
BOORANGA NEWS

Number 3

Editor: Melissa Delaney

July/August, 2003

Stephanie Dickson **Booranga Writer's Fellowship Writer** **(15 August – 15 September)**



Sydney based Scriptwriter, Stephanie Dickson has been working as a free-lancer in the film and television industry. Over the past five years Stephanie has worked in Film and Television in a variety of positions, most of which have required writing scripts, both dramatic and no-drama. These scripts and screenplays have all been performed and broadcast, both privately and publicly through television and various national and international film festivals.

Her current project, ***Abyss*** (working title), is a *film about family, friendship and finding yourself*. The script is the first-hand account of seventeen year old Annabelle who is the summer of her final year at school. Stephanie wanted to explore her interest around some of the challenges faced by young women as they try to find their identity in contemporary Australia and incorporate these themes within ***Abyss***.

During her residency at Booranga Writers' Centre Stephanie will be working within the community within a Regional Arts New South Wales (CASP)

funded scriptwriting/directing project with Riverina Young People's Theatre (RYPT) and locally based director, Scott Howie. This is a unique opportunity for young people interested in scriptwriting and directing to gain skills that might otherwise be difficult to access within a regional centre.

Tumbarumba Writers' Group look forward to a visit from Stephanie on Monday, 1 September where she will workshop with the group. Stephanie is scheduled to talk about her writing with a screening of her short film *Cross Stitch*, in Wagga Wagga at the Riverine Club on Tuesday 9 September at 7:00pm. Stephanie will be supported by a visiting Pandanus Press novelist. Stephanie will also be visiting the Albury chapter of Booranga the following evening, 10 September.

We look forward to Stephanie's visit and we

Matthew Flinders: The Ultimate Voyage **Wagga Wagga City Library** **2 June – 25 July**

The Wagga Wagga City Library and The State Library of New South Wales are proud to present the national touring exhibition "Matthew Flinders: the ultimate voyage" to commemorate the bicentenary of Flinders' epic voyage of exploration and discovery around Australian coasts in HMS Investigator in 1801 - 1803.

Flinders compiled the first complete chart of the continent, he advocated the use of the name "Australia" and with George Bass, proved that Tasmania was an island. The story of Flinders' exploits and achievements as a navigator is one of the great tales of Australian history.

CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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Boorgana Writers' Centre
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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: 11am– 3pm
Tuesday: 9am – 3pm
Wednesday: 9am – 3pm
Thursday: 9am – 3pm

WHAT'S COMING

Stephanie Dickson in Residence

(15 August-15 September)

Reading at the Riverine and Screening of 'Cross Stitch' Short Film
7pm Tuesday 9 September

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Closing date for next issue
31 August, 2003

HSC OpenMike Night A Resounding Success

Twenty HSC students read excerpts from their major works at our second HSC OpenMike of Tuesday 17 June. In the quaint setting of the Riverine Club an appreciate audience of students and well-wishers heard histories, tragedies, comical and most magical absurdist drama scripts rubbing shoulders with contemporary novels. Trinity Senior High, Mount Austin, Temora, Wagga Wagga, Christian College and Koorringal High School were represented and the students received written feedback on their readings.

An excerpt from the work of Stephen Orchard from Koorringal High School:

Protag was troubled, more so than he had ever been before. He had never experienced trouble before, really, so the trouble he was currently experiencing was naturally unprecedentedly troubling. The source of his lament was this newfound and undesirable faculty. The more taxing his efforts to think, he thought, the less the reward, or so he had deducted by contrasting events past and present which he now knew to be separate. Put simply, the more he thought, the more he realised that he disliked thinking and the more he thought of reasons why he should cease thinking, particularly where thinking *about* thought was concerned. He had postulated that thinking about thought would somehow be a reward in and of itself because it would aid him in understanding how and why he was thinking and thereby allow him to stop thinking, but really it was just painful and incomprehensibly messy.

