During his three weeks at Booranga Mark plans to continue working on his novel *Grassdogs*. The narrative is loosely based on the true story of the Dogman of Forbes, which has been transposed to Wagga. He will also work with local secondary school students, appear in a reading with visiting Welsh Poet, Lloyd Robson.

Born in Melbourne, writer Mark O’Flynn now lives in the Blue Mountains. After studying at the Victorian College of the Arts, and working for a number of years in the theatre where several plays were produced, Mark turned to fiction and poetry. His short stories, reviews, and poems have appeared in a wide range of journals and magazines including *Australian Book Review*, *The Bulletin*, *Westerly*, *Meanjin*, *Redoubt*, *Scarp*, *Southerly*, *Ultrarara*, *Island*, *Overland*, *Imago*, *Cordite*, *Worcester Review* (USA), *Picador New Writing*, *LiNQ*, *Mattoid*, *Famous Reporter*, *Northern Perspective*, *SideWaLK*, *Coppertales*, *Social Alternatives*, *fourW* and many others, as well as being read on ABC 2BL702, ABC Regional Radio and several FM radio stations. A first collection of poems *The Too Bright Sun* was published in 1996 by Five Islands Press in the New Poets Program. He has also published a novel *Captain Cook* (Pascoe, 1987), and the play *Paterson’s Curse* (Currency Press, 1988) which first premiered with the Riverina Theatre Company. During this time he lived for a year in Wagga and stayed at Booranga Writers’ Centre for eight weeks as Writer-In-Residence. A second book of poems *The Good Oil* was published by Five Islands Press in November, 2000.

Mark is well known as a performer of his own work and has read at a number of Australian festivals including, recently, the Queensland Poetry Festival, the Tasmanian Readers and Writers Festival, and also at a wide range of other venues.

Lloyd Robson is rapidly building a reputation as one of the most potent and dynamic of Welsh writers. In recent years he has performed and been published around the world, from South Wales to New South Wales, New York to Tokyo, Edinburgh to Estonia. He is a poet and prose writer whose texts spill over into typography, photography, visual art and performance. He is also a workshop tutor, visiting university lecturer and writer-in-residence at the University of Wales (Newport) School of Art, Media and Design. His ‘shedworld’ project has been incorporated into the syllabus of their BA (hons) Animation course. Lloyd is also a visual artist. His photo-poetry montage *sense of city road* was first exhibited in 2000 and frames from the montage were exhibited by the Royal Cambrian Academy as part of the *young wales V* show (2001). His photography has been used by various publishers in their book designs. He has received two visual art grants from the Arts Council of Wales (1994 & 2000) and is registered with artx, axis & artworks wales. He is very interested in the creation of visual texts and text as visual art.
It's that time again, when after hundreds of submissions have been gathered, read and short-listed, an anthology magically appears.

The fourWfourteen anthology will be launched by Fellowship Writer Mark O’Flynn in Wagga Wagga on Saturday 15 November, at the Wagga City Library at 2:30pm.

Sydney based writer Jill Jones will launch the anthology in Sydney on the following Saturday, 22 November at Gleebooks, again at 2:30pm.

This year’s anthology contains writing and visual work by writers and artists living and working regionally and also nationally and overseas. The selection processes are anonymous, the panel reads work by numbers and then the final contributors are chosen from a wide and strong field. Interestingly, there remains a strong regional presence with representation from Booranga Albury members and also Booranga Wagga members (including staff and committee).

So, please come along and launch this fourteenth edition of the fourW anthology, with special guests, readings and refreshments provided.

Welcome to our Christmas party, celebrate the end of the year, share poetry, wine and good times with writer centre members, staff and committee. The party will be from 7:30pm, Wednesday 10 December at Booranga Writers’ Centre (opposite CSU Winery).

We’ll supply the wine and the snacks, you bring some poetry to read.
Review by Martin Ducker

Book Review.

Pleasure Species #1, #2 & #3.
Author: zOO:g.
Publisher: zoog@comcen.com.au
Available from:
Vox Populis Zine Distro.
www.voxpopulis.org
Po Box 253.
Roselands.
NSW, 2196.
Genre: Poetry / Philosophy.

