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# BOORANGA NEWS

Wagga Wagga Writers' Writers Inc

Number 1

Editor: Melissa Delaney

February/March, 2004

## *Australia Council Funds Writers' Fellowship Program*

### **Wagga Wagga Writers' Writers (Booranga Writers' Centre) Fellowship/Mentorship Program, 2004**

The Fellowship/Mentorship Program invites three fellowship writers working within different genres to take up residency at the writers' centre for a period of 3-6 weeks. During this time the fellowship writers will mentor regionally based writers. The writers will spend time together and observe each other's processes and work together in the presentation of workshops, events and public readings.

The first fellowship writer has been confirmed as ex-Wagga writer, **Mat Schulz (February/March)**. Mat is well known to Wagga audiences with his 1996 novel *Claim* (based on the Tichborne case) and his Wagga based novel *Zombie Field* (1997). Mat returns to Wagga from Poland and is in the process of completing two novels. Whilst in Wagga Mat will feature in a reading and will conduct a workshop in the process of writing a novel. The Wagga workshop will be held at Booranga Writers' Centre on Saturday 6 March from 10am – 4pm. The cost is \$25 or \$20 for members and concession holders. For registration contact the Centre on 02 6933 2688. Mat will also be featured in a public reading with Melbourne based poet, Michael Crane launching his latest book, *A Dog Called Yesterday*. The reading will be at the Riverine Club, Sturt Street from 7pm on Tuesday 9 March.

A program of this kind acknowledges the role of regional writers' centres and extends initiatives developed over recent years to foster and promote literary activity and thereby contributes to a cultural development both regionally and nationally. Firstly, it builds on the program of visiting fellowship writers who actively bring their skills and expertise into the region. The fellowship writers will be linked up with regionally based writers as mentorees and through collaborative processes formalise the partnership for the participating writers who often work in isolation. The writers working together in such a program gives mentorees opportunities to access wider networks and current trends and developments within the industry and be able to bring this knowledge to the broader communities.

***Expressions of interests are now open for regionally based writers to take part in the program with visiting fellowship writers as mentorees. As the first fellowship writer, Mat Schulz is working as a novelist priority will be given to mentorees writing within this genre. As a mentoree successful writers will work with the fellowship writers gaining access to professional advice and skills. The mentorees will also be given public performance opportunities. For registration of interest or further information contact the Centre. T: 02 6933 2688 or e: booranga@csu.edu.au***

## 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: 11am– 3pm  
Tuesday: 9am – 3pm  
Wednesday: 9am – 3pm  
Thursday: 9am – 3pm

**WHAT'S COMING**

**Writing a Novel Workshop  
With Fellowship Writer  
Mat Schulz**

Saturday 6 March  
10am-6pm

**Reading at the Riverine**

Mat Schulz and Michael Crane  
Tuesday 9 March  
7pm

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**Contributions Welcome**  
**Closing date for next issue**  
**5 March, 2004**

**Review**

'The Melancholy Surrealist', a review of Michael Crane's **A Dog Called Yesterday**. Maleny, The Ninderry Press, 2003. ISBN 0-9751168-3-5.

I think of de Chirico landscapes when I read these poems by Michael Crane – deserted streets, figures disappearing into doorways and odd, disconnected images to one side of the main focus. Human aspirations are dwarfed by the sense of a vague, menacing environment and defeated by incongruity.

Crane has selected poems from two previous collections, **Loose Kangaroos** (1998) and **The Book of Screams** (2002) and added a number of new works, including the extended sequence 'The Slow Moving Dream' published in *fourW thirteen* and some recent prose vignettes.

At times disturbingly funny, especially in early pieces, many of which work well as performance scripts, like 'My Life as a Poem' and 'Another Strange Day in Paradise', Crane's work is nevertheless permeated by a haunting sense of loneliness, marginalisation and dreamlike weirdness. In 'A Man of Thorns' and 'Outside the Cracked Window' Crane dramatises the sense of being an outsider, not only to a relationship but to a culture: '...I think I'm losing my skin/ and my bones are crumbling away'.

And although there's the jokey 'A Modern Fable' about Larry the Lion 'who thought/ he was a zebra', more typical is the modernist collage 'Throwaway Lines for a Throwaway World', with its concluding couplet 'There's a saint in every bathroom/ There's a killer in every smile.'

Crane works by developing lists and clever non-sequiturs which accumulate and multiply signification, relying on the reader to hold different and even contradictory suggestions in the mind as the poem progresses. It is, I think, meant to be disorienting as this is a technique for arresting and exploring awareness. The old structuralist adage of 'language made strange' seems apposite.

Crane's prose 'postcards' suggest they are part of a larger, epistolary work – and show his wry, allusive talents (see 'Orgasm: to the fast food waitress reading J. R. Tolkien' and 'The Valentine's Day Massacre'). This is the voice of an engaging though somewhat damaged raconteur whose language pulls you to the work and leaves you wanting more.

