Writer-in-residence: Holly Throsby

Booranga is pleased to welcome our second writer-in-residence for 2011, Holly Throsby.

Holly is a songwriter, singer and musician from Sydney who has released five albums to date: On Night (2004), Under the Town (2006), A Loud Call (2008), a children’s album called See! (2010), and her latest long-player, Team (2011).

Holly has toured Australia many times as well as the UK, Europe, America and Canada. She has been nominated for two ARIA awards for Best Female Artist (in 2006 & in 2008); she is a council member for the animal protection institute, Voiceless; and a regular judge of the Australian Music Prize.

Holly is in town for a short time only, but while here she will be giving a free all-ages concert at the Riverina Museum’s Botanic Gardens site, where her writing and performance skills will be on display (she will be supported on the day by ukulele player Rose Turtle Ertler). Holly will also be giving a workshop for practising regional songwriters (registration essential).

- Holly Throsby (supported by Rose Turtle Ertler) - Performance, at the Riverina Museum, Botanical Gardens site, 1pm, Saturday 28th May.

- Song Writers’ Workshop - at the Booranga Writers’ Centre, 2pm, Sunday 29th May. (Please note: This workshop is for people who write and perform their own songs. You MUST contact me at Booranga to register before attending. If necessary phone 0449854901 out of hours)

Booranga Writers’ Centre (McKeown Drive) 2010 Office Hours:

Staff will be in every Monday (9am - 3.30pm), Tuesday (9 - 11.30am), Thursday (9 - 11.30am).

For enquiries (with a quick response) email us: booranga@csu.edu.au
Or alternatively email our director directly: dmotion@csu.edu.au

Cancelled

due to injury

Holly Throsby visit to be rescheduled for later in 2011. Details in future newsletters.
Bus Shelter Poems:

Winners Announced!

We had a great response to the recent call for submissions, receiving over a hundred poems about or inspired by Wagga. The judges of the contest were myself (Booranga Artistic Director) and Vic McEwan (Wagga Council’s Cultural Officer).

Because of the high quality of the works received we have decided to bring out two rounds of bus shelter poems - there are four shelters available, and we have selected eight poems, to be displayed four at a time for a set period.

The winners of the contest and winning poems are as follows (in no particular order):

‘Bifocal’ - Lachlan Brown
Wagga Wagga - Heather Shaw
Silage - Diana Harley
Wollundry Lagoon - David Gilbey
Neenish Tart - David Prater
Folding The Leader - Laura Smith
Flood, 1974 - Susan Hawthorne
Hairy Panic - Claire Baker

Congratulations to all of the selected poets (who have won $200 each as well as publication), and thank you to everyone who contributed work. It was a great experience to be able to read through so many pieces inspired by Wagga.

The selected poems are now being sent to our designer and will be shortly made into large posters.

We will be holding a special event to launch the Bus Shelter Poems on Saturday June 25th. Details of this launch (as well as details regarding which poems will be placed in which locations) will be sent out to you as soon as they are available.

2011 Calendar of Booranga Events

May

Writer-in-residence, Holly Throsby
28th: 1pm, performance at the Riverina Museum, Botanic Gardens site.
29th: 2pm, songwriters’ workshop at Booranga

June

4th: Next Booranga Monthly Writers’ Meeting
25th: Bus Shelter Poems to be launched in Wagga

July

18th - 30th: Writer-in-residence, Jim Haynes
(26th: performance at Wagga City Library, 5pm)

September

Writer-in-residence, Kalinda Ashton

November

fourW launches
19th: Wagga City Library
20th: Melbourne (Courthouse Theatre)
26th Sydney (Gleebooks)
Recent Booranga Events

There’s been a number of literary events since our last newsletter, and here’s a small sample of them:

**Reading featuring Ali Cobby Eckermann (pictured right) and Lionel Fogarty (pictured below left).**

Our first writer-in-residence for 2011 was of course noted Indigenous poet Ali Cobby Eckermann. Ali and Lionel presented a series of workshops at the Riverina Juvenile Justice Centre, gave a workshop for member at Booranga, and of course also gave a poetry presentation at the Wagga City Library. There was a large and diverse group in attendance for this reading, and we were all treated to some fine performances.

