

WORDSMITHS NEWSLETTER

13.4 November, 2013

Dear Wordsmiths and Friends,

Spring is sprung but I wonder where the birdies *is*. We have lost one tree thanks to storm winds and taken out another because it had a pronounced lean over the bungalow which wouldn't matter very much, except that it houses furniture and clothes belonging to both of our daughters. Though it is good to be able to welcome the sun into our lives I am not looking forward to the summer heat!

To balance this, our newest anthology *Exploring the Depths* has a lovely watery image on the cover which should make us feel cooler. (See PCP News.) I am currently re-reading a fascinating book by William Horwood. Some of you may have read *Duncton Wood* or *The Stonor Eagles*. This one, *Skallagrig* was written because Horwood has a daughter with Cerebral Palsy. He goes back and shows us how hard it was in earlier generations for sufferers of this to have any meaningful sort of life, and then goes on to show what could be accomplished by them, with computers. It is a novel whose characters elicit our interest and love. I've also been reading R.S.Thomas's *Experimenting with an Amen*, some of which is still beyond me. But I really loved Kathryn Hamann's latest book, *Where Shadows Go*. (see my write-up in our Member News.)

OUR NEXT MEETING will be held at the home of Carolyn Vimpani on November 9th from 2--5pm. and please note that our **December** meeting will be held on the **first Saturday, Dec.7th**. For this last meeting of the year we will **start at 12 pm** and everyone is asked to bring a plate to share for lunch.

Date	Leader	Afternoon tea duty
Nov. 9th	Cecily	Janette, Joan, Peter
Dec.7th	Cath	All bring a plate -lunch

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

In August we had a workshop led by **Sherryl Clark**, who brought along her newest verse novel and talked about it. Runaway is the story of two youngsters who take off from their grandparents' home – a gripping tale in verse.

In September I, Jean, led the meeting. I started off by sharing several poems by Vera Urban, whose book *Scenario* was the first work of an individual which I published. Though a visual artist, Vera had a deep understanding of poetry and a lyrical way of writing.

In October **Don Helmore** led us very effectively. He started off by reading poems from *Quadrant* magazine, giving us a very interesting selection, and then managed to let each of us there have our poems work-shopped. We welcomed some new faces at our meetings - Vicki Moreira, Sandra Topp, Courtney Nandan, Shaun Scallan, Marion Lemin and Sunni Sun.

READINGS AT BOX HILL LIBRARY

Ably compered by Maree Silver, the reading on **September 6th** featured **Carolyn Vimpani and Joan Ray**, with readings from the forthcoming book about Dementia. These readings provided the starter for a very happy social occasion afterwards.

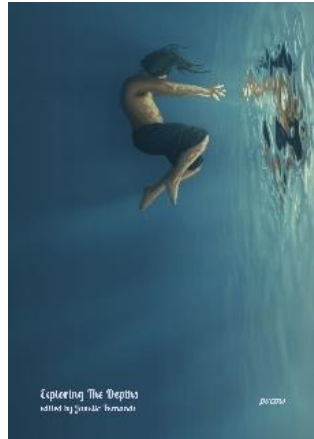


Leigh Hay and **Cameron Semmens** will be reading from their new books at the next library reading on November 15th.

POETICA CHRISTI PRESS NEWS

Our latest book, *Exploring the Depths*, will be launched on November 16th at the Lutheran Church in Box Hill by Lyn Hatherley. As usual Janette should be congratulated for bringing what at first seemed a rather dark collection of poetry together into an encouraging anthology.

We are also very grateful for Cameron Semmens skills in layout and design. We were surprised and delighted to hear that our previous anthology, *Taking Flight*, published in March this year, was a joint winner (with Andrew Lansdown) in the Poetry section of the CALEB awards for this year.



The next six months will be busy as we have several books in the pipeline. We plan to publish *Memory Weaving*, the book on Dementia, edited by **Carolyn Vimpani**, with the launch date set for March 2nd. We also hope to publish a collection of poetry by **Cathy Altmann** – *Circumnavigation*, a poetic response to her experiences with breast cancer, and then a book of **Marlene Marburg's** poems that came from her doctoral thesis. In June we aim to launch the anthology from our recent Poetry Competition – *A Lightness of Being*.

