Visiting Writer:
Petra White

This month Booranga will be hosting the poet Petra White (pictured below). Petra’s first collection of poetry *The Incoming Tide* was published in 2007 by John Leonard Press, to very favourable review. Previously Petra was the joint-winner of the Patricia Hackett Prize (for best contribution to *Westerly*) in 2003 for her poem ‘Grave’, and she has had poems published in *The Best Australian Poems* series, in 2004 and 2006. In 2007 her aforementioned first collection was short-listed for Arts Queensland Judith Wright Calanthe Prize for Poetry, and during that year she also travelled through Wagga as part of the Poets-on-Wheels program (as some of you may remember).

Petra will only be in Wagga for a week, and during this time one of our Booranga Members will be working closely with her, and will also perform with at a feature reading. Our mentorship will also allow for further contact with Petra later on in the year (electronically or by mail) where some final editing advice can be given.

Petra is really a talented writer - as her first collection demonstrates - and you should take advantage of this limited opportunity to either see her perform, or to participate in a workshop.

**Dates:**

- **Thursday 8th May:** 5.30pm Reading at Albury Library / Museum
- **Saturday 10th May:** 2 – 4pm Monthly writing workshop @ Booranga
- **Sunday 11th May:** 2 – 4pm workshop for Booranga members @ Griffith Community Centre
- **Monday 12th May:** 6.30pm Reading at Wagga City Library (with reading from Mentee + open mic)

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*Booranga Writers’ Centre (McKeown Drive) 2008 Office Hours:*

*Staff will be in every Monday (9am - 3.30pm), Tuesday (9 - 11.30am), Thursday (9 - 11.30am).*
The Wagga Wagga Writers
Writers team for 2008

At the Annual General Meeting of Wagga Wagga Writers (held last month) the following members nominated and were elected to the executive committee for 2008:

David Gilbey (President)
Caitlin Tunstall
John Burke
Monique Shepard
Stuart Ferguson
Shelli Little
Claire Baker
Julie Montgarret
Kelly Shaw
Olivia Markham

Sandra Treble will continue on as Booranga Office Manager; Annee Lawrence has been appointed as a funding consultant; and I (Derek Motion) will continue to serve as Director. I believe we have a committed committee (!) this year with a lot of ideas to offer. I look forward to working with everyone and bringing all of our members a full and exciting program. The calendar of events to the right shows what we have planned for the year - and of course within the dates outlined for writers-in-residence there will be a lot of future events to be announced.

These are difficult times for Writers’ Centres across the state, and as you know our operating funding (which has not been increased for the past 4 years) is now in danger of being reduced or cut. But Annee and I, alongside the committee, will be working to ensure Booranga has a future. Annee is currently reviewing Booranga’s past activities and working on strategies for the future (you can read part of her review in this newsletter); also we are both attending a Litlink meeting of Writers’ Centres Director during this month to further develop a united response to the Government’s proposed actions.

Even a cursory look through the files out at Booranga reveals that this organisation has done a huge amount to contribute to literary activity and culture in the region. Our activities are essential: this is the attitude I choose to take into 2008 and beyond.

- Derek Motion (Director, Booranga Writers’ Centre; Editor, Booranga News)
HSC Open-Mic Night

This is always one of the most well-attended events of the year, so make sure you get along this time and see what the next generation of writers are doing. Every year the School of Humanities & Social Sciences collaborates with the Wagga Branch of the English Teachers’ Association, and Wagga Wagga Writers to present the HSC Open Mike evening – it’s for students undertaking the advanced English options in the HSC. Students will have the opportunity on the night to read their work (which might include short-stories, poetry, scripts, creative essays) and each audience member will be given a feedback sheet and invited to offer their constructive criticism. This is one event where your thoughts about a performer’s work can really make a difference; the evening will be hosted this year by Charles Sturt University.

**Date:** Wednesday 11th June - 6.30pm

**Location:** Main Campus of CSU, room 109 or room 208 (depending on numbers)

* Location will be well signposted from the main carparks

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**fourW nineteen: Call for Submissions**

It’s that time of the year again, and the deadline for submitting work to the annual anthology is approaching. Last year we had a record number of submissions from the Riverina, Australia and all over the world. This year anything could happen. *fourW nineteen* will be edited in 2008 by David Gilbey.

* We welcome contributions of original poetry, fiction and graphics/artwork, not previously published.

* Works are read anonymously, and we request that you include the contributor’s name and address in the cover email message only. (Documents mailed as hard-copy to be identified on the back of each page.)

