CORRESPONDENCE TO:
Wagga Wagga Writers Writers
Booranga Writers’ Centre
Locked Bag 588
Charles Sturt University
Wagga Wagga NSW 2678
ABN: 72323065359
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(02) 6933 2688
E-mail: booranga@csu.edu.au
Website: http://www.csu.edu.au/faculty/arts/humss/booranga/index.html

OFFICE HOURS
Monday: 11am – 3pm
Tuesday: 9am – 3pm
Wednesday: 9am – 3pm
Thursday: 9am – 3pm

WHAT’S COMING UP
Annual General Meeting
Wednesday
12 March, 2003
7:30pm downstairs at the Regional Library
Guest Speaker: Alan Weltzien (USA)

Readings
Tuesday, 25 March
7:30pm
Martin Harrison and Jen Thompson
the Riverine Club, Sturt Street, Wagga

BOORANGA STAFF

NEW DIRECTOR FOR BOORANGA

It is a welcoming feeling for me to return to Wagga after an absence of seven years spent living/working & studying in Melbourne and to accept the role of Director of Booranga Writers’ Centre.

As a visual arts graduate from Charles Sturt University I have continued on with further study within art and arts management and with the investigation of arts practice. This all feeds into my working life working in arts management in the provision of quality programs that benefit people across our region.

Booranga Writers’ Centre and Wagga Wagga Writers’ Writers is a wonderful community resource and very much part of the cultural scape of Wagga Wagga and the surrounding region. Reading and writing are powerful tools of communication and human connection, this occurs in the art of telling stories. I am glad to be part of this as the Director of Booranga Writers’ Centre, a special place where through the Fellowship Program, writers have the opportunity to spend time with their imagination and share their stories. A place where the wider community of writers and artists are invited to engage through our membership services, regular workshops, readings and the publication of the annual anthology fourW.

Melissa Delaney – Director

BOORANGA WELCOMES DEBBIE THACKRAY AS OFFICE MANAGER

Born and bred in Sydney at Sans Souci on the shores of Botany Bay. Debbie moved to Wagga Wagga in 1997 with her family, completed Accounting Advanced Diploma at TAFE and worked as Parish Secretary at St John’s for a short time, CSU for six months and most recently at Wagga City Council as Management Accountant. Throughout this time Debbie has been raising a family and has just completed a Bachelor of Business (Accounting) course via correspondence at CSU.

Debbie enjoys reading, listening to CD’s, watching UK soaps (Coronation Street and East Enders), knitting and other craft work (when she gets the time!). Debbie looks forward to working at Booranga and says, “I will get to meet a lot of different and interesting people who I would not otherwise get the chance to meet. I can now spend time helping out a lot at the girls’ school – something I couldn’t do while working full-time – something I enjoy and which the girls seem to enjoy, too. I have absolutely no artistic ability (I have no imagination at all), so have great admiration for those that do”.

Debbie Thackray – Booranga’s Office Manager
Litlink Conference

During February I represented Booranga Writers’ Centre at the Litlink conference held at the South Coast Writers’ Centre in Wollongong. Litlink is the network of regional writers’ centres in New South Wales each being funded through the New South Wales Ministry of the Arts. Litlink meets on a regular basis to look at approaching ways of working together on collaborative and individual projects and by sharing information consolidating the future of writers’ centres.

Litlink is working on a website as a resource and has introduced a reciprocal membership deal for all of our members who may travel across the state.

Melissa Delaney

Booranga 2003 Fellowships

After much consideration Booranga would like to announce the four fellowship writers for 2003. As always, the decision was a difficult one with interest from writers from all over the country and working across genres. The 2003 fellowship writers are as follows:

Zenda Vecchio (26 May – 14 June)

Is a South Australian writer working on an adolescent fiction novel concerning the trauma of pregnancy/birth and early childhood for a girl whose boy-friend leaves her. Zenda has never been to New South Wales and is very excited about her journey to Booranga.

