



# August 2008 Newsletter

## Welcome to our new KSP Newsletter.

The monthly newsletter is back in a new format that fits more comfortably into a book case, is easier to read online and costs less to produce and distribute.

The previous policy will be continued of printing reviews of happenings at KSP, notices of competitions and up-coming events, and we encourage you to send in your good news stories, publishing successes and book launches. If there is space we will try to publish poems, book reviews and short stories (max 500 words). The newsletter endeavours to be a balanced one supporting youth, aspiring writers, mid-career writers and established writers.

We would also like profiles of, or interviews with, our Alumni, KSP, Hills and Western Australian Writers, book reviews, obituaries and news from the writing groups.

The newsletter will be posted or emailed at the end of each month, so please email copy to [kspf@iinet.net.au](mailto:kspf@iinet.net.au) by the end of the second week of the month. Photographs (no more than one photo per person per month) will be accepted if they are in .tif or .jpg format and are sent as an attachment (ie not in the body of the email).

I look forward to receiving your articles and writing.

Michelle Edmonds -Editor.

## August - September Events

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> Aug 10.00am - **Zig Zag Press attends Past Tense**

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> Aug 3.00pm **Speculative Fiction Awards**

Date TBA – Poetry Workshop – **Sculpting in English**

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> Sept 10.00am - **Success Print attends Past Tense**

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Sept 10:00am - 5:00pm **Speculative Fiction Mini-Conference**

# News from the KSP Writers Centre

## **John, Chris, Nadine, Agnes & Tim join the KSP Management**

John Purchase has taken the chair until the next AGM, and Chris Oakeley is filling in as treasurer for three months. We are sad to see the departure from the Management Committee of Lynn Gumb, and Frank and Lara Mackie who have made a major contribution to the Centre in the last seven months. Nadine Browne, Agnes O’Kane and Tim Nelson have replaced them on the Committee. Agnes used to live at KSP.

## **The Kitchen Refurbishment is about to Start**

Most of you will have admired the refurbished sitting room and new library. We hope to have refurbished the kitchen by November, thanks to Vicki Mizen, the Outer Metropolitan Community Fund and hopefully LotteryWest. A new electric stove (ceramic top), & fridge are planned.

## **The Writers Retreats will be Furnished by September**

We expect to see the first visitors in the fully furnished retreats by the beginning of September, thanking Maureen Burford of the Non-Fiction group for her expertise in selecting the furnishings. Book now.

## **Sally has Joined Melissa in the Office**

Our office marvel, Melissa MacIntyre, has been joined by Sally Bravos in the office. Sally comes to us temporarily from The Hub and will be organising the literary program.

## **Literary Program for 2009 has been Presented to the DCA**

Funding for the literary program for 2009 has been sought from DCA, with input from writing groups, the Literary Advisory Board and past writers in residence. The program aims at a balance of services for established, mid-career, aspiring and young writers including five WIRs, workshops/seminars, youth sessions, a master class, & retreats.

## **The Heritage Volunteers are Re-shaping the Garden**

Jim, Heinz, Des, Chris P and Chris O have mowed, hoed and sprayed, replanted the roses and planted plums, geraldton wax, daisies, and various border plants. Hopefully these will survive this year.

## **Julienne Van Loon publishes her Second Novel**

“I am pleased to announce that my second novel, *Beneath the Bloodwood Tree*, has been published by Allen & Unwin. It is a haunting novel about death, love and dislocation, set in the landscape of the Pilbara in north-western Australia.” The novel is available in your local bookshop and was launched at Planet Books on Wednesday 2 July 2008. Her first book *Road Story* won the 2004 Australian Vogel Award. We also congratulate her on the new addition to her family.

## **Antonia Logue Workshop**

A most informative and enjoyable workshop was held with Antonia. The lilt of her soft Irish brogue added to afternoon. Hailing from Dublin, in Ireland, and working on her second book while here, led to discussion on her new novel. A number of excerpts from various novels gave us ideas on using present tense in our writing to have tone emphasised. We discussed the areas important in writing. An exercise was provided choosing a newspaper cutting and writing a short piece from one of the characters involved in the cutting. Present tense was to be used. A number of very striking pieces were written. -Barbara Elliott

## **Antonia Logue Mentors TNG Group BIAD Book**

The Thursday Night Group’s winning Book-in-a-Day children’s story took another step towards being published. Tim Nelson, one of the authors, was delighted to be the recipient of one of the two mentoring opportunities offered by Antonis. Chris Oakeley was the second mentee.

