



# December 2008 Newsletter

The Management Committee wishes a very happy Christmas to you and your loved ones and hopes that the muse will be kind to you over the holiday break. For those who wish to get away from it all and seek solitary confinement with your laptop and your creative genius, the writers retreats could be your haven.

November has seen a flurry of excellent Author Talks, a marvelous literary soiree with our Writer in Residence, Deborah Pike, and an equally excellent workshop by Deborah on how to create interesting characters. Deborah also mentored a collection of short stories.

December's events revolve around Katharine's Birthday when we celebrate our guiding spirit, thank our wonderful volunteers, and present awards to the winners of our national short fiction competition. They also revolve around the culmination of a year's work by members of writing groups and others, with book launches from the Non-Fiction Group, Poets@KSP, Thursday Night Group, and Peter Moss of the Past Tense Group. The Young Writers and the October Write-a-Rama also produced anthologies but are not having formal launches.

## Events in December

**Saturday, 6th at 10.00am Launch of NFG Group's *Bricolage***  
**Sunday, 7th at 1.30 until 5.00pm Katharine's Birthday Celebrations.** Readings and entertainment to honour Katharine Susannah Prichard and celebrate her birthday. Light refreshments will be available.

**Sunday, 7th at 3pm. KSP Short Fiction awards.** Awards will be presented to the winners of the KSP Short Fiction Competition. Prize winners will read excerpts from their entries.

**Sunday, 7th at 4.00pm. Launch of the Poets@KSP Anthology**

**Thursday, 11th at 7:30pm Launch of TNG Anthology**

**Saturday, 13th at 11.30am. Launch of *Memoirs of a Global Gypsy*.**

# News From the Centre

## Christmas Break

KSP Centre is closing on the 12th December for the Christmas break and will re-open on the 13th January 2009. Merry Christmas to everyone and have a wonderful holiday.

## Adrian Glamorgan - Author Talk - How to Influence Readers

His Author Talk hosted by the Non-Fiction Group focused on how to get a message across and how to influence national policy through the press. “Your articles do get read,” he said. “So deal in facts, and structure them to get under the radar of people’s denial, and move them in steps through anger, bargaining, depression to acceptance of your view of the world.” He illustrated his talk with articles from *NOVA* for which he is a regular columnist.

## Lilliana Stafford- Author Talk

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2008 the young writers group had the privilege of published author Lilliana Stafford visit and give a talk. Lilliana spoke to the children about what it was like for her as a full time writer and the challenges that she faced. She spoke about creating stories and also about the publishing side. Her talk was enjoyed by all.



## Julienne van Loon - Author Talk. A Novel set in Port Hedland

The importance of setting was the main theme of Julienne’s Author Talk hosted by the Thursday Night Group, illustrated with excerpts from her latest book *Under the Bloodwood Tree* set in the Pilbara. She stressed the importance of intertwining the characters and the setting where neither escape change as the plot develops. Her book moves through a mix of natural beauty and social turmoil that is Port Hedland, with its huge ore carriers, red dust, fly in/fly out, escape into alcohol and why some people love it as a haven.

# More News From the Centre

## **John Harman - Author Talk - How to get Published**

On the 12th November John gave an impressive talk to members of the Writefree Group and guests. He took us on an illuminating journey through the spectral galleries of ghost writing to the deadlines of journalist and script writing, as well as discussing novel writing and how to get published. It was a real pleasure to have John in our midst to share his experiences and successes and inspire us to greater heights.

## **Marcella Polain - Author Talk about *The Edge of the World***

In a very moving author talk, Marcella Polain addressed the issue of writing a story around a factual event. Marcella's novel, *The Edge of the World*, begins with her grandmother's story and her survival of the Armenian Massacre and its effect on future generations of her family. Marcella's story is told using many different voices and viewpoints in elegant and poetic prose.

Past Tense members and visiting writers thank Marcella for so openly sharing her story and her writing skill with us.

## **Sally Clarke's Poetry Workshop at Poets@KSP**

Expanding on the theme of different voices in writing, Sally Clark presented a workshop to the poetry group. We examined poems from Australia, Russia, America, Java and Africa and identified clues to nationality and era. We then exercised our own creative minds and wrote a poetic response to a line in one of the poems which moved us. The result was some amazing poems as we added our own voice to the words of the chosen poet.

Our thanks to Sally for broadening our poetic horizons with this excellent workshop.

## **Busy Bee – Five Drones and a Queen**

Des Burgh, Chris Oakeley, Heinz Greve, Jim Arthur, Peter Moss and Vicky Mizen managed to complete the massive task of reducing the long grass and Patterson's Curse to fire-season safe stubble, half completed the paving of the new bar-b-q area, reset the kitchen after the builders and took trailer loads of rubbish to the tip, welcomed the new

# Even More News From the Centre

Writer-in-Residence, Deborah Pike, and polished off a table of well-earned cream cakes and sausage rolls. Thank you very much, you wonderful volunteers.