“The revolution will be photocopied”, and you’d better believe it. zOO:g has put together three personal zine style booklets full of rage, dark humour and insight into the horror that has become the urban now experience. The black and white graphic content of these diverse booklets works to underscore the text and drives home the view that all is not well with the world. I wouldn’t recommend them to the sort of people who get their jollies watching Neighbours because the Pleasure Species are, in most respects, confronting and liable to demolish the intellectual comfort zone.

i got a job
it puts food on the table
despair in my heart
grief in my lungs
bland in my head

This, overlaying a washed out picture of decaying brickwork is just one of the many thought provoking pieces that work to strip away the façade of hope propagated by mainstream media and societal institutions. The Pleasure Species series relentlessly points out that there is little future for most of us unless we recognize some basic truths about our existence. These publications are lovingly created by hand for the discerning audience, but deliver a savage indictment of the level of self delusion in society. I suspect zOO:g needed a good rant in tree parts as well. Cheap, entertaining and well worth the effort. Angst, thy name is zOO:g.

when there is nothing left
you can always start believing

Notice to Members

It’s a good time to renew your membership or to become a member of Wagga Wagga Writers’ Writers. If you join now you save $$$ before the fees go up next year.

Membership forms are on the back of the newsletter or contact Booranga (t) 02 6933 2688. Members enjoy discounts to all Booranga events and from Booranga friends. There is a special Youth Membership for people aged under 21 years.

POETICA
Presented by Mike Ladd
Every Saturday at 3:05pm on Radio National

November:
1st – Wandering - an alpine journey on foot with German poet and novelist Hermann Hesse.
8th – Painting the Poets - Jenni Mitchell has painted the portraits of more than 100 Australian poets. We meet Jenni in her studio, she talks about some of the sitters and we hear their poems.
15th – Lauren Williams - selected works by the Melbourne poet Lauren Williams.
22nd – Sight and Sound - an anthology about vision and hearing and also their impramiment. Featuring poets from John Milton to Judith Wright.
29th – Tom Shapcott - Mike Ladd interviews Tom Shapcott about his life and work and we hear poems selected from his 16 volumes of verse.

December:
13th – Irish Voices – a selection of contemporary Irish poetry featuring Seamus Heaney, Paul Durcan, Cherry Smyth, Paula Meehan, Rita Anne Higgins and Paul Muldoon.

The Spectrum Series returns for PoeticA’s summer season:
20th – Red
27th – Orange
Writing life in Albury has proved very hectic since the last issue of the newsletter.

Writing of the *Murray Time*, our progressive novel, is now complete and we gathered on a Saturday morning so illustrators and writers could meet and exchange ideas. Each illustrator chose a chapter then talked with the writer and will provide an image in the next few days. Jane Downing and Dirk Spennemann have begun work on final editing completion of the website http://csusap.csu.edu.au/~dspennem/MurrayTime/Book.html is under development and preparations are being made for a launch before the end of the year. We have a couple of choices for format and this will depend on final answers from funding bodies.

The project has attracted quite a lot of attention in arts fields. We have come up with a first in our concept. There have been progressive novels written in the past but this is the first where writers and illustrators have combined to produce an illustrated novel. Current technology makes the inclusion of illustrations a much more viable option than it has been in the past.

We have really enjoyed having Stephanie Dixon and Colin McPhedran visit Albury. Wodonga TAFE Media Course students attended in what would have been their normal class time. They and those of us who were able to attend were rewarded by meeting two contrasting writers who were equally interesting. Someone who had read Colin’s book had commented to me that she didn’t think she wanted to meet someone who had suffered so much. Colin’s honesty and avoidance of being a victim made him a person I would like to spend much more time with.

Stephanie shared the realities of life in the world of film and television. Her relaxed presentation and critical discussion of her work was a lesson in itself. It brought home the fact that when a work is commissioned the person who does the commissioning has the final say and that what works for the wider world doesn’t always work for the artist. I have heard that Stephanie enchanted students from Albury schools and was impressed by their perceptions of her work.

As always with Albury visits, time was too short. It would have been very good to spend more time with both Stephanie and Colin. The thing that most impressed me about this visit was the contrast and mutual respect between these two writers who come from such different cultures and age groups.