The more he thought of thought, in fact, the more violence he saw and the worse Narr behaved. If thought caused violence, he thought, it was wrong. If violence had existed before, it was wrong not to think. How could he know which was so? He didn't want to ever have thought about thinking about thought, but he had most certainly thought of thought now and so he was obliged to continue thinking about reasons why he should never have thought about thought, understanding that he now could not unthink his past thoughts about thinking and..

LINK – a professional editing program for regional writers (The Litlink Project, 2003)

Applications are now being accepted by Litlink for writers interested in submitting work for consideration for the Litlink professional editing project – LINK.

Stage one will be undertaken in 2003 and will develop a manuscript to professional standard to be presented to an Australian publisher. The manuscript will be a collection of 30-40 works of poetry, prose and essay by writers from regional NSW. The project will engage a highly experienced professional editor. The second stage of the project will be to form a partnership with a publisher and jointly to seek the support of the Australia Council Literature Board for publishing subsidy. The outcome of stage two will be an anthology of works.

For further information call Justin Byrne t: (02) 6393 8125 or e: justin@wordsoutwest.com.au

News from Booranga Albury

Booranga Writers Albury is trying to establish itself a home and a regular meeting time. Something very difficult when all of us are busy with such diverse things.

Our workshop with Booranga Fellowship Writer, Rosemary Allen was very successful. A quite small group gathered in the comfortable atmosphere of the Wilcara meeting room. Rosemary led us through some exercises and some very useful exchanges of ideas were punctuated with wine, cheese, coffee and tea. I trust she enjoyed the experience as much as we did.

Murray Time the progressive novel is progressing. We are a little more than half way now and, who knows what will happen next. We wait with baited breath each week to see how our favourite character has fared. If they have been ignored we breathe a sigh of relief and continue working out what we will do to them. If we are unlucky, they have been maimed, killed or have suddenly developed a trait that doesn't at all fit in with the plans we had for them. Jane Downing is delighted that each writer is able to write their chapter within the week allocated. Sunday night is when you can expect to find the latest chapter in place.

Dirk Spennemann has developed a web page for the project that is well worth a visit. Try <http://csusap.csu.edu.au/~dspennem/MurrayTime/MurrayTime.html> to catch up with Lavinnia's latest adventures. Check on the timeline, the writers, the artists who are following the plot waiting for inspiration, and the editors who not only conceived the project but managed to acquire the money to make it a reality.

I wait in trepidation to find out what happens next week. It's my turn after that.



The Border Mail on 12 July carried an article about one of our writers, Noel Wingad. Noel's play *A Wide Brown Land* is to have its premiere at the La Mama Theatre in Melbourne this week. Noel has spent about four years on the process from writing to production. His efforts to build up a writing group in Albury led him into the world of playwriting. The play will run from July 16 until August 2. This is the first of Noel's plays to be produced professionally. We are all green with envy.

Margaret McDonald – Albury

Albury based playwright Noel Wingad. (photo courtesy of Redrik Birkelund, 2003)

Review

The Music of Razors

Author: Cameron Rogers.

Penguin Books: 2001.

ISBN: 0 14 028078 2

Genre: Fantasy.

At first, you may be tempted to consider *The Music of Razors* a book for children. Initially it has a bit of the C.S. Lewis about it but that feeling rapidly evaporates as the nightmare begins to unfold. Never read this book to children - ever. It gives all the indications of having been written by a post-modern Lewis Carroll with a penchant for psychological torture and splatter zines. I feel it could reasonably have been titled *Malice in Bendorland*. It is a truly disturbing piece of literature.

Cameron Rogers has achieved this by drawing on the sorts of things that used to make you hide under the bed clothes as a child. With the narrative based around the perspective of the child characters, it draws you right back into those icky places you'd long since locked the door to. It is also written in such a way as to not allow the reader to get comfortable. There is no way you can guess what horrors lurk around the next turn because there are so many new ideas in this book.