## **Lynn Gumb Wins the Joe O’Sullivan Writer’s Prize**

Our immediate past Chairperson at KSP is joint winner of The Australian Irish Heritage Association’s Joe OSullivan Writer’s Prize 2008 with *Jacket Women*, a riveting story of a woman’s search for shelter in a Belfast workhouse to give birth. The story can be read at <http://www.irishheritage.net/>. Congratulations.

## **Georgina Bailey Wins Judith Wright Prize for Poetry**

Congratulations Georgie (Non-Fiction Group) for winning the Judith Wright Poetry Prize 2007 with *Chronology*. <http://www.overlandexpress.org/>

# Up-coming Events at KSP

## August

### **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August 10am - Zig Zag Press attends Past Tense**

The Past Tense (social history) Writing Group have invited Zig Zag Press to discuss small print run options suitable for limited productions of autobiographical works.

### **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> 3.00pm Speculative Fiction Awards**

The Chairperson of KSP, the CEO of the Shire of Mundaring and the Competition Judge - Lee Battersby - will present the awards to the winners of the KSP Speculative Fiction Competition. Prize winners will read excerpts from their entries. Light Refreshments.

## September

### **Poets@KSP**

Poets@KSP are currently preparing a display for National Poetry Week and collecting material for individual and collective chap books. Aspiring poets are welcome. Phone 9294 1872.

### **Date TBA – Poetry Workshop – Sculpting in English**

In this workshop, presented by Janet Jackson, participants will learn about expanding the boundaries of their poetry. Participants will be learning how to better read, write and edit poetry, so bring some energy and you'll have plenty of fun. Be prepared to come away with poem drafts, as well as ideas for new poems! Suitable for poets willing to try new ideas and prose writers who want to have a go at poetry. M\$25 NM\$40.

### **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> 10am - Success Print attends Past Tense**

Success Print is visiting the Past Tense (social history) Writing Group and will discuss, and offer, layout and design services, as well as commercial printing opportunities.

### **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> 10:00am - 5:00pm Speculative Fiction Mini-Conference**

A gathering of Speculative Fiction authors from Western Australia, with readings, panels and book sales. Everyone is welcome. Light Refreshments.

11 Old York Road, Greenmount, WA 6056 Phone (08) 9294 1872  
Email: [kspf@iinet.net.au](mailto:kspf@iinet.net.au) Website: <http://kspf.iinet.net.au>

# Upcoming Workshops in WA

## Storytelling & Scriptwriting - Filmmaking Fundamentals

Program: Filmmaking Fundamentals  
Presenter: Murray Oliver  
Location: Film and Television Institute Annexe  
Places: 10 Sessions: 4  
Date(s): 18, 25 Oct 1, 8 Nov 08  
Time: 10:00 - 1:00pm Cost: \$310

Filmmaking Fundamentals at FTI is a series of practical workshops, presented by industry professionals that teach the fundamentals of video production and storytelling. Places are limited to ensure maximum hands-on practice. Ph: (08) 9431-6700 or visit [www.fti.asn.au](http://www.fti.asn.au).

## Juice Creative Writing Retreat in September

4 - 7 September 2008

Juice 2008 will happen at Jarrahdale, one hour's drive south of Perth. Confirmed tutors are Michele Drouart, author of "Into the Wadi", editor Janet Blagg, who will again offer a manuscript assessment service, John Harman, who always injects a level of practicality into our otherwise ethereal creative journeying, and cellist-cum-poet extraordinaire, Kevin Gillam. Donna Ward, perhaps best known for her involvement with Indigo, will also be teaching.

The cost will be approx \$400. More Info: [jcornes@iinet.net.au](mailto:jcornes@iinet.net.au) or <http://www.writerswritingwa.org>

## Poet's Corner Monthly Readings

Perth poets share their words at Pages Cafe in the Alexander Building of the State Library between 2pm & 4pm supported by Dot from Pages Cafe and Library Staff. We've welcomed many fabulous poets, storytellers and songsters, actors and translators, newbies and established writers since 2005~ something for every taste...

So come along, buy a coffee, share your poems or just listen to some amazing wordsmiths ~ while you support Perth poets & poetry in Western Australia. To read contact Frances Macaulay Forde: [poetscornerwa@yahoo.com.au](mailto:poetscornerwa@yahoo.com.au) or [frances@francesmacaulayforde.com](mailto:frances@francesmacaulayforde.com)

# Obituary

**Vale *Justina Williams* OAM: Kalgoorlie to Kendenup to “My Country, the World”**

Often I speak on Australian Literature in other parts of the world—America, Britain, Italy, China and many such countries. I am proud of our writers, from Lawson or Katharine Susannah Prichard, through Mary Durack, Albert Facey, Jack Davis and Elizabeth Jolley to present day giants such as Sally Morgan, Tim Winton, Robert Drewe, Joan London or John Kinsella. You can see that my choices are, like Joan Williams, mostly Western Australians—maybe not surprisingly so, because I too am a WA-born author.