**Reading featuring Susan Hawthorne**

We received word that poet Susan Hawthorne would be passing through Wagga on her way to Ardlethan for the Poetry Caper (feature next page). Susan’s latest book Cow was reviewed by David Gilbey in the last issue, and we took the opportunity to put on a reading at the Booranga Writers’ Centre.

A great night was had by those in attendance - Susan read two selections of her work, and in between a number of us gave ‘open mic’ performances.

And for those of you who weren’t able to attend we have recorded the entire night’s proceedings. The audio is available on the Booranga website for your enjoyment. (Note the audio is a large file, but it is well worth taking the time to download).

Youth Week Poetry Slam

As a part of the recent Youth Week festival Harata Syme ran a poetry slam event at the Riverina Community College (16th April). The event was specifically for people under the age of 25, and also included spoken word workshops leading up to the slam.

Guest performer and judge on the night was Canberra-based writer Omar Musa (pictured right) a former winner of the Australian National Poetry Slam. David Gilbey and I were also judges of the event, and enjoyed an evening that showcased some promising young writers.

Ardlethan Poetry Caper

Booranga once again supported the annual Ardlethan Poetry Caper in April. I was pleased to catch up with some diverse poets from around the country, including Janet Jackson (pictured left), Chris Mansell, and Susan Hawthorne. The Palace Hotel Publican Robert Nowak is committed to running this event and we hope it continues to grow in the future.

Next Booranga Monthly Writers’ Meeting

The writing year is now well and truly underway, and in light of this we’ll be kicking off our monthly writers’ meetings for 2011. These meetings have proved popular over the last few years, and we’ve have a regular core of dedicated members turning up to most meets, along with many first-timers, people who are interested in seeing what goes on.

Remember, the format is very simple. Just bring along something you’ve recently been working on. You will then have the opportunity (most take it) to share your work, and to receive some feedback. The environment is friendly but the feedback is always useful.

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for Saturday 4th June, 2-5pm, at the Booranga Writers’ Centre. (Tea and coffee are provided.)

* The dates for the next meeting are decided by participants at the end of each meeting.
fourW twenty-two

Submissions are currently open (and indeed are rolling in already) for Booranga’s flagship annual publication, fourW. fourW is an anthology of poetry and prose that is highly regarded by writers and readers across Australia, and is one of the longest running publications of its kind.

Submissions close June 30th. Find full submission guidelines on the Booranga Website:

This year fourW will again be launched in Wagga, Melbourne, and Sydney. Wagga: 19th November at the Wagga City Library / Melbourne: 20th November at the Courthouse Theatre in Carlton / Sydney 26th November at Gleebooks.

Jim Haynes - writer-in-residence, 18th-30th July

Over the course of his working life, Jim has been an author, songwriter, performer, recording artist, academic, sapphire dealer, nurse and teacher - often several of them at the same time.

In 1990 he started the first Bush Poetry Breakfasts at Tamworth’s during the annual festival. Against all predictions, they were an instant success and, in 1997, moved to the West Tamworth Leagues Club, becoming the phenomenally successful Big Bush Brekky Show, combining Jim’s unique mix of country music and humour with big name guests.

Jim had ten years teaching on the Darling River and in the New England area before his thirst for knowledge led him to study in the UK. After two masters degrees and quite a few years living in Britain and Europe he threw in the academic life to return to Australia.

He was encouraged by John Williamson’s manager, Phil Matthews, who shared his passion for Aussie music and recognized his songwriting abilities. Phil gave him that all-important first break in the music business and from there Jim went on to write and record many songs, including hits like Since Cheryl Went Feral and Don’t Call Wagga Wagga Wagga.

The Bush Poetry Breakfasts led to the release of Jim's first book, I’ll Have Chips! which was a huge seller, won him the inaugural Bush Laureate ‘Book of the Year’ award in Tamworth in 1996 and started a whole new phase of his career, this time as an author.

He’s since released twelve books of Australian short stories and verse, mostly for ABC Books, including An Australian Heritage of Verse and An Australian Treasury of Popular Verse, which won him his second and third Bush Laureate ‘Book of the Year’ awards.

• Jim has total sales of over 70,000 albums. Over 25,000 sales alone of the album ‘It’s Nothing Serious’.

• He has won ‘Comedy Song of the Year’ at the Tamworth Festival 4 times and three Australian Bush Laureate awards for ‘Book of the Year’.

• Jim is the resident Australiana Humorist on Radio 2UE and appears regularly on TV and radio.