Rosemary Allan (30 June – 2 August)

From Queensland, Rosemary Allan has a background in publishing, is a prize-winning author and poet and an experienced teacher conducting workshops in writing. Her short stories and poems are published in literary journals and she looks forward to making the most of her time at Booranga revising the first draft of her novel, ‘Cry the Mudjimba Moon’.

Stephanie Dickson (18 August – 13 September)

Stephanie has been working in Sydney over the past five years in film and television as a scriptwriter and making short films. She wants to now complete writing ‘Abyss’, an original feature length screen play about family, friendship and finding yourself.

Mark O’Flynn (October/November – to be confirmed)

Mark O’Flynn is no stranger to Wagga Wagga having been a writer-in-the-community at Booranga in 1995 and a commissioned writer with the Riverina Theatre Company in 1988 whilst also teaching creative writing with The Riverina Community Adult Education College.

Mark’s writing experience is extensive and he has written fiction, plays, poetry and prose and wants to spend time at Booranga work on his novel ‘Grassdogs’. The novel is loosely based on the true story of the Dogman of Forbes - a man who used to go into the supermarkets with his 16 dogs and stand there until they filled a trolley of food for him. This was how he survived. He was later convicted of the murder of a girl in Albury and through his work in prisons, Mark met this person and became fascinated by his story. Also, because Mark knows Wagga far better than he knows Forbes, he has transposed the story to Wagga.

Writing Workshop WWCC/MAA/Booranga

Andrea Nichol, the Youth Officer on Council has secured funding through the Motor Accident Authority to work on a youth streetpress publication. The publication will feature articles relating to Road Safety and young people. Booranga will facilitate a one-day writing workshop for approximately twenty young people drawn from local secondary schools. The workshop will provide participants with a structure to devise content for the streetpress publication which will then be launched officially during Youth Week, 2003.

Jan Owen borrowed some lines from Peter Porter to describe the vitality and unpredictability of poetry:

*It was the poet’s calligram to match power to imagination, chart times collision with the tongue, and choose among the many sadnesses state melancholy.*

Vitality and unpredictability are very much features of Jan Owen’s writing.

The discovery of Owen’s latest verse collection *Timedancing*, sent me in search of an earlier collection, *Blackberry Season* (1993 Molonglo press), a publication I recall hearing discussed on Radio National on a dark night drive back from Sydney. That little book eluded me for years until it leaped out from a bookshop in Manuka, to delight with its deceptively simple vignettes of childhood picnics, drawing mermaids and reverberations of early sexual experience in the power ‘No Hands’. A limited edition run, *Blackberry Season* was made even more covetable by its classy presentation box.

This recent collection, *Timedancing*, is similarly attractively packaged with a cover print of fruit and bowl on a rich green background. Inside, the poems are varied, sensual, international and intertextual, whether she writes of a plum orchard in Kamata ‘more distant boughs are blossoming with sky/an empty palanquin...”, or a blue bowl, “with a leftward tilt” which recalls the moment when a young doctor “deftly tilted my left nipple back to match its mate.” Never simply sensual or sentimental, Owen takes memories, incidents and objects and gives them a significance beyond the everyday. Recollections of a mulberry dress also include reference to “:the shallow wall of her navel” and “The tracks in the san/are dragging away my lady because/she dreamed in colour of mulberry/colour of blood.”

Some poems will startle (“Limes” and “Saint Cecelia in Trastevere”), while all will transport the reader to other lands and the eroticism of guavas and mangosteens, fireflies and honeyeaters. There are clever parodies, translations from Baudelaire and always a strong, individual poetic voice. Sample this wild parody of Anna Walwicz in ‘Goldilocks’:

*I felt bad. Couldn’t bear it. I dyed my hair blond. Browny-blond bad hair with black roots. I was blond so blond so blond. So so beige blond, butternut blond, honey blond. I was Goldilocks, I was honey. Bad busy-bee girl, I buzzed to Teddy Bear Shop. Honey bears on Special. I bought three. Said to Father Bear “You got some porridge, Mister, I got some honey.”’ He was fur all over. I stroked his fur…*

*Timedancing* is well worth exploring for yourself and available in some good bookstores, or direct from Five Islands Press at PO Box U34, Wollongong University, Wollongong, NSW, 2500.