All Australian writers should be proud to be part of the great tradition of Australian Literature but where does Joan or Justina Williams stand in this company? I think I have read pretty much all the poetry, stories and non-fiction works that Joan had published and she stands high in my estimation. Her work continues to be part of the repertoire of readings at women’s organisations and anti-war demonstrations. Teachers still offer her stories and poems for study or discussion. “White River” is a story still very meaningful today in these increasingly difficult economic times. Joan was a writer-in-residence at Edith Cowan University and appeared in the TV series *Landscape and You* and other programs made by the university.

Joan may have been always the activist even though combining her energies with being a mother and family woman, but somehow she also found time and energy to support other writers. This she did principally through the Fellowship of Australian Writers of which she was State President and National Secretary at various times. She served continuously on the State executive body for almost thirty years.

Joan Williams’ writings may not figure prominently in the critical works on Australian Literature but nevertheless she stands among the most important influences on my life as a writer. Why should this be so? First, because Joan made me believe I could be a ‘real’ writer even though I was a relative beginner at the time. I am sure many other young writers benefited from the same advice. But I had only published a few text books in the late sixties and had believed that the writing of stories, poetry and novels was the real basic qualification of an author. Soon Joan had me on the Committee at Tom Collins House and she sponsored me as a member of the Australian Society of Authors. That was the beginning of a long-term family friendship and we shared many of the fruits of Vic’s hunting of rabbits. In a sense Joan was a career mentor for me. We toured schools as visiting writers, encouraging children through workshops to tell their stories, attended the country branches of the Fellowship of Australian Writers. Joan loved to read poetry in public and so I was often fortunate

enough to be on the same platform in, for example, the Supreme Court Gardens. And she encouraged me when I set up the *Poetry in Motion* group with three other local poets. Joan's brave and fiery readings had been an inspiration to all of us.

A second reason why Joan stands high for me, at least in Western Australian literature, is her achievement as a fiction writer celebrated by the publication of the fine collection of short stories *White River* (Fremantle Art Centre Press, 1979). These moving stories of Western Australia echoed her rural upbringing but also her social conscience for the downtrodden, especially the politically oppressed. The best of these stories can stand alongside those of any of the great Australian short story-tellers. Maybe because I share much of that background of wheatbelt, goldfields and the south-west of our State, I will always identify strongly with these stories.

The third reason I rate Joan highly as a literary figure is for her undoubted success as a poet, especially a poet of 'causes' (for she was a totally committed Stalinist as others have explained in more detail). Her alignment with left-wing causes brought to her attention and her readers the suffering of the victims of fascism and capitalist society. She wrote compassionately also about children and family life of course. My first book of Joan's poetry was *The Dreaming Vine* (1970) and later came *By All the Clocks* (1975). One of my favourite poems is 'Birth' and since it does provide a metaphor for the birth of a poem it seems somehow fitting to quote it at the end of Joan's career:

A Poem is Born

The thought that feeds the secret growth,  
Ideas faintly traced, images stored  
In memory's dark holds to a later gleam  
White as a bone a dog has gnawed.

The vapours coalesce, the groping through  
A lifetime's moods for apt experience—  
Monster or mermaid, the eye sees double now  
Unbidden goads alerting every sense.

Amid the deeds that lie like gibber stones.  
Parings of words, the wisps of self are cast  
Until the naked shape lies on the ground  
All wet and shining, moving its wings at last.

Joan was one of the featured poets in that first controversial poetry anthology *Soundings* published by the Fremantle Arts Centre Press in its infancy in 1976. Later she was again included in special anthologies of WA poetry such as

*Margins* (FACP, 1988) and *Wordhord* (FACP, 1989) published for the Bicentenary of Australia. Her poems were read on the ABC and published in newspapers and literary journals such as *Westerly Poets*, *Australian Tribune*, *The Realist*, *Soviet Women*, *The Literary Gazette* and many others too numerous to mention. One of her later poems, 'Not in My Name', has deservedly become widely read and heard as opposing the invasion of Iraq.