David Gilbey

## Making Hay -

### Making Hay

One golden weekend in wartime  
 three soldiers came to stook sheaf hay—  
 I brought them sandwiches and tea,  
 enamel teapot, clanking mugs  
 in a large basket  
 Was it scones  
 and spongecake oozing cream?  
 (Deep caves  
 lined with kitchen linoleum.)  
 One of them stood out  
 and from beneath my hat  
 I watched him  
 swing the hay effortlessly  
 and take gulps from the waterbag.  
 I twisted the thin gold ring on my finger  
 and told him my husband was in the forces,  
 in New Guinea.  
 Felt his eyes on my body.  
 Days later he wrote  
 asking if I were determined to be  
 faithful.  
 One golden weekend  
 when I was twenty-two,  
 my body strong,  
 long legs to wrap around a lover.

*Catherine Edwards.*

### New Feature Film Writer's Scheme

The Film and Television Office (FTO) is calling for applications to the New Feature Film Writer's Scheme, a unique development initiative aiming to assist new writers to fully develop a significant, creative vision for their script. The Scheme is conducted in two funding rounds each year.

The FTO supports up to five scripts per round and will match writers with an experienced script advisor to assist them in reaching the next draft. The successful writers will also be given the opportunity to meet one-on-one with other script advisors to receive feedback on the progress of their project and be invited to an FTO industry networking event.

The scripts should be interesting and original feature film length. Applications are accepted from new writers living in NSW. Applications for funding will only be accepted on the New Feature film Writers Scheme application forms which are available with guidelines on: [www.fto.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fto.nsw.gov.au)

**Round 3 Closes 26 March, 2004**

## POETICA – ABC RADIO NATIONAL

Presented by Mike Ladd

Every Saturday at 3:05pm

### February:

**7th Australia's Far East Poets** – 11 poets from the Byron Bay/Lismore and hinterland area.

**14th Love Poems of John Donne** – the great metaphysical love poems read by Richard Burton.

**21st Etchings** – the poems of Margaret Scott.

**28th The Queensland Poetry Festival** – highlights of the festival recorded live at the Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts in Brisbane.

### March:

**6th Café Cavafy** – as part of Radio National's celebration of Greek culture, PoeticA presents this radio adaptation of a music-theatre work based on the life and poetry of CP Cavafy.

**13th Modern Greek Poetry** – poems by the leading Greek poets of the 20th century including George Seferis, Odysseus Elytis and Yannis Ritsos.

**20th The Poetry of David Malouf** – an interview with the poet, accompanied by readings of his new and selected poems.

**27th Astronomical** – an anthology of poems of the cosmos.

### April:

**3rd John Mateer** – poems by South African-born writer and traveller, John Mateer.

**10th Elizabeth Bishop** – selected works of the acclaimed American poet.

**17th Leunig** – a meeting with Michael Leunig, cartoonist and author of humorous and philosophical verses.

**24th From Gaza to Gallipoli** – for the Anzac weekend, an anthology of poems by the desert poets of World War One, selected by Jill Hamilton.

**Review**  
By Dawn South

**Nomadology, Southerly v. 62, no1, 2002.  
Sydney Halstead Press.**

This issue of **Southerly** has the theme "Nomadology". It includes contributions on the wanderings through the mind as well as on travel and life. The theme was prompted by an interview with Jorge Luis Borges by Melbourne psychoanalyst Leonardo S. Rodrigues which begins the collection. Fiction, poetry, essays, documents and reviews by a variety of writers on diverse subjects make up this collection. Contributions are referenced where appropriate.

In my high school days I was introduced to David Campbell's poem **Soldier's Song**, one of the few which has remained with me from that time. It was interesting and pleasing to find one of his early poems reprinted as a document in this issue. This poem, which is untitled, is reprinted for the first time since it was first published in a college magazine **Chanticleire** volume 113 in 1937.

Other writings are very much of the 21st century. Topics include travel in Australia (**Let's go touring: Brief notes of the history of leisure overland travel in Australia**, 1920-2000 by Liana Hall), bodily functions (**Perils of Peeing** by Barbara Noske), local boat racing (**Boat Races**, Rob Riel) and old age (**My grandmother's colour-in books** by Judy Johnson).

This interesting and diverse selection of writing is worth dipping into.

**Wagga Wagga Writers' Writers  
Membership**

**Your continuing support is important to us, and it's now time to renew your membership. As a member you receive the Booranga News, a copy of the fourW anthology and discounts to events and from our business associates.  
It's a great way to stay in touch.**

**fourW  
fourteen**



**fourWfourteen: A collection of  
poetry and prose**

is now available from Booranga Writers' Centre. This anthology features work by many regionally based and also international writers. Some of the writers featured are: Les Wicks, Mark Brennan, Jill Jones, Mark O'Flynn and Pat Skinner. The anthology is now fourteen years old and celebrates the diversity of writers coming from many different places and stories personal, political and social. The volume also features artwork by local artists such as Adam Bell and Alison Packwood.

