



WORDSMITHS NEWSLETTER

10.3, August, 2010

Dear Wordsmiths and Friends,

As we journey through this colder winter I trust that you are all finding ways to keep warm while being mindful of our need to care for our whole environment. Sometimes I find the horrors reported in the news so overwhelming that I need to switch off temporarily.

I did this very effectively recently when my daughter gave me a birthday gift of three nights at *At Home in Melbourne*, her delightful house in North Fitzroy which she lets out to visitors to Melbourne. Janette joined me for the first night and we went to the Wheeler Centre for the launch of Ron Pretty's latest book, *Postcards from the Centre*. Kevin Brophy made a wonderful speech in launching it and Ron was visibly moved by the full house present. We enjoyed meeting up with several poet we'd met through *Reflecting on Melbourne*.

On the Friday I spent some time at the Kozminsky Gallery 422 Bourke St, where there is a delightful exhibition of photographs of Melbourne in the 1960s & 70s by Angus O'Laughlin. There I learned of a little-known valuable treasure. Next time, before you walk out under the clocks at Flinders St., look up and enjoy the stained glass window, the existence of which I and I imagine 90% of Melbournians have been totally unaware. On the Saturday afternoon I again went to the Wheeler Centre to take part in a workshop led by Ron Pretty, a valuable exercise.

NEXT MEETING

On August 14th we have Helen Collopy, a retired English teacher coming to speak about the poetry of George Herbert (1593-1633.) In his short life, Herbert, an Anglican clergyman, produced an amazing volume of work all couched in rhyme, but varied wonderfully in pattern and style to suit his differing topics. He is among the group of metaphysical poets who have had a profound influence on English poetry. I heard Helen speak at the Lyceum Club a couple of months ago and was fascinated by the way she brought Herbert and his times to life. This is a workshop not to be missed. There will be time after the break for workshopping of poems.

Also not to be missed for any of you who can possibly get there is the **Poetry Day at Wellspring on August 26th led by Barbara Rautman.** The theme is *Annunciations of one sort or another.* "Aren't there annunciations of one sort or another in most lives?" (Denise Levertov) Barbara will lead a

reflection on Denise Levertov's poetry about annunciations of one sort or another in our lives, about the invitations contained in them and our responses. We will also reflect on her poetry about the world around us and what annunciations it may have for us. There will be time for personal reflection and group discussion. (9.45am - 3.15pm. Contact Wellspring on 9885 0277 for bookings)

Other Wordsmiths meetings this quarter will be held on **September 11th and October 9th.** **Remember they are now at Carolyn's place: 8 Woodhouse Rd, Doncaster East.** Here is the roster. If you can't take your turn, please let us know ASAP.

Date	Leader	Afternoon tea
August 14th	Helen	Marlene, Ann, Jean
September 11	Carolyn	Janette, Kathryn, Cam
October 9th	Cameron	Keith, Joan, Elaine

POETRY WEEKEND & MEETINGS

Our May meeting was part of our Weekend Retreat, held at the home of **Robin & Bronwyn Pryor** at St Andrew's Beach. As always we appreciated their warm hospitality. The weather was more favourable this time, so we were able to walk on the beach. Our Quiet Day led ably by Bronwyn on the Saturday ended with a communion service in the Labyrinth, led by Robin with a focus on the whole environment and our place in it. On the Sunday we concluded with a workshop led by **Joan Ackland** who challenged us in various ways to write more imaginatively.



L to R: Jean, Maree Silver, Janette, Robin, Keith, Bronwyn, Maree Nikalaou, Marisa Romita

Leigh Hay led Wordsmiths in June, and played a track from a CD made by students at Emmanuel College in Queensland. The CD is called *The Moz Project* and proceeds from sales will be given to the

Rei dos Reis school in Mozambique to help educate children and break the cycle of poverty. It was lovely to have both Carolyn Vimpani and Cath Barnard back from their travels overseas and we look forward to more challenging poetry from them. In July **Joan Ray** led a most helpful starting exercise getting us to think and write about the cold. She also read to us from TS Eliot's *Preludes*. 11 people came including **Peter Williams** who exhibited photos and played the flute at our launch in June—a man of many talents!

