand, marinating in our sandy sweat, only to be licked clean by the refreshing tongue of the ocean. If we weren’t in the dunes we were lounging against the wall of the diary, kicking stones and licking ice-blocks, hurrying to catch the drips before they trickled down our arms leaving a trail of stickiness. Or we were at the lagoon, Moanautu, Ocean’s Revenge, named after the ferocious claws of the ocean that leapt over the rocks that encased the calm lagoon to drag away innocent fisherman. It was said that if you stole something from the ocean, she would steal it back, taking you with her. In previous summers, we liked to row out into the middle of Moanautu, watching from a distance the way the swell of the ocean seeped through the cracks in the rocks, then hurriedly retreated, a sly gesture saying *come chase me.*

Members of the Booranga Writers’ Committee are keen to see these works in finished form and are investigating ways we could publish the Major Works that we see in such tantalisingly small but attractive

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**Samuel Wagan Watson to Mentor Bronwyn Blaiklock**

Whilst in residence at Booranga Writers’ Centre (25 July - 13 August) Samuel Wagan Watson will mentor regionally based poet, Bronwyn Blaiklock.

Bronwyn Blaiklock is a practising poet enjoying exploring a range of styles – from rhyming verse through to free style. Bronwyn has achieved some publishing success with poetry to date, including in *Friendly Street Poets* and *fourWfourteen* anthologies. She is also interested in writing poetry for children.

In March this year Bronwyn successfully produced a recital of music and poetry by Australian women which included poetry of Riverina writers. The recital at the Riverina Conservatorium received very positive feedback, from music-lovers and poets alike.

During the residency, Samuel will work closely with Bronwyn sharing his experiences as a professional poet and provide feedback on her writing.

To share some of the outcomes of the residency program, you are invited to come along to the public reading at the Riverine Club on Tuesday 10 August (7pm) to hear Samuel and Bronwyn read. This coincides with the Five Islands Press New Poets tour so the evening will be full and brimming
Wagga Wagga experienced the first ever youth festival over the school holiday period (3-18 July). Presented by the Wagga Wagga City Council with the support of Riverina Young Peoples’ Theatre Inc and many other community and arts organisations such as ERAP, Booranga Writers’ Centre, the Black Suns and the Riverina Media Group, the festival had something to offer to young people of all ages.

From music every day in the amphitheatre, performance, hip-hop, boomerang and didgeroo painting, digital film and documentary making, story telling and zine making workshops, the festival was jammed packed with quality programs.

Before the festival kicked off I worked with local artist Zeb Schulz and a group of young people aged 13-19 over a weekend of creative writing/zine making workshops to make the program for the festival which was then published in the Junior Advertiser and distributed widely throughout the festival.

The zine workshops gave participants access to a broader range of writing and digital publishing skills, building self-esteem and giving the young people involved ownership of the publication by generating content for the ‘zine’ and also input into the creative aspects of the graphic design process.

The participants worked closely with myself and Zeb, receiving feedback, and establishing networks for future development and creating a community of emerging writers and artists.

Melissa Delaney (Director)
Myths of Belonging


These two collections of poetry, published in the same year, were both winners of prestigious awards at the recent (July, 2004) Sydney conference of the Association for the Study of Australian Literature (ASAL). Despite some superficial similarities of writing free verse full of images and preferring a kind of suggestive spareness, these books show two diverse, accomplished, and satisfying poets whose writing careers are obverses of each other.

First though, a word about the awards: Laurie Duggan’s Mangroves received the long established ALS Gold Medal which is awarded, usually annually, ‘for an outstanding literary work published in the preceding year’. Established in 1928, the medal has been awarded to many great Australian writers such as Patrick White, Thea Astley, David Malouf. This is the first time in a decade the Gold Medal has been awarded to a poet.

Michael Brennan’s The Imageless World won the Mary Gilmore award, which is presented every two years for the best first book of poetry.

Part 1 of Mangroves contains new poems written since October 2000. It is very much ‘Brisbane’ work’ writes Duggan. But Part 2 contains work from the 70s and 80s as well a lot from the early 90s, especially the ‘Blue Hills’ series and the translations of the early 20th Century Italian futurist poet/painter/critic Andegno Soffici. So there is a real conspectus of Duggan’s work over several decades. He is a wry observer of suburbs (eg. Sydney, Harlem, Wellington) and cultural history (see his takes on ‘Art’, ‘Music’ and the parodic ‘In Memoriam of the Academic Poem’). Duggan often faces himself so that his poems read like verbal snapshots of particular moments, offering themselves as ‘Louvres’: partial, slatted fragments, sometimes in prose: ‘What place poetry in a world of commodities? Is it possible to make a ‘serious portrait of my times’ when the objects I describe will not remain as collateral.’

Duggan’s is cool, appraising, epigrammatic poetry: ‘Nature Morte / Stooks in black plastic, near Stoke. / Near Leeds, a field of fresh-painted phone booths.’

Brennan’s poems are paradoxical, seductive. Despite its title, The Imageless World is full of images – the burial of an elephant; DNA ‘jellyfish in a rhesus monkey’s bloodstream’; the lips on the severed head of Orpheus, etc. These are powerful, haunting poems and seem to be spoken from a plangent distance so the reader is struck by them almost as icons. As Kevin Hart suggests in the back cover blurb, ‘Brennan’s world is imageless because it is wholly present: even absence is felt as a brooding presence in these extraordinary poems of lost love and mourning’.