**fourWfourteen** is a book to spend time with and a journey of discovery.

To get your copy, contact Booranga Writers' Centre of: 02 6933 2688 or e: booranga@csu.edu.au

Price: \$22.00

## Review

'The Whole is Greater than the Sum of the Parts...' a review of ***Murray Time: the novel***. Albury, Letao Press, 2003. ISBN 1-876940-11-5.

Written in 17 weekly instalments by 16 local writers and with artwork by 17 local artists, ***Murray Time*** is an intriguing and innovative illustrated progressive novel. It is absorbing, whacky and at times manic, as the reader wonders not only what will happen next but whether the next chapter's writer will be able to pick up the literary baton and whither take it?

Conceived by Jane Downing, Dirk Spennemann and the multi-talented Booranga Writers Albury, ***Murray Time*** unwinds as a story of identity and intrigue against a backdrop of recent bushfires in NE Victoria and the Snowy Mountains. There is a dead mother with a shadowy past; a daughter with several identities; mysterious (and maybe insane) interlopers – I shouldn't reveal anything of the plot's fascinating twists but, as Jane and Dirk write in the Introduction, 'It's all there. Death, sex and murder, madness and vanity...dark secrets...'

Different readers will warm to different chapters (like a collection of short stories, or Frank Moorhouse's 'discontinuous narratives') because each has its own 'voice'. Some will focus on the minutiae of character development and interaction, while others explode the narrative – often to mind-boggling extremes.

Downing and Spennemann say that the writers agreed to bear in mind a collaborative 'duty of care' so that each writer should 'hand [the manuscript] over in as good a shape as [they] found it'. Editorial and censorship intrusion was kept to a minimum.

It would be easy to claim that the complexities of narrative dominate but the reader's satisfaction in ***Murray Time*** is partly due to the nuances of changing voice and point of view in this chameleonic world as each new author takes over – mind you, I found Paul Greene's chapter 4 jerkily random – stretching credibility. However, there are subtleties of character and tone not usually available in a single-voiced novel and I liked Jean Menere's narrative twists in chapter. 6.

For those more interested in visual/verbal intersections, note that more than a quarter of the book is taken up with photo-bios, constructing their own seductive fictions, and the 17 visual works which have a life of their own – spinning off centrifugally, interrogating, ironising (?) as well as interpreting and exploring the text. I particularly liked 'Bethangra Labyrinth' by Caryn Giblin and Janine Castillo's watercolour.

Shorter than ***The Bible*** and ***Yeats is Dead*** (both books that tell one story in several voice) ***Murray Time*** is the result of an imaginative, multi-layered arts project which provides literary and artistic satisfaction as well as inviting us to consider new possibilities for authoring and the relationship of text to image. A great read and an intellectually provocative arts experience.

*David Gilbey*

## COMPETITIONS & AWARDS

### **Wannabee Publishing**

Submissions invited for poetry and articles. Theme: Social, Humanitarian and Realism. Strong thought provoking work on social and humanitarian issues (global as well as Australian). Manuscripts accepted will be published in a book to be released at the end of 2005 and may be e-published on Wannabee's website. By submitting work for consideration the writer agrees to the conditions and publication of their work. Payment is a copy of the book. Mail to Wannabee Publishing PO Box 21 California Gully, Victoria, 3556 (enclose SSAE) or email submissions to [birthdayedition@wannabee.com.au](mailto:birthdayedition@wannabee.com.au) include a short biography with submissions. Submissions from outside of Australia are warmly invited.

### **Fellowship of Australian Writers' NW Inc Literary Awards**

Entries are sought for the annual FAW Sutherland Shire Literary Awards. For further information contact: Competition Secretary, FAW Sutherland Shire Literary Awards, 299A Burraneer Bay Road, Caringbah, NSW, 2229.

**Closing Date: 31 July, 2004**

### **New England Review Poetry Competition**

Poems up to 40 lines, open theme any style, type on one side only of A4 paper. Entry fee of \$5 per poem or \$12 for three poems, cheques to be made payable to: New England Review. Poet's name not to appear on manuscript. On a separate sheet of paper write name of poets and titles of poems enclosed, number of lines in each poem, amount of entry fee enclosed. For notification of results, also include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Send to: Competition Co-ordinator, 50 Kentucky Street, Armidale, NSW, 2350.