## **New Kitchen is Switched On**

Thanks and congratulations to Vicky Mizen for re-furbishing the kitchen. The 'Coffee Bar' by the front door is still a feature, but we have new cupboards, fridge, five-burner stove and huge electric oven, jarrah-topped trolley and new lino. The yellow tiles have been replaced by green ones and the writing group trays have a better home. The bamboo blinds that were transparent at night are scheduled to be replaced with wooden slats. We'll try to schedule repainting of the walls and ceiling during the Christmas break.

## **Thanks for Your Kind Donations**

- To Salamah Pope for donating a small rotary carpet sweeper. It's ideal for cleaning the floors when you don't need to vacuum a large area.
- To Mardi May for the bar-b-q, garden furniture, kitchen equipment, and a host of small items that keep appearing whenever she comes to the centre.
- To Vicky Mizen for the contribution to the kitchen stove and for her cleaner who cleared up the mess after the tradesmen had left.
- To all those who donated books for the Darlington Festival Book stall.

## **Vive La France! A Soiree to Remember**

In a delightful evening of all things French, an enthusiastic crowd joined Deborah Pike for a literary soiree on 25<sup>th</sup> November. Deborah, our Writer-in-Residence who has been based in Paris, read selected and delectable passages from her novel, *Dramatis Personae*. As we dined on baguettes, pate, Brie, quiches and flans with crème fraiche, we were also treated to a linguistic savouring of French in Deborah's reading.

Many guests dressed with Parisian flair, and the flow of conversation by some of Deborah's French friends complemented a candlelit room decorated with red, white and blue streamers.

## And Even More ....

KSP has reserved a copy of Deborah's novel, which promises to be a rich literary experience, so briefly touched upon in this soiree of diverse pleasures.

Thanks you to all those who contributed to a memorable evening.

### **Poets@KSP with Deborah Pike, Getting Inside Other Heads**

On 24<sup>th</sup> November, poetry and prose met to celebrate the love of words and their possibilities to a writer of both genres. Whether we construct them into poems or a novel, words are our working tools.

Our guest, Writer-in-Residence, Deborah Pike, came to us from the absorbing depths of her novel in progress, to try out some words in poetry. Continuing the theme of 'other voices', we got inside some other heads, including two Barack Obamas, and wrote their possible thoughts. An enlightening exercise! We welcomed Steve, who brought Shay along to see how poetry can help live a life. A wonderful session and our thanks to Deborah for bringing another voice to Poets.

Our next meeting on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December 12.45pm is the last for the year. It will be a celebration of poetry, so bring along a favourite or influential poem to read prior to an afternoon tea.

### **Deborah Pike's Workshop**

The main aspect of character is motivation. What moves him/her? What is his/her passion? Desire? Fear? Sometimes the writer controls the protagonist's character, at other times vice-versa. Twenty-one active participants took away copious notes and examples of how to give a protagonist 'a defining quality' through action, dialogue and exposition, and how to be a 'flaneur', a people-watcher, and how to write with a multiple personality – as the protagonist, the reader and the narrator. Her readings at the literary dinner were proof that her concepts work, and we look forward to the publication of her book 'Dramatis Personae'.



# What's On in December at KSP

## **Katharine's Birthday, Thanking our Volunteers, Official Opening of the New Library, and Short Fiction Awards**

KSP welcomes everyone to join in the celebrations! Veronica Brady will give an address in honour of Katharine and will formally open the library, sitting room and kitchen. Come and thank the volunteers for the work they have done during the year, applaud the winners of the KSP 2008 Short Fiction Awards and listen to the winning entries. Meet our Writer in Residence, Deborah Pike, and take a tour of the Centre To help us celebrate Krzysztof Piotrowicz will entertain us with Russian guitar music, and the Management Committee will be providing a yummy Birthday cake!

Date: Sunday 7th December 1.30-5.00pm

Cost: Only the cost of a raffle ticket!

Contact: Nadine Browne: 9294 1872 or <http://kspfevents@iinet.net.au>

## **Book Launches Galore in the First Half of the December**

The month's book launches at KSP start with *Bricolage*, the annual selection of stories and poems from the Non-Fiction Group on Saturday 6th at 10.00am.

The Poets@KSP launch their collection after the Short Fiction Awards on Sunday 7th at 4.00pm.

In the following week, on Thursday 11th at 7.30pm, the Thursday Night Group launches *Hopscotch and Cider*.

On Saturday 13th at about 11.30am Peter Moss will launch his *Memoirs of a Global Gypsy*.

Please support as many as you can. Admission is \$3 or \$5 except Poets@KSP which is free, and you may get wine and snacks too.