Robyne Young did a wonderful job in promoting the visit and was able to arrange good media coverage. Robyne has also been completing work on a series of stories she is self publishing under the title *The Basket and the Briefcase* which is due for launch next month in Albury.

Another interesting Albury event is that Sidney Nolan’s Ned Kelly paintings are at present visiting Albury Art Gallery quite a few interesting activities are being organised surrounding the exhibition. The Regional Library is featuring Peter Carey’s True History of the Kelly Gang and has asked Booranga Writers, Albury to take part in a writing workshop for children on 18 September in QEII square. This Saturday workshop should be fun for the members who take part as well as the children.

**Sketch by Johnny Beinart – Contributing Artist Murray Times**

Johnny beinArt is a freelance commission artist. He grew up in Albury and currently lives in Melbourne. In the past Johnny exhibited his art at Albury’s Cafe Gryphon, and participated in a joint exhibition called ‘Boys room’ at the Albury Regional Art Gallery. Johnny is currently exhibiting his art at the following Melbourne venues: Black Cat, a cafe on Brunswick St, Fitzroy; Laundry, a nightclub on Johnston St, Fitzroy; Cape Lounge, a cafe on Brunswick st, Fitzroy; Bimbo Deluxe, Bar/Nightclub on Brunswick st, Fitzroy; Old Bar, Pub on Johnston st, Fitzroy; Kent St, Cafe on Smith st, Fitzroy; and Blue Corn, Cafe/Restaurant, 205 Barkly st, St Kilda Johnny has a website beinArt bizarre bazaar featuring his own art and other Underground Australian art and writing.
This is a terrifying book – not at first, when the reader is mildly amused by the wry irony of Jackson’s retrenched bank manager narrator as he comments in a deadpan fashion on his own and Australia’s cultural and political development. Not even early in the book, as the reader smiles indulgently at the narrator’s deprecating personal history and awkward adolescence. In the main, the book seems to be a gentle satire on Australia’s isolation from the world, as seen from the perspective of a conservative young man growing up in regional Australia. In fact it seems more like a fable for our times – a kind of fictional Southpark.

But gradually, as the unnamed male becomes more and more isolated and marginalised, we realise the menace he has been concealing: terror is the obverse of fear - a consequence of caution when the mind makes a trap from which it cannot escape – when it can only imagine pessimistic outcomes. So we suddenly find ourselves confronted with acts of urban (rural?) terrorism he has committed and we wonder at his desire to wreak havoc on the town he has lived in so apparently unbosingly for so long. But this is a book that works on several levels – a satirical look at Australia as a conservative society from the 60s to the 90s; a bildungsroman recording the growth of a young man into an urban guerilla (an accidental terrorist?); a political analysis of Australian enervation; a spiritual tract warning against agnosticism in a moral no-man’s land.

Framed by the Tampa crisis Accounting for Terror indicates Jackson’s concern with Australia’s place in the world of global politics. It also refers to the Gulf War, the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and presents an ongoing analysis of the subversions of pop music, where Bob Dylan’s songs are an alternative religion, a source of spiritual enlightenment, reminding us that our local and regional lifespace is affected by and in turn affects the ‘outside’ world. There are to constant comparisons between Christianity and Islam in which Jackson is critical of protestantism since his criminal brother establishes a speaking-in-tongues church. The young man’s dislocation, seeing the past no longer continuous with the present shows us that our very environment constructs us as terrorists.

Accounting for Terror has a funny surface concealing unstable, threatening undercurrents in our social fabric. It is masterfully written and seductive reading. Copies may be obtained direct from Letao Press.


Obidian because, amongst other things, the hard, glassy, volcanic rock is so black and shiny that the mirror seems to ‘suck back the/ pictures/ they first made’. This seductive, haunting CD has Mark Brennan reading some of his recent work (poems, essays, reflections) as well as a range of musical accompaniments by eg Terri Eskdale (flute), Kevin Penny (Uillean pipes) and Merrilyn Simmons (voice).

From the very first track, My Piece of Sky Mark explores something of the nature and experience of writing and creativity, a kind of Buddhist notion of ‘writing by not writing’ in which words are, obidian-like, ‘a lens which slows and holds’.