HEAT is a journal aimed at an audience which is excited by thoughtful and imaginative writing of the highest order. This edition, entitled ‘Burnt Ground”, is a versatile, eclectic and contemplative collection of poetry, essays, colour prints, a monologue and a monograph, short stories and excerpts from plays.

This reviewer found it a forum for beautifully crafted writing, including poems by Dorothy Porter and Peter Skrzynecki, essays by Alberto Manguel and Marray Bail. Additional treats are the extracts from artist John Wolseley’s journals and sketchbooks from time spent drawing and painting in the Royal National Park, south of Sydney, in the aftermath of the Christmas 2001 bushfires.

Of particular interest to me was Madelaine Byrne’s excellent essay on Michel Houellebecq: “Sex and the West”, as my Christmas reading had included Houellebecq’s *Platform*.

“Minnie Mouse Redraws the Line” is a satirical monologue which engages both emotion and intellect while the short stories and poems kept me dipping in each night to sample the pleasures of this smorgasbord of writing.

The Age called it, “Wall-to-wall quality”. It is also a splendid read.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
Martin’s Number One
Booranga’s First Visiting Writer for 2003

The first writer to take up residence at Booranga in 2003 does so under his own steam, as it were. Sydney poet and critic, Lecturer in Creative Writing at UTS, Martin Harrison has been awarded an Australia Council Literary Fellowship and has taken a part-sabbatical, and will spend part of that time at Booranga, from 17 March – 4 April.

While on campus at CSU, Martin will present talks on writing and locality, based on his new collection of essays (to be published June 2003) which explores some of the sensory dimensions of travel, place and location in contemporary Australian poetry, eg Les Murray, Robert Gray, Kevin Hart, Philip Hodgins and Jennifer Rankin.

As well, Martin will present readings from his new collection of poems, Summer, downtown (7:30pm at the Riverine Club, Sturt Street, Wagga Wagga on Tuesday, 25 March). Martin will offer a workshop on poetry writing and visit some local high schools and regional writing groups. Copies of Summer will be available for purchase.

Martin has written that he’d like to work on his next collection of poems: ‘I am working on the idea of a collection which has just a few very long narrative and essayistic poems. So I will be working on those, note-taking and writing. I am interested in whatever it is which is the poetic equivalent of the novella, not the novel in verse but the equivalent of the shorter length work. And as with a lot of my work there will be a number of travels in the writing - literal and figurative.’

Not to be missed - by anyone interested in the discourse and performance of contemporary poetry.

Local writer and poet Jen Thompson will also be reading with Martin on 25 March. Jen most recently represented Booranga Writers’ Centre at the Litlink ‘Writers in the Dust’ Project for the Year of the Outback 2002. The project was a weeklong residency-in-the-outback (9th - 15th September 2002) bringing together developing writers from regional NSW. The group stayed in Western NSW using the environment and one another as inspiration for writing. Over the residency, the aim for each writer was to develop a work (or several works) over the week for future publication. We look forward to hearing Jen’s latest work at the reading.

Wagga Wagga Writers’ Writers Inc will hold its Annual General Meeting downstairs at the Regional Library on Wednesday, 12 March at 7:30pm.

All members and newcomers are invited to attend and the guest speaker will be Alan Weltzien, visiting lecturer in American Literature from the University of Montana.

The AGM is a chance for you as members to hear about what has been going on at Booranga for the part twelve months and to have a say in what goes on in the future. There are a number of positions available on the executive committee, including Treasurer. If you are interested in nominating please contact Debbie or Melissa at Booranga on t: 02 6933 2688 or e: booranga@csu.edu.au.

Do You Want to Volunteer?

Booranga welcomes members as volunteers. There are a number of different areas that you, as a member of the Booranga Writers’ Centre, can help out from time-to-time. If you are interested in donating some time in any of the areas listed below please contact us at Booranga and we can discuss it further.