MEMBER NEWS



Congratulations to **Kathryn Hamann** on her latest book *Where Shadows go*. Beautifully presented with photos and sketches it is the sort of poetry book it is hard to put down. Like Professor Peter

Howard, who launched it, I read it in one sitting. Kathryn has also produced a CD with herself reading some of the poems. When it was presented at the launch at Yarra Theological College there was a silence when it ended and I was crying. You can get a copy of the book by going to www.shardlight.com.

I had the pleasure of attending a service at Holy Trinity East Melbourne which was part of the Arts Festival there. Kathryn read a poem a thankful meditation on natural things which is

at the end of one of her books. In spite of the fact that she felt she had no voice and that the microphone was not working, I have never heard her read so beautifully. The whole service was a joy as was the opportunity to meet people afterwards and renew my friendship with Bishop Ian George, whom I'd first met years ago at an arts conference in Sydney.

Joy Chellew seems to be recovering quite well from her back operation and is working on her collection of poems *In Search of Peace*.

Maree Silver and Jean Sietzema-Dickson went to the launch of **Cameron Semmens'** latest book, *The Poetry of Home*, held at his home in the hills. If you'd like a copy, go to his website www.webcameron.com



Pray for **Janette Fernando** who fell and broke a bone in her left hand. (This means she can still type one handed, for which we are very thankful!)

Joan Ray has a book of her poems on Pet Therapy coming out soon.

Congratulations to **David Dwyer**, who has just published a book of his poems called *Spillway for the Damned*.

Welcome home to **Peter White** who has enjoyed exploring Europe in the past couple of months.

Philton has been involved in setting up the Rhonda Jankovic Society, of which he is Secretary. Through his publishing 'house', Pulse Publications, he published a posthumous collection of her poetry in March this year - titled *Your Heartbeat in Mine*. Rhonda was well known for her work on 3CR's poetry

programme *Spoken Word* and she had a heart for Social Justice. For more information about the book, you can email Philton at philton2@westnet.com.au. There is also a poetry competition in honour of Rhonda (see details below.)

OPPORTUNITIES & COMPETITIONS

We have had a request from Sharlee for poetry submissions to *Zadok* magazine. *Zadok* is distributed in Christian organisations, bible colleges and theological libraries around Australia. If interested, you can email zadokperspectives@gmail.com.

Rhonda Jankovic poetry award Named in honour of the late Rhonda Jankovic. 1st Prize \$400 plus Trophy: Radio 3CR Vintage Soundbite Cartridge, 2nd \$150, 3rd \$50. Theme: Social Justice. Poems to 50 lines, no limit to number of entries, entry fee A\$5 per poem. Entries close 25 November. For enquiries, Entry Conditions & Entry Form: Philton: philton2@westnet.com.au

The Overland Judith Wright Poetry Prize for New and Emerging Poets

Major prize: \$6000, 2nd prize: \$2000 3rd prize: \$1000. The judge for the 2013 competition is *Overland* poetry editor, Peter Minter. Competition closes midnight, **Saturday 16 November 2013**. Winners will be announced in *Overland* 214, autumn 2014. www.overland.org.au/prizes/poetry-prize-guidelines

WB Yeats Poetry Prize

Open style, 50 line maximum.

Entry fees: \$8.50 for first entry, \$5 each additional entry. Prizes: 1st \$500; runner-up \$75. Also commendation certificates.

Guidelines and entry forms available from website: <http://www.wbyeatspoetryprize.com>

IT Itch Prize for Web Poetry

IT Itch invites entries for its inaugural prize in web poetry. No entry fee. Prize NZ\$300. One entry per person. Guidelines and entry forms available from <https://ititch.com/poetry-contest/>. Deadline **1 December 2013**