The second track, From the Lakes presents the major poem from the earlier book of drawings, essay and studio notes in collaboration with artist Owen Pigott. It instantiates and explores the site of an early Aboriginal massacre at Metung, in the Gippsland Lakes: ‘scattered bones across the Lake/ stop us from getting home.’

The next two tracks use a child’s perspective. Bed Times, was commissioned by installation artist Benita Murray to accompany a sculpture combining the soft suggestions of bedding material with the harsher stuff of fencing and metal. Reflections, echoing A. A. Milne, combines brutality with nursery perspectives, in a piece for two voices written for a ceremony held in the Starlight Room of the Royal Children’s Hospital, Melbourne during the International Conference on Child Soldiers in 1999. And so it goes, for another five tracks, combining words and music which both remove themselves from the world for contemplation and examination but which are constantly interrogating fundamental notions about existence, political stance and public morality. This is particularly vivid in track seven, Message from the Woman in the Lake, invoking the mythical white woman of the Gunai/Kurnai people’s imagining, sung with a kind of Celtic keening and Chrissie Amphlett urgency by Merrilyn Simmons.

This CD is a multi-layered verbal and musical collaboration which engages the mind and the imagination. There is more richness, questioning, delight and pain than I can possibly suggest in a short review. Buy it (from Mark Brennan, Twelfth Avenue, Raymond Island, 3880) – for yourself or someone you like talking and listening with.
COMPETITIONS & AWARDS

Writespot Spring 2003 Short Story Competition
Maximum 5000 words with first prize of $750. For further information about entry (t) 07 3300 3300 or visit: www.writespotpublishers.com

Closing date: 14 November

Patrick White Playwrights’ Award
The Patrick White Playwrights’ Award is a major playwriting initiative of Sydney Theatre Company and The Sydney Morning Herald. In recognition of the importance of the playwright to Australian theatre culture, the Patrick White Playwrights’ Award will offer a $20,000 cash prize to a full length unproduced play written by an Australian playwright over 19 years of age. For entry forms (t) 02 9250 1700.

Closing date: 24 November

2004 NSW Premier’s Literary Awards
Guidelines and application forms are available on the NSW Ministry for the Arts website at www.arts.nsw.gov.au or by calling (t) 1800 358 594.

Closing date: 30 November

FAW Jim Hamilton Award
Previously unpublished novel or book-length collection. Prize $1000 and $500. Contact: Philip Rainford, PO Box 3036, Ripponlea, Victoria, 3183 (t) 03 9513 0906.

Closing date: 30 November

New Australian Playwright Competition
Monash University Student Association is proud to announce a new Australian Playwright competition. For further information and entry forms, contact Yvonne Virsik (t) 03 9905 8173 or (e) Yvonne.Virsik@adm.monash.edu.au or visit: http://msa.monash.edu.au/theatre/

Closing date: 31 December

The Kiriyama Prize
With prize money of $30,000, the Kiriyama Prize is an international award for books that will contribute to greater understanding among the people and nations of the Pacific Rim and South East Asia. Official rules/entry form available at: www.kiriyamaprize.org

Closing date: 27 October

Eaglehawk Dahlia & Arts Festival 2004 Literary Competition
For guidelines and entry form send SSAE to: The Literary Competition, Chairperson, Ruth Claridge, 99 Victoria Street, Eaglehawk, Victoria, 3556.

OPPORTUNITIES

Heywire, 2003
Young people aged between 16-22 years are invited to submit an engaging story for radio about the things that matter to them. The winning stories will be produced by the ABC and broadcast on ABC Local Radio, Triple J, Radio National, Radio Australia and published on the Heywire website. Application forms are available from ABC Local Radio stations and on the website: www.abc.net.au or (t) 1800 262 646.

