

# WORDSMITHS NEWSLETTER

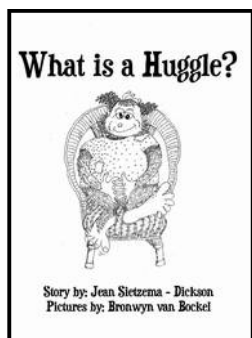
## 8.3 August, 2008

Dear Wordsmiths and Friends,

What a busy time we have had since the last Newsletter! In May we had no meeting in Elgar Rd as we had been invited to support Kathryn and Cameron who were featured readers for the Fellowship of Australian Writers at Federation Square. Kathryn and Cameron did a great job, and we also had ten other Wordsmiths reading for a few minutes each – Marlene Marburg, Maree Silver, Joan Ray, Rebecca Maxwell, Janette Fernando, Graeme Turner, Cath Barnard, myself, and two members who live too far away to attend our meetings – Phil Ilton and Margaret Campbell. Thanks too to the other Wordsmiths who came along to listen. In June we had 19 present and five apologies and in July 17 present and five apologies. In both cases we managed to workshop poems that people had brought but we have decided that if we are more than 18 we split into two groups because we want to do justice to the work brought.

**Don't miss our August 10<sup>th</sup> meeting** this Saturday when **Kathryn Hamann** will do a **Poetry workshop** for us in which she will lead us to look at metaphor. She says it will be fun! This means we will not have time to do a lot of other workshopping, but please try to come at 1.45pm. for a 2pm. start and bring paper and pen.

### LAUNCH OF *THE HUGGLE*



Our **September 13<sup>th</sup>** meeting will also be a different one, as part of the time will be taken up with the launch of my children's book *The Huggle!* It has been beautifully illustrated by my daughter, Bronwyn Van Bockel and we plan to have it launched in nearby *Chapel on Station*, a gallery which has been steadily selling our work for the last few years. We'll have a normal meeting **beginning at 1.30pm. this time** and then move to the gallery for afternoon tea and the launch. An invitation to the launch is attached. **On October 11th**, we'll be back to a normal meeting, from **1.45-5pm.** at my place.

Please also let us know (via the response slip) if you're planning to come to our **Poetry Weekend, from November 9-11<sup>th</sup>**. We plan to have it in Millgrove again, so that those who can only attend part-time, won't have far to travel. We plan to have a Quiet Day and a Poetry Workshop on the weekend. More details will follow in the next newsletter.

### Roster for Afternoon Tea

August - Sue, Ros & Marguerite  
September - Keith, Maree N & Joy  
October - Marlene, Carolyn & Paige  
November - Poetry Weekend  
December - Maree S, Kathryn & Sondy

### Lost Property

I still have one white knitted cotton jumper and four plates belonging to other people. Please collect them or let me know if you have lost an item, otherwise after this meeting I will give them to the op shop.

### READINGS

As a result of our reading in Federation Square we were invited down to help in the first **Torquay Poetry Festival**. Kathryn Hamann and I were very thankful that Maree Silver offered to provide transport for us. Maree and I stayed at Janette's aunt's place at Ocean Grove. This involved quite a bit of travelling to and fro but was very comfortable. On Saturday June 21<sup>st</sup> the Wordsmiths followed a writer Paul Morgan (who wrote a novel "Seeds of Misrule") and who read from it at St Therese Primary School from 11am-12 noon. Then we were on again on Sunday after a reading by Diane Fahey and Gillian Turner - a visual artist who also writes poetry. In neither time slot did we have a big audience; in fact on Sunday there were only committee members left to hear us and in both cases we were short changed for time but it was on the whole a pleasant experience and hopefully next time they may give us a better slot to read.

In May Ros Aldersea and I did a presentation at St Timothy's Bulleen. It was very well received and as a result we have been assured that we will be called on again. We also sold a few books.

On July 25<sup>th</sup> Cath Barnard, Bridh Hancock & I represented the Wordsmiths and read some work at a meeting of The Melbourne Poets Union compered by John Galbraith. Joan Kerr (who will have a poem in *Melbourne Reflections*) was there as one of the special guest readers. The other guest reader was Lyn Reeves from Tasmania. It was a very pleasant evening.

## MELBOURNE REFLECTIONS

Janette and Leigh and I have been extremely busy working on an application for the "Writing for Melbourne" grant from the Melbourne City Council, which we submitted in June. Our printer Paul Coyle, from Classic Press has been a great help in preparing budget spreadsheets and some colour spreads to include as support material. This week, we hope to apply for an Arts Victoria grant for Presentation. Please pray for us as we work on it.