**Closing date: 15 March, 2004**

## COMPETITIONS & AWARDS

### **Arts Network East Gippsland Shock Short Story Writing Competition**

Entry fee \$5.50 with 1st prize of \$100 and 2nd and 3rd prizes book vouchers. Theme: Shock (a sudden sensation which disrupts mental and physical equilibrium). 2000 words maximum. For further details: t: 03 5153 1988 or e: [aneg@al.com.au](mailto:aneg@al.com.au)

### **Ginninderra Press Short Story Competition**

Ginninderra Press invites entries in its 2004 short story competition, **The Lunatic, the Lover and the Poet**. Entries should be original short stories between 3,000 – 5,000 in length. They should be inspired by the theme of **The Lunatic, the Lover and the Poet** (Shakespeare's **Midsummer Night's Dream**) and not have been published previously or be currently entered in any other competition. Details and entry forms can be requested by mail, fax or email or can be downloaded from the Ginninderra Press website. Further details can be obtained from Stephen Matthews, Ginninderra Press, PO Box 53, Charnwood, ACT, 2615 t: 02 6258 9060 f: 02 6258 9069 m: 0418 404 519 e: [smgp@cyberone.com.au](mailto:smgp@cyberone.com.au) w: [www.ginninderrapress.com.au](http://www.ginninderrapress.com.au)

**Closing date: 30 April, 2004**

### **Ginninderra Press Childrens' Competition – Refuge**

Ginninderra Press invites entries into its 2004 short story for children competition. Entries should be original and between 2,000 – 3,000 words in length. They must be suitable for children aged 8-12 years. For further details see above.

**Closing date: 30 June, 2004**

## OPPORTUNITIES

### **Kiosk**

An international journal of poetry and experimental prose published annually with the support of the poetics program at the State University of New York at Buffalo. *Kiosk* is calling for work to be published in 2004, inviting a range of genres including essays, reviews, interviews etc. Submission details are available at: <http://wings.buffalo.edu/epc/mags/kiosk/kiosksub.html> or The Editor, *Kiosk: A Journal of Poetry, Poetics and Prose*, State University of New York at Buffalo, Samuels Clemens Hall Room 306, Buffalo New York, 14260-4610.

### **Australia: Making Space Meaningful**

Call for papers for the 9th biennial conference of the Association for Australian Studies, 6-9 October, 2004. Further information can be found at [www.uni-hamburg.de](http://www.uni-hamburg.de) or [www.australienstudien.org](http://www.australienstudien.org)

**Closing date: 31 March**

### **From the Drawer**

Dust off your poems 'from the drawer' and share them with a waiting world. Send up to three poems, maximum of 50 lines each, brief bio, maximum of 100 words and links to your own site/or email (if desired). For further information e: [saramoss@imprimus.com.au](mailto:saramoss@imprimus.com.au) or <http://scart69.net/saramoss/Pages/guest.html> Allow four weeks for a response and eight weeks for your work to appear online.

### **The Junior Writers' Guild**

This site is dedicated to young writers aged 12-20. Check out [http://members.tripod.com/jr\\_writers\\_guild/](http://members.tripod.com/jr_writers_guild/)

### **The Surface**

To submit poetry, prose, visual art, photography and comix check out [www.surfaceonline.org.htm](http://www.surfaceonline.org.htm)

### **Call for art stories – ABC Online**

ABC Arts Online is keen to increase its coverage of regional arts and is in a position to commission writers and digital content makers to write/create stories for its website [www.abc.net.au/arts/](http://www.abc.net.au/arts/). It is looking for strong stories about regional art or regional artists. For further information contact via email: [blair.gordon@abc.net.au](mailto:blair.gordon@abc.net.au)

### **Dogwood Playwrights Initiative**

A playwriting competition with the goal of encouraging writers to focus on rural issues in the 21st century, giving a voice to those with a life that struggles with problems and rejoices in successes that are unique to rural and remote Australia. It is open to plays of any genre. Seeking creative ways of expressing rural remote life in a 'dramatic' form. First Prize: \$5,000. For further information contact Ann Gibbons on t: 07 4627 1131 or e: [tedgibbons@bigpond.com](mailto:tedgibbons@bigpond.com)

**Closing date: 25 June**

### **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 or e: [edito@publisher-guidelines.com](mailto:edito@publisher-guidelines.com) or [author@sidharta.com.au](mailto:author@sidharta.com.au)

### **Cornerfold – Issue 9**

**Cornerfold** Issue 9, the "Street Art" issue, is online now at [www.sbs.com/au/cornerfold](http://www.sbs.com/au/cornerfold). **Cornerfold** is an SBS website featuring collaborations between Australian zinemakers and new media designers. This, the last issue of **Cornerfold**, takes it to the streets.

### **Short Story Website**

There is a new website for writers who are interested in writing short stories. Visit [www.skivemagazine.mockfrog.com.au](http://www.skivemagazine.mockfrog.com.au) for more information.

**WWWW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2004**

*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: .....

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

Address:

.....

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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