The Australian Young Poets Fellowships
The Poets Union and the Australia Council are offering Australian Young Poets Fellowships for two poets aged 18-30 on 31 December, 2003. The fellowships, open to all Australian citizens and permanent residents, offer six months’ mentorship with an experienced poet, registration fees and accommodation expenses at a one week residential workshop in January, 2004 at Wollongong University, and opportunities to perform and publish. Entry fee is $10. Information and application forms are available from the Poets Union (t) 02 9818 5366 (e) info@poetsunion.com or visit: www.poetsunion.com

Closing date: 14 November

Simon & Schuster (Australia) Pty Ltd
Simon & Schuster are now considering new book proposals for practical, accessible books for a broad readership. Simon & Schuster Australia imprints are Australian Lives, Selfhelp books and also publish under the Kangaroo Press imprint: The most effective starting point is to send a brief letter or email summarising the project to, Commissioning Editor, Teresa Pitt, 4/113 Adderley Street, West Melbourne, Victoria, 3003 (e) teresa.pitt@simonandschuster.com.au. Only written submissions will be considered.

Polestar Journal
Short stories to 1500 words and poems to one page. Book and film review are also welcome. Small payment for published pieces. For submission guidelines send SSAE to: The Editor, Polestar, PO Box 196, Drayton North, Queensland, 4350.

Stride Magazine
Stride is newly incarnated as a webzine after 33 issues as a poetry magazine. Updated regularly, Stride welcomes submissions of 4-5 poems, short prose, reviews or articles. Mail submissions to: Editor, Rupert Loydell, Stride Magazine, 11 Sylvan Road, Exeter, Devon, EX4 6EW or (e) submissions@stridemagazine.co.uk. Stride can be found at www.stridemagazine.co.uk
Aurora Intensive Workshops for Australian Scripts
Applications are called for to develop a feature film script with the key creative team through the Aurora initiative. For further information check out the New South Wales Film and Television Office website: www.fto.nsw.gov.au

Closing date: 24 November

Quick Turnaround Grants
Regional Arts New South Wales offers Quick Turnaround Grants as from 1 July. For further information (t) 02 9247 8577 or www.regionalartsnsw.com.au

Espresso Fiction
An innovative new web publisher is looking for short stories under 3000 words. Their subscribers enjoy reading fiction but rarely find time to read a novel or look for interesting short stories. Email stories to (e) editor@espressofiction.com. Paste your story into the body of the email instead of making an attachment, include at the beginning your name, contact details, title of story, word count, genre, country where story is set and the theme. Payment is on a commission basis.

Closing date: 30 October

Unpopular Culture: Next Wave Festival
The 2004 Next Wave Festival will be held 18-30 May, 2004. The festival’s theme is Unpopular Culture and they are looking for innovative and engaging notes on that notion. Artists’ briefing notes, application forms and more information is available from: www.nextwave.org.au. They are interested in proposals from artforms including: music, visual arts, text, dance, performance, and new media.

Closing date: 1 November

New Authors Welcome
Sid Harta Publishers Australia wish to extend an opportunity to new and emerging authors committed to seeing their work in print. Contact Manuscript Editor, Temple House Pty Ltd, PO Box 1042, Hartwell, Victoria, 3124. (e) editor@publisher-guidelines.com OR author@sidharta.com.au

Travel to the Aurora Intensive Workshops for Australian Scripts, call for papers for Colloquy, and apply for Quick Turnaround Grants, Espresso Fiction, Unpopular Culture: Next Wave Festival or the Varuna Program. If you are interested in writing, poetry, or prose, these opportunities could be valuable to you.

Contact information:
- Aurora Intensive Workshops for Australian Scripts: www.fto.nsw.gov.au
- Quick Turnaround Grants: www.regionalartsnsw.com.au
- Espresso Fiction: editor@espressofiction.com
- Unpopular Culture: Next Wave Festival: www.nextwave.org.au
- Varuna Program: www.varuna.com.au
- New Authors Welcome: author@sidharta.com.au
Wagga Wagga Writers Writers Inc gratefully acknowledge the financial assistance of the New South Wales Ministry for the Arts, Regional Arts New South Wales and Charles Sturt University.

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**WWW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2003**

Single Annual Membership $33.00 or $22.00 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: ...........................................................................................................

Enclosed: $ ...................... Cheque/money order for single/concession/youth (Please circle).

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 publication which is sent free to each WWWW member (excepting youth members). Members are always welcome at the centre, to 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.

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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SURFACE MAIL

POSTAGE PAID AUSTRALIA