



Annual Reports 2005/2006

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Annual General Meeting

22nd AGM of the SA Writers' Centre Inc.

4 May 2006, 7pm

Agenda

1. Present and Apologies
2. Minutes of Meeting held 24 May 2005
3. Business Arising
4. Reports:
 - (a) Chair
 - (b) Treasurer
 - (c) Director
5. Appointment of an auditor
6. Determination of honoraria for Board members
(currently \$150, with \$200 for Executive members)
7. Determination of membership fees
8. Any other business
9. Election of Board members
(there are four vacant positions with eight nominations)
10. Guest Speaker: Annie Fox
11. Close



Government of South Australia
Arts SA



Assisted by the South Australian Government through Arts SA, and the Commonwealth Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.

Minutes

Minutes of the 21st Annual General Meeting of the SA Writers' Centre,
held on the 24th of May 2005 at 6pm at the SA Writers' Centre.

1. Present: Stephen Orr, Eddy Pengelly, Carl Petering, Aviva Sheb'a, Stanley Sim, Heather Sladdin, Anne-Marie Smith, Anna Solding, Ray Stuart, Katharine Thornton, Kurt Von Trojan, Rob Walker, Janet Webber, Dirk Zadra, Katharine England, Joanna Falkland, Jason Fischer, Ross Duffy, Garth Dutton, Ryan Davidson, Randi Cernaz, Anne Chittleborough, Heather Britton, Tony Brooks, Kirsty Brooks, Anne Bartlett, Jude Aquilina, Moya Costello, John Howard, Elizabeth Hutchins, Gina Inverarity, Monica Leahy (Multicultural Writers' Assoc. SA), Miriel Lenore, Haley Longworth, Elizabeth Mansutti, Bill Marsh, David Mercer, Myk Mykyta, Louise Nicholas, Brenda Northeast, Heather Taylor Johnson, Kerryn Tredrea, Barbara Wiesner and Bel Schenk (taking minutes).

Apologies: Kim Mann, Jo Robinson, Kathryn Holland, John Fletcher, Ruth Starke, Mariann McNamara, Elaine Barker.

Chair, Kirsty Brooks, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes of meeting held May 11, 2004

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record

Moved: Stephen Orr Seconded: Elizabeth Hutchins.

3. Business arising from previous minutes

There was no business arising.

4a. Chair's Report.

Kirsty Brooks thanked the current board and Barbara Wiesner for her dedication to the Centre. In her report, she highlighted some significant changes and events that the SAWC has initiated.

Moved: Jude Aquilina Seconded: Aviva Sheb'a.

4b. Treasurer's Report.

In John Fletcher's absence, the report was read in members' own time.

Moved: Kurt von Trojan Seconded: Eddy Pengelly.

4c. Director's Report.

Barbara Wiesner thanked the board, staff, volunteers and Re:Views committee.

Moved: Heather Britton Seconded: Anne Chittleborough.

5. Appointment of an auditor.

John Howard moved that the SAWC keep Messenger Zerner as the auditor.

Seconded: Miriel Lenore.

6. Determination of honoraria for Board members

(currently \$150 with \$200 for Executive members)

John Howard moved that the SAWC keep this the same.

Seconded: Dirk Zadra.

7. Determination of membership fees.

Rob Walker that we keep the membership fees the same.

Seconded: Stephen Orr.

8. Any other business.

There was none.

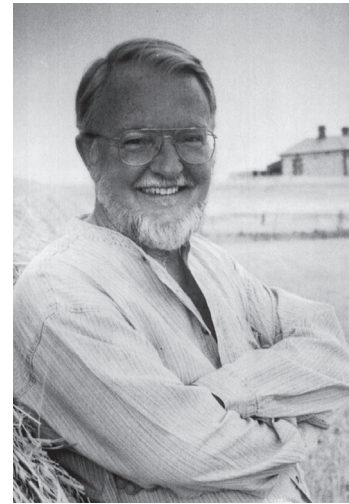
9. Election of board members.

Six nominees introduced themselves and a vote was taken. Anna Solding, Louise Nicholas and Dirk Zadra will join the board.

Meeting closed at 6.45pm.

Chair's Report

by John Fletcher



We live in a statistical world. Governments justify their frequently abhorrent policies on the basis of economic considerations. The hooligan antics of sports players obsessed with winning at all costs bring disrepute on us all. Writers are assessed not by the quality of their work but by the money they earn for their publishers.