LAUNCH OF NEW BEGINNINGS

Congratulations to Janette on the fine production of *New Beginnings*! It was her idea to include some photographs in this anthology and they certainly add lustre and some humour to the poetry. The launch at the Box Hill Town Hall was a splendid occasion. People were welcomed with live music played by Geoffrey D'Ombra (below)



They then had the opportunity to consider the art show of work from artists represented in both *New Beginnings* and *Reflecting*

on Melbourne. The launch of the book by **Judith Rodriguez** was followed by readings interspersed with musical items from Cathy Altmann and Angela Chandler, Peter Williams and Geoffrey D'Ombra who provided a rich variety of musical styles. The art show, part of which was transported to the Augustine Centre in Hawthorn for display for the next week, was opened by Anna Burke and the evening concluded with a party atmosphere as people enjoyed supper together. Special thanks to Maree Silver who did much of the organising for this grand event.



Janette and Jean



Judith Rodriguez



L to R:
Sue Donnelly
Maree Silver
Jean Sietzema
Janette
Fernando
Joy Chellew

The next major event for Poetica Christi Press will be the launch of *Everyday Splendour* in November or December. In the meantime we hope you are all busily writing poems on the theme of *Horizons* for this year's competition.

POETRY READINGS

A week after the launch of *New Beginnings* we had a well attended reading at the Box Hill Library with **Judith Rodriguez** as our guest reader. Again people enjoyed the night and the poetry presented.

For our September 3rd reading, in Poetry Week we have **Bill Rush** as our Guest Reader. Bill has judged competitions for us in the past, was a friend of Joyce Lee and is an accomplished writer. A couple of his haiku are in our Melbourne book.

I would urge you to encourage your friends to come along to these readings so that we can establish a firm presence at the Library.

On Sunday I went to Dereel where Geoffrey D'Ombra held another Pirrah Gallery gathering in the Dereel Hall. It was a lovely mixture of music, dance and poetry and though late, I was able to read a couple of poems from *Reflecting on Melbourne* and a couple of others.

MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to **Marlene Marburg** who won 2nd place in the Kathryn Purnell Poetry Prize for 'About Boys' and Commended for 'Pecking Order'. As well, 'Barren' will be published in *Poetrix*, and 'Prepositioning God' has been accepted as cover for *Studio* journal.

Meanwhile, **Bridh Hancock** has been published in *The Tasmanian Times*, and *Ardent*. Well done Bridh.

And congratulations to **Kathryn Hamann** who has had poems published in *Poetry Monash*, *Poetrix*, *Eureka Street*, *Famous Reporter*, and *The Mozzie*.

Janette and I were tickled pink to find we'd been nominated to go into the *Who's Who of Women in Australia*, presumably for our work on *Reflecting on Melbourne*.

COMPETITIONS

Our own **Poetica Christi Press Poetry Competition** is on again. Closing date: October 31st. Poems up to

50 lines on the theme *Horizons*. 1st prize \$300, 2nd prize \$100, top 25 poems to be published in an anthology. Entries \$5 each or 3 for \$12. (See attached entry form)

MPU IPC – Melbourne Poets Union poetry competition closes 29-10-10 for unpublished poems max 50 lines - \$7 per poem. \$13 for 2 and \$18 for 3. First Prize \$1000 Second \$300 and 3rd \$200 plus Martin Downey Urban Realist Award \$100 Judge Ron Pretty

Contact Leon for details 03 9386 6259 or go to <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~mpuinc> for guidelines and entry forms

Mascara Poetry Journal

Submissions to Mascara Literary Review are by e-mail submissions@mascarareview.com

We only consider previously unpublished work. Send 3-5 poems and a short bio in a single Microsoft Word doc as an attachment, labelled with your name.

Formatting must be in 12 point Times New Roman, 1.5 spaced. Write the word fiction, poetry, review or translation in the subject title of your e-mail.

Payment is applicable to Australian writers: Two or more poems: \$75

<http://www.mascarareview.com/submissions.html>

The 2010 Gwen Harwood Poetry Prize

The 2010 Gwen Harwood Poetry Prize, run each year by Island magazine, is calling for entries. Submit a single poem or suite of linked poems not longer than 80 lines. First Prize: \$2000 plus three minor prizes of \$300 each. Island will publish the winning poems at the minimum rate of \$100 per poem. Entry fees \$15. Entry forms downloadable from:

<http://www.islandmag.com> or send SSAE to Island, PO Box 210, Sandy Bay, Tas, 7006.

