

Wagga Wagga Writers' Writers Inc

Number 3

Editor: Melissa Delaney

August/September, 2004

**Award Winning Poet - Samuel Wagan Watson  
In Residence at Booranga from 24 July - 14 August**

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

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

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

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



Samuel Wagan Watson: (2004)  
Booranga Fellowship Writer

**Five Islands Press  
New Poets 10 Roadshow, 2004  
Sydney-Bowral-Canberra-Wagga Wagga-Melbourne-Swan Hill-Gawler-  
Adelaide-Nannup-Albany-Perth**

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

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

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

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

## CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Wagga Wagga Writers Writers  
Boorgana Writers' Centre  
Locked Bag 588  
Charles Sturt University  
Wagga Wagga NSW 2678

ABN: 72 323 065 359

Telephone/Fax:

02 6933 2688

Email: booranga@csu.edu.  
au

Website: <http://www.csu.edu.au/faculty/arts/humss/booranga/index.html>

## OFFICE HOURS:

Monday: 9:30am- 3pm

Tuesday: 9am - 3pm

Wednesday: 9am - 3pm

Thursday: 9am - 1pm

**WHAT'S COMING****Poetry Writing  
Workshop**

**Samuel Wagan Watson**

Saturday 7 August

12noon-4pm

\$20/\$25/\$10

**Reading at the  
Riverine Club**

Samuel Wagan Watson  
and Five Islands Press

New Poets Tour

Tuesday 10 August

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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**Contributions Welcome**

**News from Booranga Albury**

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

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

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

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

**New Kid On The Block**

**A Personal Experience of Booranga's Creative Writing Workshops**

(I have become a Workshop Groupie)

**By Joan Cahill**

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

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

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

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

You see, now, I am actually beginning to think of myself as a

## THE HSC OPEN MIKE or "Listen to what you write"

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

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

Audience members were encouraged to write feedback notes which were given to the students on the ETA Study

Day, in a further feedback session with Matt Brown, of Wagga Wagga High School. The students continue to amaze with the creativity and sophistication of the compositions.

Here is the opening paragraph of **Lisa Greer's** (Koorringal HS) short story:

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

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

## Samuel Wagan Watson to Mentor Bronwyn Blaiklock

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

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

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

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

To share some of the outcomes of the residency program, you are invited to come along to the **public reading at the Riverine Club on Tuesday 10 August (7pm)** to hear Samuel and Bronwyn read. This coincides with the Five Islands Press New Poets tour so the evening will be full and brimming



Wagga Wagga experienced the first ever youth festival over the school holiday period (3-18 July). Presented by the Wagga Wagga City Council with the support of Riverina Young Peoples' Theatre Inc and many other community and arts organisations such as ERAP, Booranga Writers' Centre, the Black Suns and the Riverina Media Group, the festival had something to offer to young people of all ages.

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

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

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

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

**Melissa Delaney (Director)**

### **UNPRODUCED SCREENPLAY COMPETITION**

Presented by the Australian Writers' Guild (AWG) and the Adelaide Film Festival (AFF). The selected screenplay will receive a rehearsed public reading during the Adelaide Film Festival (February 18 - March 5 2005). High profile actors will be cast for the screenplay reading once the winning script is selected. The winning writer will be brought to Adelaide for the rehearsal and reading and will have the chance to receive detailed feedback from the director, actors and audience. Short-listed screenplays will also be read by selected Australian distributors and investors. This is a fantastic opportunity for any screenwriter. To enter, writers must be member of the AWG. Contact the AWG Tel 02 9281 1154 or download an entry form from [www.awg.com.au/artman/publish/](http://www.awg.com.au/artman/publish/)

### **Survive the Drive**

#### **What is Survive the Drive**

This is a YouthROC project that has been funded by Arrive Alive. YouthROC is the youth arm of the Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC). Members of YouthROC are drawn from youth councils across the REROC region - it is a regional voice for youth.

This project aims to use the written word or art to allow young people to express their experiences, points of view and attitudes to a wide range of road user behaviour issues. An editorial committee, comprised of representatives from REROC, YouthROC, Charles Sturt University, Booranga Writers' Centre, the Motor Accidents Authority and the Eastern Riverina Arts Program will select entries for inclusion in a book which will be published and distributed free of charge throughout the REROC region and NSW.

Young people aged 10 to 19 years are invited to submit work for the inclusion in the booklet. Entries open on Monday June 15 and will close on Monday, August 16, 2004. Application forms for the project can be downloaded from the REROC website at [www.reroc.com.au](http://www.reroc.com.au).