Personally, I'm not keen on statistics. It would be easy for me to recite to you the number of members the Writers' Centre has, or the programmes for this or that class of writer with which we have been concerned, the number of workshops held. These things are important. They provide a measure of our activity without which we cannot realistically expect to receive the funding from Arts SA and other bodies on which our survival depends. But anyone who is interested can glean these figures from the office, or from back numbers of the magazine. These things are not our fundamental objectives. They are a record of the means by which we hope to achieve our fundamental objectives. I would suggest that these are twofold:

- (i) the promotion and encouragement of South Australian writers, both established and emerging;
- (ii) the fostering of a climate in which quality writing has a chance to develop and be nurtured.

In order to achieve these objectives your Board has, during the period under review, taken a number of initiatives.

During the year the Writers' Centre has been directly involved in two major South Australian literary festivals - the Salisbury Festival and the South Australian Writers' Festival. The Director has held discussions at top level regarding ways of improving even further the success of the SA Writers' Festival. This, in conjunction with the Onkaparinga Council, is a matter currently under review by the Board.

The Director and I have recently held an exploratory meeting with the Chairman of Writers' Week to explore possibilities of co-operation between the two organisations.

Earlier in the year, the Director and I held a positive meeting with the funding committee of Arts SA in which we were congratulated on the improvement in the Centre's administration. Administration is of fundamental importance; the current Board has two members with a background in administration.

During the year we held a function to celebrate the Centre's twentieth birthday. This function was attended by over 150 people

and was addressed by guest of honour Jane Lomax-Smith, a member of the current state government. Another very successful meeting, the Anne-Marie Mykyta lecture was attended by over 140 members and guests who heard a lively address by Tom Keneally.

A number of our members have had work published during the year, several outside Australia. The work of several members is routinely published in Germany, Britain, the United States and other countries.

Fundraising is an important component of the Board's activities. In addition to funding from arts bodies and various commercial interests, we have received donations, some of them substantial, from a number of individuals. On behalf of all members I should like to thank these donors for their generosity.

The Board remains focused on ways to enhance the status, professionalism and career opportunities of South Australian writers. In addition to our membership, the whole community has the right to expect this of us. I am talking not only of parents and students but also those many people who have no interest in books or writing but who are more dependent than they know on the artistic activities essential to the maintenance of a humanistic society from which our core values as a nation have traditionally been derived.

This is an important responsibility. It requires a Board that is dedicated to the Writers Centre's core activities. My personal belief is that no-one should nominate unless they are prepared to commit without reservation to supporting the Centre in every way.

I wish to thank the members of the Board for their support during the year. In this I include those members co-opted to fill casual vacancies. I shall mention no-one's name. All have contributed wholeheartedly and effectively. I also acknowledge the activities of the Director and the current administrative staff, all of whom have put in an outstanding performance. It is a team that it has been a pleasure as well as a privilege to lead.

Finally, I wish to thank all of you, members and guests alike, for your ongoing support and interest in the literary arts. You, collectively and individually, are custodians of the flame that keeps civilisation alive.

Treasurer's Report

by Dirk Zadra



1. Income

In 2005, as in previous years, the main sources of income for the SA Writers' Centre were the grants from the Arts SA General Council and the Australian Council Literature Board, and our membership fees. Compared to 2004, our main income sources remained stagnant.

In 2005, the Centre managed to win additional grants from:

- the TELSTRA Foundation for the organisation and management of three Young Authors' Nights in three consecutive years;
- the Copyright Agency Limited (CAL) for the organisation of the Re:Views conference.

All in all, the income of the SA Writers' Centre rose by \$31,272.00 compared to 2004.

2. Expenditure

The major cost drivers of the SA Writers' Centre are Administration and Personnel. Under "Administration", the major cost contributor is the rent. The increase of Personnel costs in 2005 was due to the following factors:

- The necessity to make provisions for long service leave;
- Money to be paid to staff due to time in lieu;
- Pay-out for a former staff-member;
- Slight rises in the staff salary levels.

All in all, the expenditure of the Centre rose by \$36,894.00 compared to 2004.

3. Financial result

The overall financial result of the SA Writers' Centre for 2005 is a loss of \$5,337.00. It will be met by the organisation's cash reserve. In comparison, the SA Writers' Centre made a profit of \$285.00 in 2004.