- Newsletter (editorial/reviews/data entry/content generation)
- Event support (catering/hospitality)
- Fellowship Program (providing visiting writers with information and helping them find their way around)
- Marketing and Promotions
- Mailouts (newsletters and general promotional material) and poster distribution
- General office administration

Wagga Wagga Writers’ Writers welcomes new members

MEMBER NEWS

TUMBARUMBA — Jane Caton of Laurel Hill won the best short story category of the Heritage Week open literary competition with her entry ‘Come Winter‘.

Local Books Launched in Tumbarumba — Local writers Anne Rooks and June Whittaker displayed their recently published biographies at the Christmas lunch held by the Tumbarumba Writers Group in December.

Anne Rook’s book is a family history, *A Hemingway and Jenkins Family History*, following the journey of her maternal mother’s family after their immigration from Scotland.

*Kable, The Story of Henry Kable, First Fleet Convict Extraordinaire* by June Whittaker is the culmination of twenty years of research and writing. Once again, a family story, *Kable* is at once a love story, a romance, an adventure and a history.

Tumbarumba authors Anne Rooks and June Whittaker pictured with their recent publications. Image courtesy Tumbarumba Times (2002)

WAGGA WAGGA— Congratulations to Booranga member Bronwyn Blaiklock. Bronwyn entered her poem *Hope (to Calm a Tensionbird)* in the Wannabee Publishing 2002 Poetry Competition, and was awarded a merit certificate.

NEW ALBURY WRITING

**Youth Membership**

Following on from the success of the youth publication, *Take it As Read* and the involvement of HSC students in our Readings and Workshop programs last year, Booranga extends it’s membership by the introduction of a special Youth Membership.

Now young people under the age of 21 years can become members of Booranga for a small fee of $10 + gst. As a Youth Member, benefits are many and by linking up to a supportive network of more experienced writers, receiving the Booranga News newsletter, participating in readings, workshops and forums Booranga extends its support to emerging writers and young people.

The Border Region of Albury-Wodonga has long had a vibrant writing community. *New Albury Writing*, a collection of poetry and prose, showcases current work.

In 2000, Booranga Writers Albury produced a volume of poetry and prose celebrating the rich literary history of Albury and district. Covering the period 1856 (with the appearance of the first poem in the local newspaper) to 2000, the writing in *ReCollecting Albury Writing* was well received at the local and national levels. Yet while working on that collection, the editors became increasingly aware of the work of new and emerging writers in the region that, due to the historic focus of *ReCollecting Albury Writing* could not be included in that publication.

This book, *New Albury Writing*, is designed as a companion volume to *ReCollecting Albury Writing*. Instead of looking to the past, it focuses firmly on the present, and gives a glimpse of the future. Established writers, developing writers and young writers are represented in an exciting mix.

New Albury Writing was made possible through a Cultural Grant from the City of Albury to Booranga Writers Albury and was launched on the occasion of the Groundswell Regional Arts Australia Conference in Albury by the CEO of the Australia Council, Ms. Jennifer Bott.

COMPETITIONS, OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS

COMPETITIONS

The Australian Vogel Literary Award, 2003 National Literary Award is the richest in Australia for an unpublished manuscript, offering a prize of $20,000 in addition to normal royalties from sales. Entrants must be below 35 years of age on 31 May and must normally be residents of Australia. Entry forms available within the Australian newspaper.

Closing Date: 30 May, 2003

Invitation to exhibit poetry postcard Post card exhibition at the Tea Club Nowra, May 2003 on the theme of LOVE LOVE LOVE. DL size preferred but if art dictates otherwise run with it. Image and poem on the same side please. Send to Chris Mansell, PO Box 94, Berry, NSW, 2535.

Ipswich Poetry Feast National Poetry Competition Theme: Australian. For further information and an entry form send a SSAAE to: Ipswich Poetry Feast Competition, c/- Ipswich City Council, Ipswich Library and Information Service, PO Box 191, Ipswich, Qld, 4305 or t: (07) 3810 6761 or w: library.ipswich.qld.gov.au/poetryfeast

Closing date: 4 March, 2003

The Mornington Peninsula Prize annual short story competition. Stories must be entrant’s own work and not previously published. Entry fee of $5 and prize money of $100 per story. Send entries (3,000 words limit, double spaced on one sided A4 paper) to: Mornington Peninsula Prize, FAW, PO Box 574, Mornington, Vic, 3931. Closing date: 31 July, 2003.