We are still in the process of selecting the best poems and artwork for the book. Maree, Kathryn, Marlene, Lucy and Janette have been helping me in this and we will soon be working on the order the poems to see how the art work fits with them. I keep reading the paper and seeing new developments I want to include, but we shall see what is possible.

In the meantime I have been in touch with RMIT Marketing department. Emma has 250 students about half of whom may be able to work on preparing a marketing plan for us and designing a cover and finding sponsors. This week I have been in and talked with the students and been given an enthusiastic response.

## NEWS OF MEMBERS

I am sorry to report that **Jean Jeffery** died on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July. Some of you may remember that she published her first book of poems for her 80th birthday, her 2<sup>nd</sup> for her 85th and another for her 90<sup>th</sup> – all illustrated with her artwork and calligraphy. I was able to attend a thanksgiving service for her at Kew Baptist Church. As you would expect, the building was packed and tributes flowed in from her family, including grandchildren. I was one of two working colleagues who was also able to say a few words. I wrote this about Jean: Jean Jeffery was a beloved member of The Wordsmiths of Melbourne Poetry Group.

Always encouraging, she brought the love of Christ to every meeting and to each person in the group through her hand crafted cards. She generously let us sell her books for our profit. We have missed her and will continue to miss her cheerful energising presence.

In June, **Janette** launched Karen Phillips' poetry book "Past the Barrier" (Gininderra Press) and a few weeks before the wedding of her youngest daughter Jemma to Rob Lichtendonk, went haring off to Brisbane for the Christian Reformed Women's Convention where she gave a poetry workshop and sold \$250 worth of books and cards!

Please pray for **Marie-Louise Stephens**, who has lung cancer and is currently in the Lilydale Nursing Home.

If any are able to visit her or send her a card, I'm sure she'd appreciate it. Please also pray for **Janny Brouwer** who has been in hospital and **Mary Macdonald**, who finds she can hardly read any more. Congratulations to **Marlene Marburg**, who won third place in the Kathryn Purnell Poetry Award.

We all rejoice with **Cameron Semmens**, who has just become engaged to Sonya Burggraaf! Our best wishes to you both. He also has another new children's book in the pipe-line - *Water, Wine and a Wonderful Wedding - Jesus changes water into wine in W!* He will be doing a set of gigs on the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of September at The Open Stage at Melbourne Uni.

The night will be called *Cute Girls Love To Crochet*, and he'll perform with double bass and piano while also launching a CD of the same name.

During Book Week at Mountain Districts Christian School, Bronwyn and I will give a presentation about the birth of *The Huggle*.

Pray also for our funding applications from the Melbourne City Council and Arts Victoria and for us to come up with ideas of people who would provide corporate sponsorship. I recently met someone who may be able to help with the cost of paper. It is amazing what happens when you talk to people!

## NATIONAL POETRY WEEK READING

For the last two years, the Wordsmiths have hosted a Poetry Reading for national Poetry Week (August 29<sup>th</sup> - Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>) This year we hope to hold it at the Box Hill Library, 6.30-8pm. on Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup> with special guest reader Cameron Semmens. If you'd like to participate in the Open reading, please indicate on the response slip.

## EVENTS OF INTEREST TO POETS

### The Poetic Voice

*with Peter Bakowski, Kevin Brophy & Dorothy Porter*

**Panel:** Meet three well-known poets and writers, each distinct in their own voice, as they discuss their careers and challenges. Peter Bakowski has been writer-in-residence in Rome, Paris, Western Australia, Tasmania, Broken Hill (NSW) and, recently, in China as part of the 2007 Asialink Residency program. Kevin Brophy writes fiction, poetry and essays, and is Associate Professor lecturing in Creative Writing at The University of Melbourne. Dorothy Porter has published 13 books, including five verse novels. Her most recent verse novel is the crime thriller, *El Dorado* (Picador, 2007). Her work has been adapted for stage, radio and

film. Bookings: 9654 9068 or email [info@writers-centre.org](mailto:info@writers-centre.org)

**When: Thursday 7 August, 6.30-8pm, Victorian Writers Centre, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Nicholas Building, 37 Swanston St. Cost: \$20, Members \$15/\$12**

**Melbourne Writers Festival : Thursday, August 28<sup>th</sup>**

**5.30-6.30pm: Poetry Now** – Chris Wallace-Crabbe, Justin Clemens, Alison Crogan and Robert Gray will name and check the movers and the stayers in Australian Poetry. **Friday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, 7-8pm: Eco-Poetry.** With climate change and environmental degradation has the symbolism changed for poets? With Robert Gray, Susan Hawthorne & John Jenkins. Chair: Kevin Brophy.