## Myths of Belonging

Review of Laurie Duggan's *Mangroves*, UQP, 2003, ISBN 0 7022 3351 X and Michael Brennan's *The Imageless World*, SALT, 2003, ISBN 1 84471 005 x.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

David Gilbey

## COMPETITIONS & AWARDS

### *Red Tape Rage*

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

**Closing date: 31 August, 2004**

### *Wannabee Publishing Annual Poetry Competition*

Open theme poetry to 30 lines. Entries should be original and unpublished. Entry forms and guidelines are available online at: [www.wannabee.com.au](http://www.wannabee.com.au) or send a ssae to: PO Box 21, California Gully, Victoria, 3556.

**Closing Date: 20 October, 2004**

### *Soapbox Articles Writing Competition*

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

**Closing date: 30 September, 2004**

### *Robko Press Short Story Competition*

Maximum 3000 words with prize money and an invitation to be published. Details from: (e) [robko@tpg.com.au](mailto:robko@tpg.com.au)

**Closing date: 30 August, 2004**

### *Third International Poetry Competition*

Original, unpublished poetry to 30 lines, open theme. Enter online at: [www.firstwriter.com/competitions/poetry\\_competition.shtml](http://www.firstwriter.com/competitions/poetry_competition.shtml).

**Closing date: 1 October, 2004**

## COMPETITIONS & AWARDS

### *Scarlet Stiletto Awards*

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

**Closing date: 31 August, 2004**

### *Survive the Drive*

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

**Closing date: 16 August, 2004**

### *\*You Dirty Rat! Awards*

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

**Closing date: 15 August, 2004**

### *Katharine Susannah Prichard Short Fiction Awards*

Maximum of 3000 words. No entry form required. 11 Old York Road, Greenmount, WA, 6056 (e) [kspf@iinet.net.au](mailto:kspf@iinet.net.au) or visit: <http://kspf.iinet.net.au>

**Closing date: 24 September, 2004**

## OPPORTUNITIES

### **Studio**

Studio: a journal of Christians Writing is calling for contributions. Studio is a place exploring spiritual perspectives and values and reflecting something of our identity as writers and readers. When you send work for consideration please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Studio, 727 Peel Street, Albury, NSW, 2640. (e) [pgrover@bigpond.com](mailto:pgrover@bigpond.com) (messages only)

### **Babyzone**

If you are interested in copyediting or online writing for pregnant women and mothers, send a brief biography and clips of your work to  
(e) [writersubmission@babyzone.com](mailto:writersubmission@babyzone.com) or go to: [www.babyzone.com](http://www.babyzone.com) for more information.

### **Christmas Anthology**

Submissions are invited for an anthology about Christmas. Short stories, poems, memories, recipes. Send contributions to: Elizabeth McLean, Wellesley, Surat, Qld, 4417 or (t) 07 4626 5411 for further information.

### **Debut**

Debut is a new magazine based at Curtin University dealing with teen issues. Submissions now accepted, with a minimum of 1000 words and aimed at a 15-19 year old audience. Send submission, contact details and educational status to: (e) [debutmag@yahoo.com.au](mailto:debutmag@yahoo.com.au)

### **foam:e**

An online poetry journal, foam:e welcomes submissions for its second issue. Send submissions in the body of an email to the editor at: (e) [angelagardner@lighttrap.net](mailto:angelagardner@lighttrap.net) or for further information visit: [www.poetryespresso.org](http://www.poetryespresso.org)

### **Australia Council Overseas Residencies**

Available residencies for writers and poets include writers and poets include six months at the Keesing Studio in Paris or the BR Whiting Library in Rome, three months at the Tyrone Guthries Centre in Ireland and two months at Ledig House, New York. For conditions and application form visit: [www.ozco.gov.au/grants/grants\\_literature/skills\\_and\\_arts\\_development\\_2004](http://www.ozco.gov.au/grants/grants_literature/skills_and_arts_development_2004) or (t) 02 9215 9050

### **Asialink Residencies**

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

**Closing date: 3 September, 2004**

### **Call for Reviewers**

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

### **M/C Journal**

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

### **Lustre**

A new online publication focusing on Australian erotic writing. Editors advise that erotic is more about the mind than the body and that a provocative story is one that gets the brain racing

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

- \* Free copy of *fourW* fourteen
- \* Six newsletters & regular mail outs
- \* Use of Booranga Writers' Centre resources including the library and use
- \* Access to a network of writers and book enthusiasts for information and
- \* Access to newsletters from other writers' centres and up-to-date
- \* Invitations to writing events and
- \* 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

Enclosed: \$ .....

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

Name: .....  
 Address: .....  
 Telephone: .....Fax.....

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

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

If undeliverable please return  
 to:  
 Booranga Riverina Writers'  
 Centre  
 Locked Bag 588  
 Charles Sturt University

**SURFACE MAIL****POSTAGE PAID  
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