2014 Blackened Billy Verse Competition

The traditional bush verse of poets such as Paterson and Lawson has moved into the modern era and bush poetry now reflects life in all parts of Australia, not just the outback. Suburban trials and tribulations are just as relevant as the daily problems of living in the bush. What makes it bush poetry is the style in

which it is written. Bush poetry must have the rhyme and rhythm of traditional bush verse. For details and to obtain entry forms email janmorris33@bigpond.com or send SSAE to PO Box 3001, West Tamworth, 2340. **Poetry Matters** – established 2006 – accepting submissions. Send 3-5 unpublished poems. Responses – within two weeks. Payment is one copy of issue in which work appears. For complimentary copy of current or previous issue send stamped (\$1-20) self-addressed C5 envelope to Cheryl Howard, 61 Palmer Crescent, Newham Vic 3442. Winners of 2013 Competition were Yvonne Adami, Vivien de Jong and Edith Speers. Enquiries: cherylhoward@tpg.com.au <http://www.poetrymattersjournal.blogspot.com>

Prospect #4 Guest Editor Lyn Reeves. Submission window 1st January 2014 to 31 March 2014. Maximum of 5 poems which have not been in print or electronic media and are not on offer elsewhere. Subscriptions: \$20 for 2 issues posted in Australia. Cash or cheque made out to Peter Macrow and sent to him at 6/16 Osborne Street, Sandy Bay, TAS

Short and Twisted, an anthology of short stories and poetry with a twist at the end, is seeking submissions of short stories (1500 words, 500 words and 100 words), poetry and images for the 2014 issue. Submissions accepted between **1 October and 31 December 2013**. For **submission guidelines** see website www.celapenepress.com.au, or else email shortandtwisted@celapenepress.com.au or send SSAE to 2 Bonview Court, Knoxfield, VIC, 3180.

DIARY OF EVENTS

Saturday, November 9th: 2-5pm: Wordsmiths meeting led by Cecily Falkingham, 8 Woodhouse Rd, Doncaster East.

Friday, November 15th, 6.30-7.30 pm: Poetry reading at Box Hill Library, Meeting room 1, with Leigh Hay and Cameron Semmens as guest readers, and featuring poems from their new books of poetry.

Saturday, November 16th, 7.30 pm: Launch of *Exploring the Depths*, by Lyn Hatherly at Box Hill Lutheran hall.

Saturday, December 7th (NB: Not the 14th): 12-5pm: Wordsmiths meeting at 8 Woodhouse Rd, East Doncaster. Remember to bring a plate of lunch to share at 12 pm.

POETS' CORNER



THERE IS NO RHYME FOR ORANGE

- A Flawed Sonnet

There are ten syllables to every line
And every alternate ends in a rhyme
Only fourteen lines is what is required
To call it a Sonnet, a poem inspired.
Fourteen strict lines all measured iambic
Makes it sound esoteric, romantic.
With a Thesaurus it is not too hard
And you'll be compared to William the Bard.
Don't punctuate or risk being accused
Of writing prose if the critics so choose
It doesn't have to make any great sense
As long as it rhymes then that's your defence
For then it's a poem there's no argument
Just don't end a line with the word Orange.

© David Dwyer

SO TARDY DEATH

one could well
become so sick
of all this waiting

that one might
get up and
leave

© Kathryn Hamann
(from *Where Shadows Go*)

STING LIKE A BEAM

The full moon punches through the window
like Mohammed Ali in the 70s
all brilliance and attitude
boxing the shadows back
with sharp jabs.
The beauty overwhelms,
I slump into bed,
stars spinning above.
It's a knock out.

© Cameron Semmens
(from *The Poetry of Home*)

WHAT IS POETRY

What is poetry? The breath of life.
It breathes when all about is still.
It speaks above the noise of strife.
It lives in the heart when all is still.

Those who hear it are doubly blessed;
Those who speak it hold keys to life.
Its form is everywhere despite unrest;
To you it brings the sound of peace.

Poetry is everything
Which your love can engage;
It lifts your soul, so it can sing.
Indeed; the rest is language!

© Elaine Foster

HELP

Voices scream
hurling abuse
Helicopters fly
under Satan's wing

Policemen wobble
shaking their guns
pointing at her
or so she imagines

Teenagers cackle
becoming cross-eyed
children run
everyone runs

Music taunts
televisions blare
speaking to her

She's hiding
curled into a ball
longing for love
freedom
that's all

© Cynthia Hill

Newsletter prepared by Jean Sietzema-
Dickson and Janette Fernando. Please email
any news items to poetica@iprimus.com.au