* More details and complete submission guidelines can be found online at: [http://www.csu.edu.au/faculty/arts/humss/booranga/submission-guidelines.html](http://www.csu.edu.au/faculty/arts/humss/booranga/submission-guidelines.html)

Submissions of writing should be emailed (as a word document attachment) to booranga@csu.edu.au or posted directly to Boorangga Writer's Centre, Locked Bag 588, Wagga Wagga, NSW, 2678.

All work must be received by **30th June**
Old Sale-yards exhibition / poetry-slam

April saw the culmination of a joint program between Booranga and the Wagga Art Gallery. The Old Saleyards exhibition (paintings and drawings by Neville Collis) went on display in the E3 Art Space at the Gallery, and alongside this we ran a poetry competition, where poets were called to respond to the paintings (an ekphrastic exercise). The winning and highly-commended entries were displayed alongside Neville Collis’ paintings for the term of the exhibition, as well as being performed at a ‘slam’ held on the 12th April. There were categories for primary and secondary school aged children, as well as adults.

Also, in conjunction with The Old Saleyards: paintings and drawings by Neville Collis WWWW president and poet David Gilbey gave a two hour writing workshop in the Art Space, title ‘Mythmaking and Beyond’. The workshop was booked out, and the whole project (which was held as a part of Senior’s Week, and worked toward reinvigorating the ‘bush-poetry’ form) would have to be judged a success. It’s great to see poetry being read in different spaces - look forward more collaborative projects between Booranga and the Art Gallery in the future.

The winners of the poetry competition were:

Betty Brady (adult section)
Sam Evans (school-age section)

Regional Writing Groups

Booranga offers group memberships to smaller writers’ groups, and we currently have a number of groups that meet in places such as Griffith and Leeton. If you live in one a regional centre and would like to meet with one of these groups contact Booranga, and we might be able to put you in touch with writers in your particular area.

We are also looking to feature the meeting details and venues of our smaller writing groups in future issues of the Booranga News. So if you are involved in one of these, please forward the necessary information to booranga@csu.edu.au
How the winds are laughing.
247 blokes in the dust.
The sheep don’t trust
these blokes in the dust -
butchers no doubt.
The bullocks don’t seem randy
yet these breeders know better
with wallets handy
or else there’s no more sales.

There’s a calf with a mournful eye.

It’s a bloke’s world at the saleyards
not a place for animals
despite what they say.

Can’t make out if sheilas
on sales day are brewing in the shed
and buttering bread.

Blokes drink and smoke
and the winds laugh and laugh
with all their might.

Chops for tea tonight
from shops with sawdust floors.
There’s a beaut new one
a few doors round from Travers Street
with a floor you could eat off.
It was once a boarding house;
a very temporary home too.

Cars park near the bridge of triangles
where years ago on a wagon

a calf complained
and the slatted bridge floor
complained
and the power lines
sang and complained in the wind
like the river willows
just down from Mrs Shadell’s house – gone now
with Dolly in her wheelchair.

Cars that take their bloodied beasts
back home past the old Riverina Hotel
where my brother’s mate’s
cousin’s mother
stabbed her bloke to death.

Oh give me a home……….
where seldom is heard
a discouraging word
and the skies are not cloudy all day
except with dust and flies
and bellowing and bleating
thick as smoke.

( Highly commended entry in ‘The Old Saleyards’ exhibition
and poetry competition)

( Remember: send contributions of creative writing for
Booranga News to booranga@csu.edu.au)
Support Booranga Writer’s Centre Future
- by Booranga Consultant Annee Lawrence

After serving Riverina and Albury communities for 20 years, the continuing existence of the Litlink Network of Writer’s Centres, including Booranga Writer’s Centre, is now under threat.

We urge all our members, friends of Booranga, local government representatives, educational institutions and other arts organisations and groups to write to the Premier and the Minister of the Arts, the hon. Frank Sartor, urging the State government to ensure continued funding for regional writers’ centres.

An independent review into Arts NSW’s cultural grants program has recommended the closing of smaller regional writer’s centres and devolving them to local government or replacing them with an online service.

Booranga Writer’s Centre is a regional writers centre based at Wagga Wagga where it receives a great deal of in kind and practical support from Charles Sturt University and a team of volunteers. It is a community based organisation with an elected management committee and its activities and membership stretch across more than 17 local government areas in the Riverina Murray region.

Like other Litlink writers’ centres, Booranga relies on funding from Arts NSW to provide its basic infrastructure including wages for its two part-time staff, a Director and Office Manager ($35,000), and to support its Annual Visiting Writers’ Fellowship Program ($10,000).