The Music of Razors is such an unexpected piece of work from an Australian author that it quite takes the breath away. Finding books like this amongst the turgid morass of standard offerings gives one new hope for the writing scene in this country.

Review by Martin Ducker (2003)

Poets Workshop in Deniliquin

The Deniliquin Creative Writers were given some extra help with their poetry writing on 14 July. Experienced poet, Zeb Eadie travelled from Wagga Wagga to lend his expertise to twenty members of the Deniliquin Creative Writers' Group.

Zeb took the writers through various exercises to extend their poetic range and taught them how to revise and tighten their poems. This was a new experience for many of the Deniliquin writers, some having never written poetry before.

Zeb is primarily a performance poet, having performed his poetry orally to audiences in Australia and the United States. Mr Eadie has written poetry since he was just sixteen years of age, he performs for many writers' groups.

Mr Eadie's career has seen him perform at places such as the *Harold Park Hotel* in Sydney, *the Riverina Playhouse* as well as conducting workshops and performing in Los Angeles and along the Californian coast. Mr Eadie also performs his poetry in Wagga with a group of local musicians and works with intellectually disabled writers.

Mr Eadie was invited to come to the Deniliquin Creative Writers group through the Booranga Writers' Centre.

"Zeb has already stimulated many ideas and developed the poetry writing of the Deniliquin Creative Writers," Deniliquin Creative Writers secretary, Christine Dodd said.

"Zeb's appearance even inspired two new people to become members of the Creative Writers."

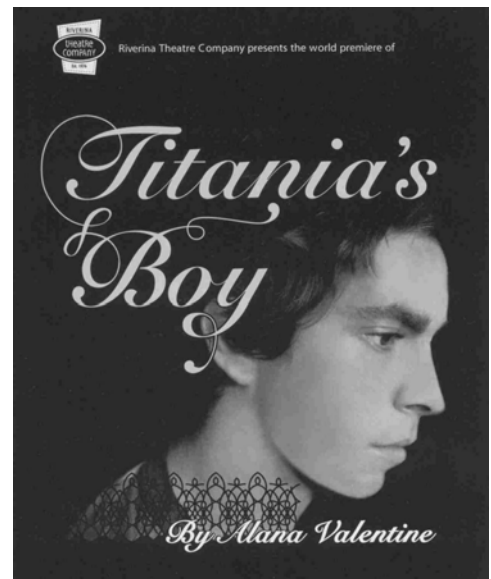
(article courtesy of the Pastoral Times Newspaper, Deniliquin July, 2003).

***Titania's Boy* by Alana Valentine**

Alana Valentine first came to Wagga Wagga in 2000 to research and write a documentary for ABC Radio about the National Art Glass Collection. She stayed at the Booranga Writers Centre and travelled throughout the region conducting readings and networking with arts organisations. Being a playwright she naturally was interested in meeting Mary McMenemy who was then, the Artistic Director of the Riverina Theatre Company, who commissioned Alana to write the play. Nic Clark the Riverina Theatre Company's present Artistic Director has embraced the opportunity to direct this new work, and see the commission through its final process to a main stage production.

Titania's Boy was developed in Wagga Wagga and at the Globe Theatre in London. ***Titania's Boy*** blends ***A Midsummer Night's Dream*** with the contemporary tale of a young boy growing up in a regional town. To escape recent family conflict, Pradepan immerses himself in the world of Titania and Oberon and their struggle over the Indian changeling boy. Pradepan's mother Meena and concerned science teacher Mr Bellette find themselves unexpectedly working together to help Pradepan come to terms with a changing world. Magic and reality collide as we join Pradepan, Meena and Mr Bellette on a journey of self-discovery and acceptance. Guided by Oberon and Titania, Pradepan uses his imaginary world to triumph over adversity.