• The author of twelve best selling books of stories and verse, Jim is currently writing three more.

Jim Haynes’ official public program is still being finalised but he will be performing in Wagga on Thursday 26th July, at the Wagga City Library, 5pm, alongside visiting poet Jane Williams.
Review, by Booranga President, David Gilbey

Jocelyn Freeman’s new collection *Dirt Love Salt: Landscaping the Soul – A poetic diary* will be published by Strategic Book Group. Due out soon.

These are poems to wring your heart by their sense of personal tenderness, the poignancy of little moments, and by their political and moral anger at racism. Moving between crowded razzle-dazzle of cities to gritty isolation and prejudice of small regional towns, Jocelyn Freeman writes with a painterly brush of the landscape, the communities and the economics of human and social existence in Australia. These are poems that have a confronting immediacy (eg. ‘the mob’) and an excoriating satire (eg. ‘capital squatting time’) as well as a lyrical awareness of the environment (eg. ‘Cootamundra wattles’).

The first section ‘Dirt’ explores and yes, embraces, the harshness of the natural environment and its felt impact on relationships (eg. ‘sutured dreams’, ‘news’) and against a global context of filtered news (‘cogs and axles’: ‘….I watch the World Trade Centre crumble / like honeycomb on heat…’). There is a sense of lives lived, pregnancy, parenting of young children, in a cultural context which is still pervasively racist (‘the unspoken force’, ‘dirty realism’) which is angry and unsettling.

The second section ‘Love’ is unsentimental, harsh, tracing a trajectory through small town prejudice and a ‘late pregnancy’. Difficulty and tenderness alternate: ‘we spent so long building each other into our stories / now we watch the plot unravel…’ (‘love scenario’), and ‘nobody told me it was going to be like this / heat, poverty, patience frayed / no petrol to leave a small country town…’ (‘breath’). Words from the titles seem emblematic of the emotional and artistic fragmentation: ‘stranded’, ‘compartmentalized’, ‘drought’. Jocelyn Freeman writes with a sensibility that is self-conscious, and looks from within an indigenous awareness of the significance of human and natural events in a cosmic/tribal context: ‘later… down by the permanent water hole, / the whiskers of tjukurpa shake in the breeze / …waking people in their sleep’ (‘still praying for rain in Coolemon’).

The third section ‘Salt’ is the harshest, most politically focused on Australian culture. In the first line of the first poem ‘the track’ we read ‘the track runs through the guts of the town…’. The word ‘guts’ has woven like a motif through these poems from the earliest pages, instantiating the harsh rawness of experience and the poetic vision. Here we have the ANZAC legend and sport and local culture linked in an inexorable relationship which is not friendly to the (female, married to an indigenous musician) poet.

These are not all easy poems, not poems to ‘enjoy’. But they have power and insight. They are poems using language which pulls the reader to share their sense of longing for connection, justice and understanding. At times the voice is strident, but at others it’s beckoning, wry, heartfelt. Poems to remember, go back to, share with friends. They deserve reading and thinking about.
Remember to keep in mind those literary journals that are open for submissions all year. A good place to start researching the major Australian ones is here:

http://www.litmags.com.au

(Booranga receives copies of the NSW based journals South-erly and HEAT, and these are available to borrow for Booranga Members)

Also, don’t forget that fourW is open for submissions all year round, but the cut off for each annual edition is June 30th.

**2011 Rolf Boldrewood Literary Awards**

**Prose:** Open for fiction, article or essay entries (including family history) with an Australian theme. Maximum 3000 words.

**Poetry:** Open for any form of poetry on an Australian theme.

First Prize: Limited edition bust of Rolf Boldrewood + $500
Second Prize: $250
Third Prize: $150

Entry fee: $10

Details + entry forms: www.mrl.nsw.gov.au

Closes: 16th September 2011

**Lightship International Literary Competitions**

Web-based international Short Story, Poetry, Flash Fiction and First Chapter competitions.

Lightship aims to run one of the premier literary competitions in the world, with prizes of £1,000. The winner of each competition, along with nine runners-up, will be published in the Lightship anthology to be published by Alma Books in October 2011.

Further information available at www.lightshippublishing.co.uk.

Entries close: 30 June

**U3A Sunshine Coast Writing Competition**

Open to anyone retired or semi-retired and thus eligible to join U3A. Categories for short fiction, short autobiography (each 1000-1500 words), rhyming poetry (20 - 40 lines), free verse (max 40 lines). First prize $150.