Many of the poems are written as ‘Letters home’, so they have a sense of trying to see or communicate from an away which is both geographical (Teneriffe, Portobello Road, the Hawkesbury) and imagined (cf. Duggan’s ‘Hills’). So both place and the way it is constructed in language are part of the poetry. There are prose poems and a series of six sonnets ‘Locuting Love’: ‘Love, your mouth looks like a tinderbox about to explode / in a storm of verbs. There’s nothing here but nouns.’ As well, Brennan writes a series of brief ‘Ellipses’ (like Duggan’s ‘Louvres’) which, like a later series called ‘eye feasting light’ shows his quintessentialising skills in language: ‘Moments are so full, there is nowhere but emptiness to place them’.

Both poets propose a meditative, intelligent and quizzical eye of the beholder which will strike readers provocatively and movingly. These are fascinating, impressive new collections showing Australian poetry flexing its imaginative muscles as it concerns itself with (dis)connection and (dis)location.

David Gilbey
COMPETITIONS & AWARDS

Red Tape Rage
Ballarat Writing Council presents Red Tape Rage. Your opportunity to write about the frustration of bureaucratic red tape. Maximum 500 words. Entry fee $5. For further information visit: www.ballaratwriters.com

Closing date: 31 August, 2004

Wannabee Publishing Annual Poetry Competition
Open theme poetry to 30 lines. Entries should be original and unpublished. Entry forms and guidelines are available online at: www.wannabee.com.au or send a ssaе to: PO Box 21, California Gully, Victoria, 3556.

Closing Date: 20 October, 2004

Soapbox Articles Writing Competition
Climb up-on your soapbox and write a punchy article on any theme to a maximum of 2000 words. Entry forms are available from: (e) miriammcg@hotmail.com (use the word ‘soapbox’ in the subject line) or send a ssaе to: FAWQ, PO Box 6338, Upper Mount Gravatt, Queensland, 4122.

Closing date: 30 September, 2004

Robko Press Short Story Competition
Maximum 3000 words with prize money and an invitation to be published. Details from: (e) robko@tpg.com.au

Closing date: 30 August, 2004

COMPETITIONS & AWARDS

Scarlet Stiletto Awards
11th annual Women’s Crime and Mystery Short Story Competition. This competition has generous prizes for different categories. For further information contact the Sisters In Crime at GPO Box 5319, Melbourne, Victoria, 3001, visit: www.vicnet.net.au/~sincoz/ or phone Carmel Shute on (t) 03 9537 2781 or (m) 0412 569 356.

Closing date: 31 August, 2004

Survive the Drive
A YouthROC project funded by Arrive Alive. This project invites young people (aged between 10-19 years) to express their experiences and points of view and attitudes to a wide range of road user behaviour issues by submitting work for publication. Application forms for the project can be downloaded from: the REROC website at: www.reroc.com.au

Closing date: 16 August, 2004

*You Dirty Rat! Awards
Write about your pet gripes, whether they are personal, social, economic or political. Write a story, essay, poem or letter. Any style up to 2000 words. Prize money available and entries are judged on literary merit. For entry forms send ssaе to: Pat Kelsall, ‘You Dirty Rat’, PO Box 1563, Mail Centre, Ballarat, Victoria, 3354.

Closing date: 15 August, 2004

Katharine Susannah Prichard Short Fiction Awards
Maximum of 3000 words. No entry form required. 11 Old York Road, Greenmount, WA, 6056 (e) kspf@iinet.net.au or visit: http://kspf.iinet.net.au

Closing date: 24 September, 2004
OPPORTUNITIES

**Australia Council Overseas Residencies**

Available residencies for writers and poets include writers and poets include six months at the Keesing Studio in Paris or the BR Whiting Library in Rome, three months at the Tyrone Guthries Centre in Ireland and two months at Ledig House, New York. For conditions and application form visit: www.ozco.gov.au/grants/grants_literature/skills_and_arts_development_2004 or (t) 02 9215 9050

**Asialink Residencies**

Asialink is now offering literature residencies of up to four months in countries including China, Japan, Malaysia and Singapore. Grants up to $12,000 are available for the residencies, to take place in 2005. For more information or application forms visit: www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au

**Closing date: 3 September, 2004**

**Call for Reviewers**

Artists and writers are needed to write reviews for the Australia Council’s The Program website. Reviewers will cover theatre, film and festival events and write reviews to 400 words. To become a reviewer or for more information contact Liase Greenways (e) lisa@theprogram.net.au or (t) 02 8353 6915

**M/C Journal**

M/C Journal is a media and culture journal aiming to bridge academic and popular literary genres. Research and referenced articles on the theme of Fame are now accepted for the current issue. Send a written abstract and short biography before submitting to (e) fame@journal.media-culture.org.au or visit: www.media-culture.org.au

**Lustre**

A new online publication focusing on Australian erotic writing. Editors advise that erotic is more about the mind than the body and that a provocative story is one that gets the brain racing
Wagga Wagga Writers Writers Inc gratefully acknowledge the financial assistance of the New South Wales Ministry for the Arts, The Australia Council for the Arts and Charles Sturt University.

WWW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2004
Single Annual Membership $33.00 or $22.00 or special youth $11 concession (GST inclusive)

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* Use of Booranga Writers’ Centre resources including the library and use
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* Member discounts at readings, performances and workshops

Please fill in and post application to: Wagga Wagga Writers Writers Inc., Booranga Riverina Writers’ Centre, Locked Bag 588, Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, NSW, 2678 Telephone/Fax: (02) 69332688

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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 writing fellowships at Booranga, the Riverina Writers’ Centre at Charles Sturt University, publishes an annual anthology, fourW under the imprint of fourW Press, and is active in promoting and developing writing and writers throughout the Riverina.

Membership is by calendar year, costs $33.00 and $22.00 concession with a Youth Membership of $10. FourW, our annual anthology features the works of authors, artists and photographers, regional and beyond, collected in one diverse and original publica-

If undeliverable please return to:
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