The Riverina Theatre Company is the oldest regional theatre Company in Australia. The aim of the Riverina Theatre Company is to enrich the communities of the Riverina by maintaining a permanent professional theatre company that provides theatre experiences of excellence, innovation and quality. ***Titania's Boy*** is the Riverina Theatre Company's final main stage production for 2003.



Titania's Boy by Alana Valentine will be playing at the Riverina Playhouse, Cross Street, Wagga Wagga from 30 July – 9 August, 2003.

Director: Nic Clarke

Designer: Kellee Frith

Lighting Design:

Dominic Ferlito

Sound Design:

Damian Evans

Featuring:

Georgina Naidu, Alex Papps and Zeke Castelli

Final Booranga Fellowship Writer for 2003 Mark O'Flynn (26 November – 15 October)

Mark O'Flynn is no stranger to Wagga, having been Artist In Residence and Artistic Director with the RTC and writer in residence at Booranga. A prolific artist working across genre, Mark will be spending this time in Wagga working on his novel which Mark has set in Wagga Wagga. The novel is loosely based on a true story about a man who takes his dogs into the supermarket and refused to leave until he and the dogs have been fed. This person becomes a character of the town and a part of the folk-lore. Mark will also be conducting a workshop and reading whilst in residence and will launch the *fourW* anthology on Saturday 15 November.

COMPETITIONS & AWARDS

HQ 2003 Short Story Contest

The contest is open to anyone who has not, at the closing date, had a novel published. There is no restriction and no fee for entry. You can enter as many times as you like, provided an original entry coupon is attached to each entry. Entry forms are available in HQ magazine.

Closing date: Friday, 29 August

2004 Festival Awards for Literature

The South Australian Government is pleased to announce that the following categories of the biennial Festival Awards for Literature are open for entries. Guidelines and entry forms are available from Arts SA's website: www.arts.sa.gov.au – see Support Funding/ Industry Development/Festival Awards for Literature. For further information please contact Gail Kovatseff, Awards Program Officer, Arts SA on: (t) 08 8463 5423 or (e) kovatseff.gail@saugov.sa.gov.au

Closing date: 31 October

Scribblings, 2003

Short Story/Traditional Poetry/Free Verse Poetry competition. Total prize money of \$1,275. Entry fee: \$5 per entry or \$20 for five entries. No Entry form required, enquiries to Jeannette Doyle (t) 02 6624 1933 or (e) scribblings@jmdoyle.com. Please send entries with cheque or money order (made payable to FAW Wollondilly) to: Competition Secretary, PO Box 4210, Goonellabah, NSW, 2480.

Closing date: 7 October

NSW Writers' Centre Popular Fiction Competition

For more information contact (t) 9555 9757 or www.nswwriterscentre.org.au

Closing date: 1 August

Wannabee Publishing Annual Poetry Competition

Open theme to thirty lines. Must be original unpublished poem and not won either a First or Second prize in another competition. One poem per A4 paper. Full details and an entry form can be printed from the website at www.wannabee.com.au or send a SSAE to PO Box 21, California Gully, Victoria, 3556.

Closing date: 20 October

COMPETITIONS & AWARDS

Invitation to Young Writers

The Bodyshop invites all Years 7-12 secondary students to help celebrate the positive contribution refugees make to Australia as they get on with their lives, through a national writing competition. The competition has fantastic prizes for students and the school they attend. Your challenge is to tell the judges in 250 words or less "How refugees make a positive contribution to Australia". To find our details of the competition, visit www.thebodyshop.com.au and download the information pack.

Sydney Theatre Company/Sydney Morning Herald

Young Playwrights' Award

To encourage and assist the development of young playwrights, this award aims to complement teaching of playwriting in the classroom by providing opportunities for students to submit work to a professional theatre company, and to have their work read by theatre professionals.