Further information available at www.u3asunshine.org.au.

Entries close: 10 June

**CALEB Prize**

For writing with ‘appeal for, and beyond, Christian readers’ by Australasian writers. Books published between 1 January and 30 June are eligible. Sections for fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Prize of $1000.


Entries close 30 June
PUBLISHING, COMPETITIONS and OPPORTUNITIES

Poetry

Boree Log Award for Bush Verse

A competition for traditional rhyming bush verse, 80 lines maximum. 1st prize of $100 and trophy.

Obtain entry forms from the website: http://hillsfaw.webs.com or (02) 9869 2715

Closes: 31 May 2011

Eastwood Hills FAW Annual Literary Competition

Short Story – Max 3,000 words 1st $200, 2nd $100
Free Verse Poetry – Max 80 lines per poem 1st $150, 2nd $50
Traditional Poetry – Max 80 lines per poem 1st $150, 2nd $50
Memoir – Max 1,500 words 1st $150, 2nd $50
Pauline Walsh Award for Short Short Story – Max 800 words 1st $100, 2nd $50

Obtain entry forms from the website: http://hillsfaw.webs.com or (02) 9869 2715

Closes: 31 May 2011

2011 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 August 2011 on the PressPress site.


Closes: 30 June 2011

2011 Blake Poetry Prize

Exploring the Religious & Spiritual Through Poetry.

This national award, now in its fourth year and generously supported by Leichhardt Municipal Council, 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 displaying a critical awareness of issues relating to the religious or spiritual.

Entry forms and more information are available at www.nswwriterscentre.org.au

Entries close 3 June 2011, winners announced 15 September 2011.
Prose

**The 2011 Peter Cowan Short Story Competition**

Maximum 600 words per story

Prizes: First $200; Second $100; Third $50
Certificates: Highly Commended four; Commended four

Entry Fee: $5 per story; Three stories for $12; Five stories for $20

Theme: Open

All entries must be accompanied by the official entry form and entry fee. Forms can be accessed online at:


Closing Date: 20 May 2011

**ABR Elizabeth Jolley Short Story Prize**

Entry to the Australian Book Review short story prize – renamed the ABR Elizabeth Jolley Short Story Prize, in memory of the late Australian writer – is now open.

First prize: $5000
Three shortlisted stories: $1000 plus publication


Closing date: 30 June 2011

**Big West Flash Fiction**

Can you turn 200 words into a literary masterpiece? The Big West Festival is calling for entries into the inaugural Flash Fiction competition. The theme is “Uncontained”. Prize of $350.


Entries close: 31 July

**Finch Memoir Prize**

Accepting entries between 1 September and 14 October 2011. The prize is for an unpublished non-fiction manuscript in the form of a memoir. The winning manuscript will be published by Finch, and the author will receive prize money of $10,000.


Entries close: 14 October

**The Text Prize for Young Adult and Children’s Writing**

Both published and unpublished writers of all ages are eligible to enter with works of fiction or non-fiction. The winner will receive a publishing contract with Text and a $10,000 advance against royalties.


Entries must be received between 2 May and 3 June 2011.
Wagga Wagga Writers Writers Inc (trading as the Booranga Writers’ Centre) 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 to 31st December 2011

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<th>Membership Type</th>
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<tr>
<td>Group membership (including one copy of <em>fourW</em>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Single membership (including one copy of <em>fourW</em>)</td>
<td>$36.00</td>
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<td>Single membership (not including anthology)</td>
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<td>Concessional membership (one copy of <em>fourW</em>)</td>
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<td>Student membership (under 21 years) not including anthology</td>
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**MEMBERSHIP ENTITLES YOU TO...**

- Copy of *fourW* twenty-one Anthology
- Regular newsletter (bi-monthly) & e-list mailouts
- 10% discount at Book City, Wagga
- 10% Discount at Angus & Robertson Bookworld, Wagga
- 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 library (featuring current editions of journals such as *HEAT* and *Southerly*, as well as the newsletters of other writers’ centres).

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: (please indicate membership type required)

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

**WWW & the Booranga Writers’ Centre are supported by:**

![Charles Sturt University](image)
![Arts NSW](image)
![City of Wagga Wagga](image)