Cricket Poetry Award 2010

Closes 1 September 2010. This annual poetry award competition offers AU\$2000 to the winning poet with international exposure for the top twenty poems. The organisers invite poets from test playing nations to submit a poem celebrating aspects of life in and around the game and sport of cricket, in settings of backyard, beach, social-cricket or local club cricket. Full details here. info@publisherscup.org.au

http://www.fawnsnsw.org.au/News/Jean_Stone_entry_form.pdf

FAW NSW Jean Stone Award for Poetry

The \$500 Jean Stone Award is given on the even biennial year for a poem or group of poems up to 60 lines.

http://www.fawnsnsw.org.au/News/Jean_Stone_entry_form.pdf Closes 30 September 2010

Martha Richardson Memorial Poetry Prize

Martha Richardson Memorial Poetry Prize for a poem up to 40 lines. This competition, which was run for many years by Ballarat Writers, has been relaunched in 2010. \$1,000 prize. The judge is Judith Rodriguez. \$10 entry. Open to Australian and international writers. Closing date October 15. Enter by post or online. Guidelines and entry details

www.ballaratwriters.com Contact Bronwyn Blaiklock with queries at info@ballaratwriters.com

Toolangi Festival

The Third Toolangi Festival is now taking entries for its Written Poetry Competition.

Further details can be found here:

<http://www.toolangi.net/events.html#toolangi>

Famous Reporter

Famous Reporter publishes poetry and fiction, reviews, interviews, haiku and essays. Submissions should be addressed to The Editor, Famous Reporter, PO Box 368, North Hobart Tasmania 7002, Australia, along with an SSAE. Send 3-5 poems.

<http://walleahpress.com.au/guide.html>

Etchings

We accept submissions of all styles of literary fiction, poetry, personal & creative essays, photography, and art. All unsolicited submissions must be unpublished. Poetry submissions 3-6 poems. Contributors are paid AU\$75 and CCs. Email etchings@ilurapress.com ETCHINGS, ILURA PRESS PO Box 680, Elsternwick VIC 3185

<http://www.ilurapress.com/index.php?pid=2>

DIARY

Saturday, August 14th: Wordsmiths Meeting at 8 Woodhouse Rd, 2pm with Helen Collopy speaking about the poetry of George Herbert.

Thursday, August 26th 9.45 -3.15pm. Poetry Day at Wellspring with Barbara Rautman. Cost \$15/\$20. Contact WellSpring on 9885 0277 for bookings)

27 August – September 5th. Melbourne Writers Festival. See www.mwf.com.au for details.

Friday, September 3rd 6.30-8pm Reading at Box Hill Library with Bill Rush as Guest reader

September 3rd–4th. Ballarat Writers Festival. For details, go to www.ballaratwriters.com.

Saturday, September 11th 2-5pm Wordsmiths meeting at 8 Woodhouse Rd, East Doncaster

Saturday, October 9th 2-5pm, Wordsmiths meeting at 8 Woodhouse Rd, East Doncaster.

In an uncertain world we wish you the blessing of peace, Jean & Janette (with help from Fee Sievers for competitions and Len O'Brien for launch photos.)

Wordsmiths newsletter : 493 Elgar Rd, Mont Albert Nth, 3129. Phone: (03) 9890 5885 or email poeticachrist@netspace.net.au

If you haven't yet paid your 2010 membership dues, please do so, using the return slip.

POETS' CORNER



Her

Mark 5:33

A touch –
and the haemorrhage of blood
stopped

At his summons –
a patient courting
of her

the haemorrhage –
all word and truth
began... and

healed –
she clean left those men
speechless

© *Kathryn Hamann*

* Winning poem for the *New Beginnings*
anthology.

Triumph

soaring
straining every muscle
she leapt
reaching the precious sphere

the crowd erupted
wild cheers
marking her
triumph

then dutifully
she returned her prize
to the ball boy
on centre court

© *Carolyn Vimpani*

The weight of wee wings

The weight of years and when they fall
Crushes down with deepening force.
In youth we look for a sacred grail;
In age the search just turns to remorse.

The days, the days pass swiftly by,
As bridges burn and cut retreat;
What is left as the years pass by?
Only God in vain entreat.

Where does all this lead in the
 deepening dark?
Where lies hope, so faint a glimmer?
Where do we go when days are stark?
*Lord Jesus have mercy on me, a
 sinner...*

But

a cheerful life is what we need!
On juicy titbits let us feed!
Let us not bewail or sigh!
Let us tend our pigs that fly!
And as their wee wings do expand
They'll do just what we command.

Look, then look as we fly on the
 bright side,
Let us then murmur, 'Oh well, we
 tried!'

{When things just can't get any worse,
Why then just turn again to verse!}

© *Elaine Foster*

007

Running late
Long line of traffic moving slowly

Wishing for a lever
Propulsion, levitation, speed

A James Bond moment

Yes! Arriving on time

© *Marcia De Groot*