Finally we come to the non-fiction writing of Joan Williams. As we know, her writing career was initially as a journalist for *The West Australian* and *The Daily News* in the late 1930s. It is not surprising that she subsequently produced many articles, reviews and factual books. She never lost the journalistic disciplines in which she had been trained—thorough research, conciseness and the meeting of deadlines. She wrote an historical work, *The First Furrow* (1976) on the Labor movement in WA and undoubtedly her major published non-fiction work, *Anger & Love* (FACP, 1993), a partial autobiography, the story of her family and writing career in her home State. Earlier she had edited *Tom Collins and His House* (TCP, 1973), a modest but highly significant first account of the last period of Joseph Furphy's life and his building of Tom Collins House (as the headquarters of the FAW is now known) in Servetus Street, Swanbourne. I well remember working with Joan and Vic painting the white front fence of that house during one of the many working bees organized by the writers to keep that property as an historic building.

*Anger & Love* is also one of the most remarkable records of left-wing activism (especially of the Australian Communist Party). It is still a standard reference work. When Joan and Vic went to live in Moscow in the late 1970s she became editor of a peace magazine and one of her accounts of life there was published as 'A Letter From Moscow' in the FAW anthology *Summerland* (UWA Press, 1979). Joan is represented also in the anthologies *Soundings*, *Margins*, *Wordhord* and *Celebrations*. She ventured into writing for children with her *The Bird Girl* (ISBS, 1987) and *Beside the Swamp* (Lone Hand Press, 1989).

Justina Williams was a truly accomplished author who inspired me and many other Western Australians to take up writing seriously. But she has her own valued place in the history of this country's poetry, fiction and non-fiction writing and was awarded the OAM in 1995 for her services to literature. As Dave Riley has written in 'Green Left On-line', 'In a work generated by anger and sustained by love, Joan Williams passionately embraced what we are told today is *passé*—commitment.' For myself, I will say that Joan's place in the history of Australian Literature should never be under-rated or forgotten and I am sure it never will be.

Associate Professor Glen Phillips,  
Edith Cowan University, July, 2008.

# Competitions

## **Katharine Susannah Prichard Short Fiction Award.**

- 1) Mundaring Community Bank Open Awards
- 2) Shire of Mundaring National Young Writers Awards (under 21) .  
Minimum 1000 Maximum 3000 words. Both close Friday Sept 26th.  
Prizes: Mundaring Community Bank Open Awards: 1st \$600, 2nd \$300, 3rd \$175, Commended 5 of \$10. Closes Friday September 26th  
Shire of Mundaring National Young Writers Awards: 1st \$75, 2nd \$25, Commended 5 of \$10. Under-13's: \$25.

Awards announced and presented at the Celebration of Katharine's Birthday KSP Writers' Centre, 3 pm Sunday, December 7. No entry form required – both sections are open to all Australian residents.

## **The Iremonger Award for Writing on Public Issues**

40,000-80,000 words \$20 entry non-fiction book that will contribute to public debate on a contemporary Australian political, social or cultural issue. Sponsored by Allen & Unwin. Cash prize of \$10,000, guaranteed publication, royalties on book sales and editorial support. closes 1st September 2008 <http://www.allenandunwin.com/default.aspx?page=441>

## **EJ Brady Short Story Competition**

Major Short Story Award - max 2500 words. Prize \$1500. Entry: \$10.  
Very Short Story Award - max 700 words. Prize \$500. Entry Fee: \$7 must be submitted with each entry. Any adult literature genre. Entries must be original, unpublished works. Closes- Friday 12 September.  
entry forms Mallacoota Arts Council, PO Box 201, Mallacoota, Vic 3892, Tel: 03 51 580890, Email: [mallacootaarts@aapt.net.au](mailto:mallacootaarts@aapt.net.au)  
Web: [www.mallacootaarts.org](http://www.mallacootaarts.org)

## **PCWC 2008 Trudy Graham Literary Awards**

Short Story: Up to 2000 words. Poem: Up to 50 lines  
Theme: Open. AGE: Open. Entry Fee: \$8 each or \$20 for three entries.  
Prizes (both sections) 1st: \$400 - Runner-up: \$100 - Highly Commended and Commended certificates. Closes : 30 September 2008.  
Entry Forms: [cowan05@bigpond.com.au](mailto:cowan05@bigpond.com.au)

# Profile of Juliet Marillier



Juliet Marillier from her web page: <http://www.julietmarillier.com>

**Juliet Marillier BA, B Mus (Hons)** was born in Dunedin, New Zealand and educated at Otago Girls' High School and the University of Otago. She now lives in the Swan Valley, Perth, Western Australia. She is a member of the Literary Advisory Board at the Katharine Susannah Prichard Writers Centre where she has also been Writer in Residence, given workshops, mentoring and enormously valuable guidance.