**Saturday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2.30-3.30pm: Songs from the South.** Fresh, biting and Southerly. Enjoy the best new poetry from Victoria and Tasmania. With Kathryn Lomer, Lisa Gorton, Pi O & Ouyang Yu.

All these events at ACMI Cinema 1, Level 2, Federation Square.

**Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2.30-3.30pm at St.Paul's Cathedral.: As innocent Russia writhed – the poetry of Anna Akhmatova.**

**4.00-5.00pm at Festival Club, ACMI : Can Poetry save the World?** A debate on what effect poetry has on the world. With Tracie Morris, Michael Farrell, Ian Syson & Tom Clark. Free event.

**7.15-8.45pm, ACMI Cinema 2: Poetry Idol Final :** Featuring Tracie Morris. Compered by Michael Crane. For bookings, phone :1300 7222, email admin@mwf.com.au. Website : [www.mwf.com.au](http://www.mwf.com.au)

### **Poetry on the radio**

Every Monday, 10.30-11am: *Words and Music* –live poetry readings on 98.1FM

Fridays, 12.30-1pm. Andrew Thompson on 3WBC 94.1 FM – short stories, poems, music.

Saturdays, 3pm. ABC Radio National. *Poetica*

### **COMPETITIONS**

#### **PCP annual poetry competition**

It's the time of the year again when we hold our annual poetry competition. This year the theme is **NEW BEGINNINGS**. See the Entry form with this newsletter and get your entries in before October 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Blue Giraffe 8 - Closing 29<sup>th</sup> August 2008**

Up to 5 poems not previously in print journals or ezines and not under consideration elsewhere. email [petermacrow@hotmail.com](mailto:petermacrow@hotmail.com) or hard copy & floppy if possible, SSAE, to 6/16 Osborne Street, Sandy Bay TAS, 7005

**FAW Jean Stone Poetry Awards 2008 - Closing 30<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2008**

\$10 per entry. Prize: \$500 for a poem or a related group of poems under a single covering title (max of 60 lines) More info or send entries to: Convenor FAW Walter Stone Award, 69 Tambourine Bay Rd, Lane Cove NSW, 2066

#### **David Harold Tribe Poetry Award - Closing 12th September 2008**

An award of \$11,000 for an unpublished poem max 100 lines. Free entry but only one entry per person. To: The David Harold Tribe Poetry Award, Department of English, John Woolley Building (A20), University of Sydney, Sydney NSW 2006. Check

<http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/departs/english/prizes/prizes.shtml> for info.

#### **Melbourne Poets Union International Poetry Competition 2008 - Closing 31st Oct 2008**

This year's judge is David McCoey. Unpublished poems max 50 lines. See insert in this issue of poam. Or go to

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~mpuinc/MPU/Home.html>

Also U/18 haiku and poetry competition.

#### **Overland Judith Wright Poetry Prize – Closing 7<sup>th</sup> Nov 2008-08-05**

Submissions open to all poets who have not yet got a collection of commercially published works in bookform. Max 3 unpublished poems can be submitted per entrant. [www.overlandexpress.org](http://www.overlandexpress.org)

### **DIARY OF EVENTS**

**Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup>** : Wordsmiths meeting 1.45pm-5pm. at 493 Elgar Rd, Mont Albert Nth.

**Wednesday, August 13<sup>th</sup>** : Reading at 157 Union Rd, Surrey Hills with Isobel Robin as special guest. 2-4pm. (\$5 entry)

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup>** : Melbourne Writers Festival. (see details under Events)

**Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 6.30-8pm.** National Poetry Week Reading, with special guest reader Cameron Semmens. Box Hill Library, Whitehorse Rd, Box Hill.

**Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>** : Reading at 157 Union Rd, Surrey Hills, with Earl Livings as special guest. (\$5 entry)

**Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>** : Wordsmiths meeting, 1.30-3.30pm. at 493 Elgar Rd, Mont Albert Nth followed by afternoon tea and the launch of *The Huggle* at Chapel on Station Gallery, Cnr. Station & Chapel Sts, Box Hill. 4pm.

**Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>** : Reading at Surrey Hills with Phil Ilton as special guest. (\$5 entry)

**Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>** : Wordsmiths meeting, 1.45-5pm. at 493 Elgar Rd, Mont Albert Nth.

**Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> : Poetry Weekend at Millgrove.**

POETS' CORNER



**Riding the myth**

He sits back  
the arc of a crescent moon  
outlook free  
observation imprisoned floor to waist  
waist to floor  
a child delight oozing  
his dribbling mouth  
leaves a wet kiss that I won't dry

He shows I decipher the story  
Syllables ride each other  
messed into one  
long tandem  
*See silver cup hundred-miler*  
*1937 pourin' dodgin'*  
*bikes bodies everywhere*

He was a father who fashioned shackles  
for a pay-packet from the factory who gave him work  
because all the blokes were at the war

We know what we believe  
he and I  
nothing to do with words or  
memory chains or shackles  
It's the feeling the race  
the dignity of fragility  
legs trembling

falling  
in slow motion

© Marlene Marburg

(3<sup>rd</sup> prize, Kathryn Purnell Award)

**For Jean Jeffery**

Just as Jesus  
Enthusiastic  
Astute  
Ninety year wonder

Jocund  
Energetic  
Friendly  
Focussed  
Encouraging  
Regal  
Youthful

jmsd.10.7.08

**SINGING JOY**

The singing joy of bright blue daybreak sky, □  
The whole-life glow of deeply rolling hills –  
These brilliant glories, sparking, swiftly fly □  
To depths of beauty, giving pause to aching heart...

I've lived a long long time of fear and hopes □  
And loss, beauty, cheer and so-deep longing –  
The glory of sky and hills and so green slopes:  
These paint for me a vision set apart...

Bravely, they lift that life of hope and fear, □  
To grasp God, in beauty and in truth –  
And, so I serve, in His love and cheer,  
Grasping the nettles of loneliness and broken heart...

Reaching out for love which lives alone  
In children's laughter and in quiet times  
With lovely friends. I see in these alone  
My gift of days, the joy of a full heart!

*Elaine Foster*, October 2002  
(Recovered from Gina, after my 2004 fire...)

**If your membership fees (\$25) are due, please send them in now. Cheques to Poetica Christi Press, 42 Hawkins Rd, Montrose, 3765**

*Newsletter prepared by Jean Sietzema, Janette Fernando and Fee Sievers*

**RESPONSE SLIP – send to 42 Hawkins Rd, Montrose, 3765**

I have enclosed my yearly membership dues (\$25) as a Wordsmith/Friend of *PCP*.

I cannot afford \$25 but enclose a donation.

I am happy to have the newsletter emailed to me (my email address is below)

I am interested in coming to the Poetry Weekend (Nov.7-9th)

I am willing to come to the Poetry Week Reading on September 5<sup>th</sup> and read some poems.

I would like to support Poetica Christi Press by buying books (as follows)

**ORDER FORM : Please send me the following book(s):**

- |  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Source of Life*(\$10)         | <input type="checkbox"/> On our Reflection*(\$10) | <input type="checkbox"/> Trapeze Artist (\$7.50)                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Earth Works (\$17.50)        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Songs of my World (\$8)       | <input type="checkbox"/> Sing to the King (\$15)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Dance*(\$10)                        | <input type="checkbox"/> An embrace of morning (\$15) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Getting into the Spirit*(\$8) | <input type="checkbox"/> Mother Lode*(\$10)       | <input type="checkbox"/> Water of Life*(\$10)                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Listen For the Green (\$14)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In Search of Joy(\$13.50)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Set Free*(\$10)          | <input type="checkbox"/> Two Edged(\$15)                          |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disarmed (\$15)               | <input type="checkbox"/> My Father's Voice (\$12) | <input type="checkbox"/> My Brother, My Sister, My Country (\$15) |   |

**SPECIAL OFFER : Books marked with an \* Buy any 2 for \$15 or 3 for \$20**

I enclose \_\_\_\_\_ as payment (please enclose \$2 extra per book for p&p, max. \$6) Cheques to be made out to Poetica Christi Press

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS :** \_\_\_\_\_

**PH:** \_\_\_\_\_ **EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Send to : Poetica Christi Press, 42 Hawkins Rd, Montrose, 3765 Ph: 03 9736 1941 or 03 9890 5885**

**Email: poetica@iprimus.com.au or poeticachristi@netspace.net.au Website:www.poeticachristi.org.au**