## **Writers Retreats**

If you wish to book a writers retreat please ring the office soon on 9294 1872, especially if you wish to reserve a weekend for a group retreat for your writing group, or want a week or month's solitude to finish your book or PhD. Rates and conditions are on the web page at <http://kspf.iinet.net.au>. You can book with your credit card. Our current Writer in Residence, Deborah Pike, says the retreats are very comfortable and exceedingly conducive to writing.

# What's On in 2009 - January to March

## JANUARY

### **Saturday 17 January 1pm – 4 pm: 'The Art of Fiction' with John Cregan**

This three-hour workshop is designed to assist writers of all levels gain a better understanding of their craft. The role of character, place and scenario in creating an audience bond, one of the most important aspects of successful writing, will be explored, as will some of the creative and constructive elements such as mind-mapping, free-writing, story structure and story design. Exercises will be given during the workshop, so bring along pen and paper. Adequate time is allowed for questions. JD (John) Cregan is the author of the novel *98% pure*. He was a guest at the 2005 Age Melbourne Writer's Festival, and the 2006 Byron Bay Writer's Festival, where he facilitated a full-day workshop on *The Novel*, and chaired a panel on *The Architecture of Good Writing*. John has been teaching writing for fifteen years, both in WA, and in the Eastern States. M \$25, NM \$40

## FEBRUARY

### **Sunday 8 February Open Day 10.30am – 4.30pm**

Are you interested in writing? Want to learn more about what the Katharine Susannah Prichard Writers Centre does? Then come along for a day of readings by award-winning authors and packed full of literary tours of Katharine's Place, the centre's members and local school students. Local published authors will be book signing on the day, and on hand to answer questions. Free admission. Food available for purchase.

### **Thursday 12 February 10.30pm – 12.30pm, Eight-week School-Time Series with Kathleen Dzubieli**

It's important that young writers be exposed to, learn and practise the best writing. This series is an extra-curricular activity aimed at 13 – 15 year old home schoolers and children released from local schools (Years 8 – 10). Young writers will be introduced to the process of writing poetry and prose by Kathleen Dzubieli, a published poet whose work has

# What's On in 2009 - January to March

been performed in public and on radio across Australia. Kathleen has been conducting courses in creative writing for over ten years. Participants will have their work published in an anthology at the end of the series. M \$55, NM \$65

## **Saturday 21 February 1pm – 4 pm: Looking at the ‘big picture’: Structural editing for prose writers’ with Amanda Curtin**

A workshop designed to help fiction and non-fiction writers approach their work as a structural editor would. Amanda will discuss common structural problems, as well as techniques to help writers step back from the words and sentences and look at ‘big-picture’ issues. Amanda Curtin is a freelance book editor with 25 years’ experience (adult and junior fiction, picture books, general non-fiction, scholarly). She is also an award-winning writer of short fiction and essays, and in 2008 published in her first novel, *The Sinkings*. M \$25, NM \$40

## **23 February – 23 March Emerging Writer-in-Residence Natalie Kon-Yu**

Natalie is a local writer who is currently working on a novel, set in Australia and Italy in the early 1950s, and follows a young family as they leave their village to forge a new life in Fremantle. It explores the theme of migration, as well as the relationship between the characters migrating to Fremantle, and those who have been left behind. The overarching theme is the ways in which people are able to review, suppress or fictionalise their pasts. Natalie’s writing has been published in literary and scholarly journals, and her short fiction has been broadcast on radio. She has also taught Creative Writing at Curtin University, and has recently completed her PhD.

## **MARCH**

## **Tuesday 10 March 7pm Literary Dinner and Readings with Emerging Writer-in-Residence Natalie Kon-Yu**

Natalie will delight you with her writing at our special literary dinner in her honour at 11 Old York Road, Greenmount. M\$20, NM \$25

# What's On in 2009 - January to March

## **Saturday 14 March 1pm – 4 pm Workshop with Natalie Kon-Yu WIR 'The Shoe by the Door: Using Sensory Detail to Build Emotional Tension'.**

This workshop will focus on the visual components we use in creating scenes, and how they are able to help us build emotional tension. As writers we tend to populate our fictional worlds with objects. Hair-brushes, telephone boxes, pot plants. Not only do visual details help us to create our fictional worlds, but if used correctly they can help us give depth to our scenes. Bring a scene from your own work to examine the sensory detail. M\$25, NM \$40

**Sunday 22 March 9am – 1 pm 'Narrative Modes and Textures', Master Class with Ken Gasmier - Session 1.** (Follow-up Session 2 on Sunday April 4th, 9am – 5 pm) You'll need to bring a chapter, or a story of fiction or documentary fiction, and an outline of where you think you will go with it. The first session will be spent sharing your work. Before the second session Ken will tailor directions and possible models, and you will spend the day following those directions in individual writing time, with Ken's support and feedback. Finally there'll be time to share and discuss the new directions in the group. Ken Gasmier has published mainly fiction, has lectured writing at university, and is a reviewer and writing competition judge. \$129, NM \$149