FAW Sutherland Shire Literary Awards, 2003 Entries are sought for the annual FAW Sutherland Shire Literary Awards: For further information contact the Competition Secretary t: (02) 9525 3490.

Closing date 31 July, 2003

Wannabee Publishing Short Story Competition Theme: Open. Prizes: $300, $150. Length: Maximum of 3000 word. Entry Fee: $6 per story. For entry forms send a SSAAE to: Wannabee Publishing, PO Box 21, California Gully, Vic, 3556 or w: www.wannabee.com.au

Closing date: 30 April, 2003

2003 Silent Cells Youth Film Festival A state wide touring program of youth films selected from across NSW. This year there are two categories: Emerging – for first time film makers or workshop/school entries. Independent – for tertiary students or individuals with greater experience and/or access to resources and funded projects. Contact Kerrie McGrath: tel 02 9594 0078 or 0412 772 259 or email: silentcells@silentcells.com.au

Closing date 22 March

Wizard Books is interested in submissions of short stories (600-1000words), suitable for children aged 8-10. They offer an upfront advance plus ongoing royalties. Contact – Richard or Val on 1800 004 442.

ArtsRush Poetry Competition 1st Prize: $1,000 maximum 60 lines (group of poems or single poem). ArtsRush, PO Box 141, Bomaderry, NSW, 2541 or www.artsrush.com.au

Closing date: 2 April, 2003


Cedarvale Rainforest Literary Awards Poetry – theme: inspirational poem/s celebrating nature. Maximum: 60 lines. Short Story – theme: A Turning Point, a change that has led to a positive effect on your life. Maximum: 25,000 words. PO Box 1563, Mail Centre Ballarat, VIC, 3354.


The Great Sestina Challenge Sestina is a poem in 6 stanzas with an envoy of 3 lines. 2 prizes of $100 plus publication. Closing date: 30 May, 2003

Positive Words short story and poetry for both junior and adult sections. Competition entry is $2 per adult and $1 for junior entries. Full conditions and entry forms are available from Sandra Lynn Evans, 466 Old Melbourne Road, Traralgon, Vic. 3844.

Closing date: 23 April, 2003

The Third Smiling Politely Very Very Short Story Competition for more information or to enter visit www.smilingpolitely.com.au

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Lothian Books & The Albury
Library invite you to the launch of Dorothy Simmons’ new Young Adult novel, FRAMES. Friday 14 March 5:30pm for a 6pm start at The Albury Library, QE11 Square, Dean Street, Albury. Launched by David Gilbey, Senior Lecturer in English at Charles Sturt University.

Regional Arts NSW – Quick Turnaround Grants (‘Quicks’) Grants up to $1000 available through the Commonwealth Regional Arts Fund. ‘Quicks’ provides urgent assistance for local arts and cultural projects that are ineligible for funding under other funding programs. Preference given to projects from smaller and remote communities. Funding available for both professional and project development. Contact Michele Elliot. T: 02 9247 8577 or e: Michele@regionalartsnsw.com.au

No Closing Date

Shoalhaven Poetry Festival – 2, 3, 4 May At the Tea Club, Nowra. For more information and program t: 4464 1432 or e: writerslink@ozemail.com.au

The International Conference on the Future of the Book, 2003 explores the technological, commercial and cultural futures of the book. It will address the provocative suggestion that, rather than being eclipsed by the new media, the book will thrive as a cultural and commercial artefact. Venue: Cairns Convention Centre, Qld For further information: t: (02) 9519 0303 f: (02) 9519 2203 e: registrations@book-conference.com w: www.Book-Conference.com

Wanted: Illustrators Magabala Books is a national Indigenous publishing company located in Broome, WA. They are interested in receiving portfolios from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander book illustrators cartoonists – all artwork will go into a database and artists will be considered for forthcoming titles. Contact: Managing Books, PO Box 668, Broome, WA., 6725 or e: ruth@magabala.com

Poets in Tuscany writing workshop with Chris Mansell 6 – 13 July. A course of poetry lecture/workshops in Tuscany with accommodation in an historic Tuscan villa 30km from Perugia. Email: chris@mansell.name or t: 02 4464 1432

4am (target audience is 18 – 30 years) a new monthly comic with new stories and art from the Australasian underground. 4am welcomes and pays for submissions from writers and artists. For further information: 4am@angelfire.com.

