

# WORDSMITHS NEWSLETTER

13.2. May, 2013

Dear Wordsmiths and Friends,

Three months goes by so fast! I hope you have all been managing to do more writing than I. My husband, Piet has had some health problems and my writing time seemed to disappear. However I am now determined to make an effort to write each day again. For all of us the daily discipline of getting something down on paper is a valuable one, even if it is only scraps or what may seem like a meaningless stream of consciousness, it can still be stimulating our brains and our imaginations. Reading daily is also a must as our reading will always inform our writing. Currently I'm reading *Calico Ceilings* by Susan Kruss which is the story of Eureka told in poetry through the voices of many actual women. It is amazing how a few lines, deftly written can give us a vivid picture. I'm also reading *Stepping out with the Sacred* by Val Webb, an Australian theologian, and a novel (I always have to be reading a novel, as I love a good story) by Isabel Allende, *Ines of my Soul*. This is a fictional story based on research of the life of Ines Suarez. who took part in the conquest of Chile by the Spaniards.

**Our next meeting** will be held, as usual, at Carolyn Vimpani's home, at 8 Woodhouse Rd, East Doncaster, from 2-5pm on Saturday **11<sup>th</sup> of May**. Phone her on 9842 4489 or me, Jean on 9890 5885 for any queries or apologies. In June, we meet on June 8<sup>th</sup> (long weekend) and the next month, July 13<sup>th</sup>.

## ROSTER

Date	Leader	Afternoon tea duty
May 11th	Leigh	Joan, Cecily, Maree S
June 8th	Maree S	Kathryn, Cynthia, Greg
July 13th	Jean	Cameron, Cath, Mary

## POETICA CHRISTI PRESS NEWS

We had a happy and successful launch of *Taking Flight* on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> of March at the Lutheran Church in Box Hill. Wendy Fleming, President of Melbourne Poet's Union, launched the book very enthusiastically and a number of poets read their work.



The evening was enhanced by the musical items provided by two flautists, Magda Teeuwen and her niece Rachel Arnold. This is actually the 30<sup>th</sup> book to be published since Poetica Christi Started in 1990.



'Taking Flight' designer Cameron Semmens with editor Janette Fernando

## PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Our meetings in February, March and April were well attended. It is also encouraging that we keep attracting new members. We just hope that they will feel welcome to stay with us. We would like to remind members that we follow a 'Code of Conduct' at our meetings and a copy may be obtained from Maree Silver if anyone needs to re-acquaint themselves with it.

**Our February meeting** was led by Janette Fernando, who read poems from 'Studio' - *The Veteran Swimmers* by G R Lilburne, *Rag Ends* by Rory Harris, *The Day Unleashed* by Ros Schulz and *No fuss* by Jan Price. We welcomed David Dwyer as a new member.

**In March** Joan Ray led us and asked Janette to share in reading the *Echo - Heaven* by George Herbert. A goodly number of Wordsmiths gathered and enjoyed the workshop.

**Our April meeting** was very ably led by Peter White who read *Triantiwontigongolope* by C J Dennis and then performed by heart, Spike Milligan's *Ning Nang Nong*. Peter managed to hear the work of all sixteen who were present.

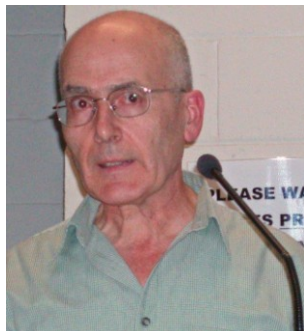
## POETRY READINGS AT THE BOX HILL LIBRARY



On March 1<sup>st</sup> we had the first of our series of Readings at the Library. Our guest reader was Lorraine Mc Guigan who gave us a very rich and varied

reading and several Wordsmiths also read.

On Friday May 3<sup>rd</sup> we held a poetry reading 6.30-8.00pm, with Charles D'Anastasi as our guest reader. It was a small gathering thanks to a cold night, but the poetry read was very interesting.