This support is integral Booranga’s existence and ensuring its continuing role of:

* providing a meeting place and library for writers
* nurturing and supporting literary excellence
* contributing to a dynamic and vibrant regional arts community
* fostering networks of writers across the region
* supporting local writers’ groups
* inspiring writers, readers, students and communities through its writers-in-residence programs and other activities
* offering outreach workshops and mentoring opportunities
* promoting reading and writing in schools
* sustaining innovative and inspiring partnerships with local arts organisations, libraries, educational institutions, ngos and government agencies at all levels.

All artforms need to be supported in regional areas and Writers Centres such as Booranga are ideally placed to engage creatively with diverse communities, local libraries, writing groups, schools and universities. For example, in 2007 acclaimed young Indigenous writer Tara June Winch resided twice at Booranga and performed readings and facilitated writing workshops in Albury, Kooringal High, Gundagai Library, Ashmont Public, Ariah Park and Temora High to more than 400 people.

Through the LitLink program, Varuna’s Creative Director, Peter Bishop, visits all the writer’s centres in NSW to meet with local writers to discuss their work and offer them professional support and guidance. In 2007, he spent three days meeting writers at Wagga and Albury.

Each year Booranga produces FourW New Writing, an anthology of poetry and prose (200 pp.) that attracts contributions from regional, state, national and international writers, offering regional writers an opportunity for publication of their work. And Booranga’s 12 page newsletter, Booranga News, goes out to more than 400 individuals and organisations every two months, keeping members, teachers and students in schools, TAFE and Uni, librarians, bookshops, readers and local writers up to date on: events, upcoming writing workshops, mentorship opportunities, visiting writers, competitions and publishing opportunities.

Copies of the Report of the Review Panel into the NSW Cultural Grants Program (March 2008) are available to download at: www.arts.nsw.gov.au
We need your support.

Please write to:

The Hon. Frank Sartor MP
Minister for the Arts
Level 34 Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
Sydney NSW 2000
Phone: 02 9228 4700
Fax: 02 9228 4711
Email: office@sartor.minister.nsw.gov.au

AND

Ms Carol Mills
Director-General - Department of Arts, Sport and Recreation
PO Box A226
SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235
Telephone: (02) 9228 5533
Toll Free number (in NSW): 1800 358 594
Fax: (02) 9228 4722
General email: mail@arts.nsw.gov.au

Booranga Writer’s Centre Highlights 2003–2008

Since 2003 Booranga Writer’s Centre has attracted funding to the region for a range of programs, projects and activities to support the professional development of writers in cities, towns and villages across more than 17 local government areas in the Riverina/Murray region. Over five years it has supported the increased participation of communities in Australian literary culture by:

* Introducing or hosting more than 50 visiting writers including writers-in-residence in its literary program
* Publishing 18 annual editions of fourW - featuring the creative work of hundreds of regional and national writers
* Running a range of innovative programs for young people of all ages including: innovative Youth On-line Writing Workshop (YOWW), HSC Open Mic, SLAM poetry events, song writing and zine writing workshops, intensive scriptwriting courses, poetry and creative writing workshops, talks and readings by Indigenous writers with young Indigenous students at schools in Albury, Wagga, Narrandera, Griffith, Ariah Park, Gundagai, Temora, Leeton, and provided opportunities for students to participate in the Cyberwriters projects, writing stories based on historical characters as part of an interactive history resource
* Welcoming and facilitating visits from Indigenous writers
* Celebrating its 20th Anniversary with Les Murray
* Running a Three Day Novel Writing Contest in 2007 with four participating writers - Louise D’Arcy from Albury received an honourable mention from the Canadian organisers
* Launched books by local writers
* Published a biography, The Accidental Politician, by Nancy Blacklow
* Run workshops on all genres of writing for members on a regular basis
* Supported local writing groups
* Hosted literary dinners and library readings
* Partnered with a range of organisations and participated in arts events such as Re:generate Youth Arts Festival and other Youth Week activities, National Poetry Week Readings, Seniors Week Events, ReTali8, Riverina Youth People’s Theatre Intensive Scriptwriting and Directing Workshops
* Maintained close connections with Booranga Albury and other writing groups across the region, including at Griffith and Leeton during its ten years
* Supported the mentoring of local writers by writers-in-residence
* Organised and publicised Litlink/Varuna consultations for local writers
* Welcomed Poets on Wheels and other writing tours
* Run free monthly writing workshops for writers
* Kept members informed of upcoming literary events, writer visits, publishing and professional development opportunities through email and Booranga News, its bimonthly newsletter
* Launched a website
* Participated in LitLink Network to find increasing pathways of support for regional writers.
PUBLISHING, COMPETITIONS and OPPORTUNITIES