For information (e): education@sydneytheatre.com.au

Closing date: 8 August

Vibewire

Poet-In-Residence Project. If you are aged between 16-30 years and want to apply for a residency that will profile your work and put you in contact with the best young and emerging poets in Australia and receive \$160 for a month of writing, then forward two examples of your best work to:

(e): residentpoet@mail.com or (t): 0407 368 721 or check out the website at: www.vibewire.net

ACT Writers Centre Poetry Award

The Prize will be awarded to an original, unpublished poem not exceeding 50 lines. There are no generic or thematic constraints. There is an entry fee of \$5 non members and \$3 members. For further information contact the centre on (t): 02 6262 9191.

Closing date: 12 September

OPPORTUNITIES

POETRY FOUNDATION OF AUSTRALIA

Join the Poetry Foundation of Australia. It's free! For more information contact the foundation at Building 113, Northfields Avenue, PO Box U34, Wollongong, NSW, 2500 or (t) 02 4221 3867 or (e) kpretty@uow.edu.au

Call for Submissions International Women's Day

Submissions of poetry are invited for performance in a recital of Australian Music and Poetry by women on International Women's Day, 2004 in Wagga Wagga. Criteria: Poetry written by women; any length; any style; open theme. Material chosen will receive a fee for the performance of their work, and permission sought for the inclusion of it in a program. Copyright to remain with the author. For application form, send a ssae to Women Writers c/o PO Box 2554, Wagga Wagga, NSW 2650.

Closing date: 1 October

Australian Society of Authors Opportunities for Indigenous Writers

The Australian Society of Authors is offering five mentorships for emerging Indigenous writers and picture book illustrators in 2003-2004. Open to indigenous writers and illustrators from across Australia who have no more than two books published in a literary genre (or who are unpublished). The program is co-ordinated by Anita Heiss, an author and holder of the ASA's Indigenous portfolio and will be administered by Jill Dimond, the ASA's business manager. For more information and application forms, please go to <http://www.asauthors.org/indij> or (e) jill@asauthors.org or (t) Jill Dimond on 02 9318 0877.

Closing date: 11 August

Cleverstreet

Cleverstreet is a website where writers can submit their work to have it read and reviewed by others. It is also a contest held each month in which fifty writers are published. These fifty writers will have their work published and sold online for others to purchase. Visit Cleverstreet online at: <http://www.cleverstreet.com>

Book Reviewers Required

Experience not necessary but passion for books vital. Send an email of enquiry to (e) adrian@handpickedbooks.com.au for further information.

Call to Australian Poets

Sandra Milliken is an emerging Australian composer currently published in Finland. She hopes to develop working relationships with living Australian poets as she is searching for new 'composable' material. Any interested poets are welcome to contact Sandra with suitable poems on (e) sandram@gil.com.au

Rocky River Romance

Rocky River Romance publishes romantic fiction 55,000-60,000 words. Submit at 1,000 word synopsis with chapter outline, word count and author details. Mail with a SSAE to: Rocky River Romance, PO Box 535, Merrylands, NSW, 2160.

Otherland Literary Journal

Otherland Literary Journal is calling for submissions of interesting poetry written in interesting and exciting ways. For further details contact: Ouyang Yu at (e) youyang@bigpond.net.au

Blue Dog

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

Famous Reporter

Publishes short stories, articles, reviews and interviews, haiku, poems etc. For guidelines go to: www.tassie.ent.au/~ahugo/fr/guide.html or mail PO Box 368, North Hobart, Tasmania, 7002.

Teach Writing at Deakin University

Deakin University Professional Writing area is seeking expressions of interest from published non-fiction writers with university teaching experience to teach creative non-fiction on a sessional basis in Semester 2, 2003. Please email details to Peter Davis, Unit Chair, Non-Fiction Writing at (e) davisp@deakin.edu.au

Whodunnit Radio Plays

Triple R and the Melbourne Fringe Festival are seeking 20 minute radio plays for the *Whodunnit Series 2*. Three new works will be performed and broadcast live on 3RRR every Sunday.

WWWW 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
- * 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

Enclosed: \$

Name:

Address:

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

SURFACE MAIL**POSTAGE PAID
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