Our next reading at Box Hill Library is on **July 19<sup>th</sup>**, and will feature **Janette Fernando**, editor of *Taking Flight*. There will also be poems from this anthology read by their authors.

## MEMBER NEWS

### Vale Marcia De Groot

We were saddened to read in *The Age* of the death of Marcia, who has been faithfully attending our Wordsmiths group for the last few years. She was a gentle, caring person who was always a 'cheerful giver'. We extend our sympathy to her family. Her funeral is to be on Tuesday morning – see tomorrow's paper for details.

Congratulations to **Marguerite Varday**, who won 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes in the Fellowship of Australian Writers Rhyme competition in *The Australian Writer*, magazine of the FAW (Vic), Issue #378. See Poets Corner.

Our Managing Editor, **Janette Fernando** has managed to become a grandmother! Rob and Jemma Lichtendonk are the proud parents of a baby boy, Noah Harry. We send our congratulations to parents and grandparents!

**Kathryn Hamann** is giving birth to yet another book!! It just happened to her over Easter ('one of those impossibilities God I think is rather fond of') and is called *Where Shadows Go*. Look for it at [www.shardlight.com](http://www.shardlight.com).

**Cecily Falkingham** told us that the Nunawading U.3.A is running at its centre in Nunawading a poetry class. It is run by a well-respected man called Colin Brown, a retired University Lecturer. 'We choose a poem from a class set we have been loaned and read it at the next session. We are required to research the author and give a very short talk before reading the poem. We all learn a lot from each other, and even rather "hard" poems are explained, as some of the group are retired teachers and the discussion is inspiring.

## POETRY EVENTS

On **May 10<sup>th</sup>**, there will be a poetry event 'The book of common poems', with Irish poet



**Pádraig Ó Tuama** at St Mary's Anglican church, North Melbourne. The evening will explore prayer through the lens of poetry, reflection on the power of words, meditative silence and sharing. Cost \$22. Phone 0408 511397 for details.

On **Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>**, from 6.15 - 7.15 pm, join **Les Murray** at the Wheeler Centre (176 Little Lonsdale St, Melbourne) to hear from his Selected Poems. Entry is free.

## COMPETITIONS

**The Society of Women Writers**, Victoria Inc. Biennial Literary Award for Women Closing date: 4 July 2013. Categories: 1. Poetry - max. 50 lines. 2. Short Story - max. 2500 words. 3. Article - max. 2000 words. Fees: \$5 per entry, 3 for \$12. 1<sup>st</sup> prize \$200, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize \$100, highly commended. Download entry forms at <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~swwvic>.

**Newcastle Poetry Prize**, closes June 7<sup>th</sup>. Poems to 200 lines. 1<sup>st</sup> prize \$12,000, 2<sup>nd</sup>: \$5,000, 3<sup>rd</sup>: \$1,000. For an entry form, go to [www.newcastlepoetryprize.com](http://www.newcastlepoetryprize.com)

### **Queensland Val Vallis Award for Unpublished Poetry:**

Named in honour of a distinguished Queensland poet, the Arts Queensland Val Vallis Award for Unpublished Poetry is committed to encouraging poets throughout Australia. Entrants may submit multiple entries with up to three poems per entry; each entry must be accompanied by a separate Entry Form and a separate Entry Fee. Entries close by 5pm Tuesday 9 July 2013.

**Thomas Shapcott Poetry Prize:** Named in honour of a distinguished Queensland Poet, the Arts Queensland Thomas Shapcott Poetry Prize is committed to encouraging Queensland poets. Now in its 9th year, this prestigious prize for an unpublished poetry manuscript comes with a total prize money of \$3,000 together with a publishing contract with University of Queensland Press. Entries close by 5pm Thursday 11 July 2013.

**ACU Prize for Literature:** In 2013 the Prize will be awarded to the entrant whose poem best conveys the theme of *everyday immanence*. The prize is made

possible by Australian Catholic University (ACU), with a total prize pool of \$10000. For further details, email them at: [aculiterature@acu.edu.au](mailto:aculiterature@acu.edu.au)

**Ipswich International Poetry Competition:** Sponsored by the City of Ipswich in Queensland, this poetry competition is open to global entries of poetry across many categories, including bush poetry and poems of the theme of Ipswich. Total prize value for the competition is \$7800. Entries close 26th July. Visit their website for further details.