**Friday 27 March 7 pm – Sunday 29 March 6 pm, Bootcamp for Writers with Melissa O'Shea.** Do you need more time to write, the motivation to get started or keep going on a project, or some social/writerly interaction? KSP's Bootcamp for Writers welcomes writers of all levels, genres and work habits! Join us for an opportunity to immerse yourself in your own writing project: time to write, but also time to plan, focus, set goals and get motivated for a productive and satisfying year of writing. Write in the peaceful and inspiring atmosphere of Katharine Susannah Prichard's historic Hills home; mingle with and learn from other writers; take time out to nurture your writing and yourself. Twelve places only, breakfast and lunch provided. Day registration \$250 private accomm (shared bathroom) \$350, deluxe private accomm. \$450.

# Reports from Writers in Residence

## ANTONIA LOGUE, 2008 ESTABLISHED WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE

The month I spent at the KSPWC was a very interesting time. I worked hard on my new book, and found a great working routine. It was my first visit to Australia and I feel that there can be few better ways to experience the country than through a visit to WA and specifically the KSPWC. The Writing Centre is made up of some of the warmest and most dedicated people I have met, and is a group that takes their writing extremely seriously, but with a very light heart. The kindness and commitment of the people I shared workshops with was inviting, and the quality of the work was consistently unusual and strong. In my view, the KSPWC quietly sets the standard for community writing groups in its ambitions, purpose, and openness to all. It would be wonderful to see it set up some exchange residencies/arts organisations with other countries so that many more international writers get to share the experience that I so enjoyed.



## SIMON COX, 2008 KSPYOUNG WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE

Between Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> and Monday the 29<sup>th</sup> of September this year it was my great and humbling privilege to spend fourteen days at Katharine's Place, in the Perth hills, as the Katharine Susannah Prichard Writers' Centre's Young Writer-in-Residence. In this capacity I explored Greenmount National Park, began to read *Working Bullocks*, facilitated a workshop, attended writing groups, failed to finish *Working Bullocks*, drank an estimated 56 cups of tea and most importantly slaved away over a chapbook of poems - originally entitled *T.S. Eliot was Scared of Girls* - that I have perhaps wisely re-titled *Book Lung*. I have since self-published this collection, and sold and distributed the booklet as a guest reader and panelist at the National Young Writers' Festival in Newcastle, NSW, that was held in early October of this

# Reports from Writers in Residence

year. With one of the collection's poems published in *Voiceworks* magazine, and another awaiting publication in the forthcoming *Sleeper's Almanac* anthology, as well with the book's warm reception at the NYWF – I feel confident I can call *Book Lung* a success.

It was an honour and a blessing to spend those days in the meditative quiet and beautiful surrounds of the centre, to feel part of KSP's welcoming community, to have the opportunity to draft and re-draft and scrap and re-draft and scrap and finally finish my poems. The fourteen days spent at KSP were probably the most productive and valuable days I have spent as a writer, and for that I am eternally grateful.

As a happy interruption to wrestling with mixed metaphors and misplaced commas, I also had the privilege of attending several of KSP's regular writers' groups and events. At the Poetry@KSP and Thursday Night Group meetings I was impressed and inspired by the diversity and quality of the work that the attendees had brought to read. As a guest of the Tom Collins House "Meet the Writer" event I had the privilege of reading my work to an appreciative audience of writers and readers and hearing amazing young wordsmiths such as Lily Chan and Lucas North share their work. Finally I was given the wonderful opportunity to facilitate a workshop at KSP, and myself and a small group of poets explored allusion and intertextuality in a series of reading and writing exercises. Culminating in a hectic exercise in which the attendees wrote of series of replies to each others' poems around the room I think I can call the "Use Your Allusion: Creative Reading as a Prompt for Poetry" workshop a success, albeit a success of the occasionally madcap variety.

All in all my time as a writer-in-residence at KSP proved a lasting and invaluable experience, and one I will always look back on fondly as I continue down my strange path of trying to be a writer. I would like to thank everyone at the centre – the staff, committee members, workshop attendees and broader KSP community – for all their hospitality and assistance during my time at Katharine's Place. Your generosity was appreciated greatly and I am forever in your debt. Thank you.



# Regular Writing Groups

Open for Everyone to Join

Poetry Writing Group	2nd, 4th Mondays 12.45pm
Karibu Women's Writing Group	1st, 3rd Wednesdays 9.30am
Writefree Women's Writing Group	Wednesdays 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

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Committee	Colin O'Brien Mardi May Nadine Browne Agnes O'Kane Sarah Ryan

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