Blue Dog seeks Australian poetry. Pays contributors and publishes poetry, reviews and articles about poetics. For guidelines send SSAE to: Poetry Foundation of Australia, PO Box U34, Wollongong, NSW, 2500.

Playwrights’ Conference 2003 The National Playwrights’ Conference is Australia’s largest working theatre conference, to be held at the Australian National University, Canberra, from 20 – 3 May. To receive an information brochure, please email: infor@anpc.org.au

Papertiger: new world poetry CD ROM is seeking submissions of poetry for issue 3. In addition to text-based poetic material, the editors are looking for audio, video, Flash animated, and other multimedia poetry works. Full submission guidelines available at: www.papertigermedia.com/guidelines.htm

Announcement of New Members of Literature Board Two new writers were appointed to the Literature Board of the Australian Council in November, 2002. They are Kate Grenville and Alan York. Please contact Michael York, 18A Drummoyne Avenue, Drummoyne, NSW, 2047. t: 02 9181 3541 or e: mjyork@bigpond.com

World Interplay Festival for young playwrights aged between 18–25 years, Interplay is seeking submissions for the 8th World Interplay Festival 7-20 July, 2003. For more information t: 07 4781 5454 or e: interplay@jcu.edu.au

Norman Lindsay Festival of Children’s Literature, 22-23 March, 2003 – the National Trust will be holding the Norman Lindsay Festival of Children’s Literature at the Norman Lindsay Gallery, Springwood. For more information visit www.nsw.nationaltrust.org.au or t: Julie Petersen or Jo Henwood 02 9258 0130.

Call for papers: PopMatters PopMatters is a leading online magazine featuring cultural criticism, reviews and interrogations of media objects with an international readership. Submissions must be maximum of 2,500 words and minimum of 1,000 words. Please remove all footnotes and extensive quotations from your work. Deadline is ongoing. Visit www.popmatters.com

Biographer wanted: a writer is sought to put together a biography covering seventy years of business, sailing, racing and waterfront pioneering. Please contact Michael York, 18A Drummoyne Avenue, Drummoyne, NSW, 2047. t: 02 9181 3541 or e: mjyork@bigpond.com
Membership types and entitlements are shown below. Membership is by calendar year, costs $30.00 and $20.00 concession and includes the benefits listed below. Our annual anthology of writing and art work is a particular benefit of membership. The works of authors, artists and photographers, regional and beyond, are collected in one diverse and original fourW publication which is sent free to each WWWW member. Members are always welcome at the centre. Browse the library, work on your writing, bring along any ideas for projects, collaborations, writerly activities, contributions for our newsletter or just come visit us.

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.

### WWWW Membership Application 2003

**Single Annual Membership $30.00 or $20.00** concession (GST inclusive) entitles you to:

- Free copy of *fourW fourteen*
- Six newsletters & regular mail outs
- Use of Booranga Writers’ Centre resources including the library and use of computer during office hours
- Access to a network of writers and book enthusiasts for information and friendship
- Access to newsletters from other writers’ centres and up-to-date information on competitions
- Invitations to writing events and gatherings
- 10% discount at Book City, Wagga Wagga
- 10% discount at Repeated Reading, Wagga Wagga
- 10% discount at Angus & Robertson, Wagga Wagga
- 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

Name: .................................................................

Address: ................................................................................................................

Telephone: .................. Fax: .................. Email: .............................................

Enclosed: $ ......................

Cheque/money order for single/concession (Please circle).

If undeliverable please return to:
Booranga Riverina Writers’ Centre
Locked Bag 588
Charles Sturt University
Wagga Wagga 2678
Telephone/Fax: (02) 69 332688

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