**Cancer Council Victoria's 16<sup>th</sup> annual Arts Awards.** The awards provide Australians touched by cancer with an opportunity to share their experience creatively through art, writing and film. The awards are open to artists of all skill levels in nine categories: Visual Art, **Poetry**, Short Story, Film, Indigenous Visual Art, Children's Art, Children's Writing, Youth Writing and Youth Art. The theme for 2013 is '**Balance**' and entries will be judged by a panel of well respected, high-profile experts including writer and storyteller Arnold Zable and children's author, Tony Wilson. **Entries close on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2013.** For further information or to enter, please visit [www.artsawards.com.au](http://www.artsawards.com.au) or call 1300 656585.

**Eastwood Hills Fellowship of Aust. writers competition:** Closes May 31<sup>st</sup>. All forms of poetry except bush verse. 1<sup>st</sup> prize \$150, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize \$50. email [hillsfaw@live.com.au](mailto:hillsfaw@live.com.au)

**Cordite Issue 43: MASQUE** is now open for submissions, with poetry guest editor Ann Vickery. *"This issue will be the Masque. An invitation is extended to displays of Devices and Mythic Mayhem, Stage Effects and Staged Affect."* Submissions close **14 June 2013**. Visit the website for more details.

## DIARY OF EVENTS

**Saturday, May 11th: 2-5pm:** Wordsmiths Meeting at 8 Woodhouse Rd, Doncaster East.

**Saturday, June 8th: 2-5pm:** Wordsmiths meeting at 8 Woodhouse Rd, East Doncaster.

**Saturday, July 13th: 2-5pm:** Wordsmiths meeting at 8 Woodhouse Rd, East Doncaster.

**Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 6.30-7.30 pm:** Poetry reading at Box Hill Library, Meeting room 1, with Janette Fernando as guest reader, and featuring poems from *Taking Flight*.

## POETS' CORNER



### Points of view

Flitting across the television screen,  
Flipping over the pages of a magazine  
I wonder why you like the latest show,  
You wonder why I follow so-and-so.

As a well-known poet of long ago once wrote,  
[and I wish I could find the source of this  
famous quote]  
'Beauty is in the eye of the beholder' –  
so, class is in the mind of the class moulder.

Ditto for the elite and the social climber,  
All inspiration for the satirical rhymer.

© *Marguerite Varday*  
(winning poem in the FAW Rhyme  
competition)

### Enemy

Enemy I hate you!  
Rules and no mercy,  
non negotiating,  
rigid and hard,  
unforgiving and heartless!  
I hate you!

I press you, and you whirr into  
response.

I allow you into my privacy,  
and you take your time to pop into life.  
Then you send your impersonal messages.  
I have done something wrong, and you will  
not cooperate with me.

I search my mind; I have done nothing  
to upset you.

But you, you bar my progress, and if I  
make contact and am merrily working  
away,

Go black, then dare to start up again,  
laughing through that insane medley of  
notes which you call music!

You can be nice.  
Why aren't you always so?  
Until you change your ways,

(or maybe I change mine?)  
I will hate you!  
Enemy!

© *Mary O'Shannessy*

### march of the millipedes

marching indeed  
suddenly sighted in passageways  
moving at great speed

Watch where you walk!

February arrival in other years  
late evening,

early morn  
charging across the carpet

or sadly,  
drying our  
slowing down, stuck on walls  
or husk-like in remote corners

this year's appearance  
month of March  
on the march

human response  
retrieval for their own good,  
carefully captured on squares of paper

millipede response  
quick wiggles  
or coiled, two dimensional circles  
'playing possum'

returned by rescuer  
to former territory  
with instruction

Continue marching  
but OUTSIDE Please!

© *Marcia de Groot*