## **Juliet Marillier has Ten Novels in Print.**

Her first novel, *Daughter of the Forest*, was published in 1999, and she has been a full time writer since about 2002. She now has ten novels in print. *Cybele's Secret*, *Wildwood Dancing*, *Wolfskin*, *Foxmask*, *The Bridei Chronicles: The Dark Mirror*, *Blade of Fortriu*, *The Well of Shades*, *The Sevenwaters Trilogy: Daughter of the Forest*, *Son of the Shadows*, *Child of the Prophecy*. They have been published in Australia and New Zealand, the UK, the USA and Canada and in translation in the Netherlands, Germany, Portugal, Spain, Italy and China, with French, Brazilian and Japanese editions to come.

## **National and International Awards**

Winner of the 2008 Sir Julius Vogel Award for best young adult novel (*Cybele's Secret*), winner of the 2006 Aurealis Award for Best Fantasy Novel. (*Wildwood Dancing*), finalist for the 2005 RWA Romantic Novel

Award (*The Dark Mirror*), winner of the 2005 Aurealis Award for Best Fantasy Novel and finalist for the 2006 RWA Romantic Novel Award. (*Blade of Fortriu*), winner of the American Library Association's Alex Award, and finalist in the Aurealis Award for Best Fantasy Novel and finalist in the RWA Award for Romantic Novel (*Daughter of the Forest*), winner of the 2000 Aurealis Award for Best Fantasy Novel (*Son of the Shadows*).

### **Work in Progress and her New Book (*Heir to Sevenwaters*)**

She is working on *Heart's Blood*, which is due to be delivered to her publisher on December 1. "This book presents quite a few writing challenges because of its major difference from my earlier books - it's a ghost story, and the setting in medieval Ireland, a later period than the Sevenwaters books, is predominantly Christian. Writing about unquiet spirits brings up all kinds of philosophical questions about what happens when people die, and I need to be clear in my mind about what the characters believe and what the 'reality' of the story is. I made things harder for myself by limiting most of the action to a single setting and giving myself a very small cast of characters and burdened one of the protagonists to a degree where recovery seemed almost impossible." Her new book *Heir to Sevenwaters* will be published in November.

### **From an Interview with the Summermoon Chronicles**

"I am most like Paula [in *Cybele's Secret*]. I've always been a scholarly sort of person who loves books and likes solving puzzles. Also, I never was beautiful like Tati or Iulia! When Paula does brave things in *Cybele's Secret*, she's acting as I would like to act under similar challenging circumstances (but I probably wouldn't do as well as she does.) I gave her two of my worst fears to face: crossing bridges over deep chasms, and being underground in the dark."

"Each book I write does have a main theme or themes, but I don't always decide on it before I start - it emerges as I write the story. The books all begin with just an idea or a combination of ideas, for instance, the fairytale The Twelve Dancing Princesses + Transylvania + sisterly love for *Wildwood Dancing*. With Jena it's a lesson in trusting her sisters and trusting her own judgement. For Paula it's the realisation that there's a true wisdom that can't be learned through scholarship, and a discovery of her own best qualities."

# Regular Writing Groups

Open for Everyone to Join

Poetry Writing Group	2nd, 4th Mondays 12.45pm
Karibu Women's Writing Group	Wednesdays 9.30am
Writefree Women's Writing Group	Wednesdays 9.30am
Tall Tales Group	2nd, 4th Thursdays 9.30am
Young Writers Groups	Thursdays 4.00-6.00pm
Thursday Night Group	Thursday 7.30pm
Non-Fiction Writers	Monthly 1st Saturday 10.00am
Past Tense (Social History)	Monthly 2nd Saturday 10.00am
Script Writing Group	Monthly 4th Saturday 10.00am
Speculative Fiction/ Fantasy	Monthly 3rd Sunday 10.00am

## Management Committee

Chairperson	John Purchase
Secretary	Sam Fogarty
Treasurer	Chris Oakeley
Committee	Colin O'Brien
	Tim Nelson
	Mardi May
	Nadine Browne
	Faye Dease
	Agnes O'Kane
	Stefan Wiklund

## Literary Advisory Board

Dr Glen Phillips
Juliet Marillier
Mardi May
Kathleen Dzubiell

## Public Fund

Chairperson KSP
Treasurer KSP
Clive Aldridge
Denis McLeod
Robert Perks



*Let's make it happen*