Poetry

2008 Shoalhaven Literary Award for Poetry

The 2008 Literary Award (Poetry) consists of
1st: $1000 together with a 2-week artist residential
at the Arthur Boyd Centre at Bundanon on the Shoalhaven
River;
2nd: Four Second Prizes of $200 each;
3rd: Commendation awards to other selected entries.

au/ShLitAwardentryform2008.pdf

Closing Date 30th May

Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards

An Australian Government Initiative for school-age students.
There are prizes in a range of categories, from Lower Primary
to Senior Secondary, as well as a School’s Award and a Cultural
Diversity Prize.

Enter Online: http://www.dorothea.com.au

Entries close 2nd June 2008

The Blake Poetry Prize 2008

$5,000 prize for new national poetry competition
on the theme of “Bliss, blasphemy and belief”

The NSW Writers’ Centre is delighted to announce that it is
joining the Blake Society, Leichhardt Municipal Council and
Wet Ink magazine in sponsoring a new national poetry prize to
be known as the Blake Poetry Prize, which calls for entries on
the theme of “Bliss, blasphemy and belief”.

Entry forms and further details can be downloaded at
BlakePoetryform.pdf

Entries Close 27th June 2008

Screen / Play

Max Afford Playwright’s Award

This $7500 award is an initiative of the late Thelma May Afford
in memory of her husband, Max Afford. She wanted to provide
young writers with the incentive to improve their creative writ-
ing as well as to enhance the general public’s appreciation of
Australian drama and playwrights.

It’s a biennial award for young writers of either stage, TV or
film plays.

Forms can be downloaded at http://www.trust.com.au/Assets/
Files/MaxAfford_2008Form_A4_Sep07.pdf

Closes 4th July 2008
PUBLISHING, COMPETITIONS and OPPORTUNITIES

Prose

Vignette Press Short Story Competition

Open theme to 3,000 words. Entry costs $5.50 email entries, $6.60 fax/snail mail entries

First prize: $500 and your story will be published as a magazine in the Mini Shots series.

Second prize: $200 and a subscription to Mini Shots.


Entries close 30 May 2008.

Southerly: Special Issue on the Short Story

In November 2008 Southerly will be publishing a special issue devoted to the short story.

Closes: May 31, 2008

Contributions are being sought for:

(a) Short Stories: fresh, innovative, crossover, risky and lively fiction is encouraged, including work from new and emerging writers. ‘When I’m in need of a hit of real writing, a good stiff drink of paradox and complexity, I’m likeliest to encounter it in short fiction.’ — Jonathan Franzen

(b) Essays, Articles and Book Reviews on short fiction in Australian literary culture.

Copy should be emailed in Word format (please include .doc in the name of your attachment) directly to both the editors, details below.

Dr Debra Adelaide
dkadelaide@iprimus.com.au / tel: 9558 9408

Associate Professor John Dale
John.Dale@uts.edu.au / tel: 9514 1951

The Australian / Vogel Literary Award

Australia’s richest and most prestigious award for an unpublished manuscript by an author up to the age of 35 is now open. For more information and entry-forms go to:

http://www.allenandunwin.com/vogelawards


National Jazz Writing Competition

The National Jazz Writing Competition is a competition with a focus on jazz-related writing. For its first three years (2005-2007) the competition focused on reviews. In 2008, the focus is on the short story.

Entrants should submit a short story with a maximum of 2,000 words.

The story must be about, inspired by or responding to jazz or improvised music.

* 1st Prize of $750 and publication in extempore, Australia’s journal of jazz-related writing and art
* 2nd and 3rd prizes of CD packs from Birdland Records and publication in extempore

Entries are invited from 1 March 2008. The competition deadline this year is Monday 30 June.

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

**MEMBERSHIP PERIOD 1ST JANUARY - 31ST DECEMBER 2008**

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP** ($33) or **CONCESSION ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP** ($22)

**GROUP MEMBERSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE - ENQUIRE TO BOORANGA FOR DETAILS**

**MEMBERSHIP ENTITLES YOU TO...**

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

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

Please fill out and send application form to:

Wagga Wagga Writers Writers Inc. Booranga Writers’ Centre,
Charles Sturt University, Locked Bag 588, Wagga Wagga NSW 2678, Phone/Fax (02) 69332688

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

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

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