4. Risks and Risk management

Currently, the financial risk for the SA Writers' Centre which arises out of the negative financial result is minimal. This risk would rise if the organisation were to continue with its loss making and establish a trend. The following measures were examined by the Board to stop and reverse the loss making:

- Market and feasibility study to analyse possible sources for non-governmental, third-party private sector funding;
- Increase of membership fees;
- Tight cost control in the operational, day-to-day management of the Centre.

The Board also looked at downsizing of personnel and office space. The former was seen as neither appropriate nor envisaged. The latter was considered as unadvisable because of a special rent agreement with the owner of the building (the rent of the SA Writers' Centre only increases by the CPI).

5. Outlook

The negative 2005 financial result, which is taken out of the cash reserve, means that the SA Writers' Centre can basically only offer its usual services in 2006 – definitely not more, realistically even fewer.

Although the Arts SA General Grant was adapted to CPI for the first time in 2005, our main funding bodies are clearly unwilling to increase their overall funds for the SA Writers' Centre. This means from a financial point of view that it is advisable for the organisation to establish other, non-governmental, third-party private sector income sources in the medium run.

Director's Report

by Barbara Wiesner



In line with the SAWC's strategic direction set in 2003, members will be able to see by the attached list of activities that our program was different to that of previous years. We ran fewer small programs and, instead, liaised with partner organizations and groups to establish larger and more high profile events. Given that the SA Writers' Centre celebrated its 20th Birthday this year it was entirely appropriate that the majority of these events were celebratory festivals: the South Australian Writers' Festival, the Salisbury Writers' Festival, the Poetry Unhinged Festival, 'Poets & Platters' at the Barossa Vintage Festival and the Inaugural Indigenous Writers' Festival.

By running such successful events we've been able to strengthen partnerships with the Salisbury and Onkaparinga Councils, and with our long-term sponsor, Langmeil Winery. All three have committed themselves to ongoing literary activities with us in 2006 and 2007.

In addition, the Centre took on two more major projects during 2005. Firstly, in partnership with Allwrite! we ran RE: VIEWS, a national conference on the reviewing of books for children and young adults. Thanks to support from the Copyright Agency Limited (CAL) we were able to incorporate into the program not only two international guest speakers from Germany and Belgium, but also many of Australia's leading writers, reviewers and publishers.

Secondly, thanks to a grant of \$30,000 from the Telstra Foundation, we were able to run two Young Authors' Nights in the southern and northern metropolitan regions to complement our successful city-based event. The Foundation has approved an additional \$20,000 in 2006 to help establish these events as models for use by other organizations.

Another exciting development in 2005 was the establishment of the Longlines Project in partnership with Varuna, a national writers' centre in NSW. The aim of this project was to gain professional development of manuscripts by establishing a two-week fellowship and a number of five-day master classes, all of which will take place at Varuna during 2006. Several non-residential mentorships will also be available through this scheme.

One of the highlights of 2005 was the documentation on posters and on the website of the Centre's 20-year history. This monumental task was carried out by Uni SA student Cheryl Jordan with support from Rachel Schmied. Following the launch of this pictorial history at our gala birthday celebration in November, the posters were moved to the Centre's Board room where they remain on view.

On the business management side, the Board and staff spent a considerable amount of time evaluating our activities and devising our next three-year Business Plan. Part of this process involved a staffing review, which led to the part-time newsletter editor's position being made redundant, the Project Officer's position being expanded to incorporate the editing of the newsletter, and two part-time staff members filling newly created positions of a full-time Office Manager and a one-day-a-week bookkeeper.

We were therefore extremely sorry to farewell our newsletter editor, Stephanie Luke, in December 2005. Having experienced every facet of the Centre's activities, she made an enormous contribution during her nine years of service here in helping to shape it into a highly professional and streamlined organisation. We look forward to her continuing involvement with us – now as a writer.

We were also sorry to see Tim Sinclair head overseas to New York. Tim had worked at the SAWC as a volunteer and later as a part-time Office Manager. Thanks to his efforts, the Centre was given a new look in 2005. Through a successful funding application and careful shopping, Tim was able to buy new foyer chairs, a range of trestle tables, a good-sized fridge and several bookshelves.

On a brighter note, we were pleased to welcome Jude Aquilina to the full-time position of Office Manager, and I was particularly pleased to pass the job of bookkeeping on to Lesley Beasley, another of our stalwart office and library workers. We were delighted that Belinda Schenk agreed to take on the revised Project Officer's Position.

Thanks to the many writers who contributed to our success during 2005 and who made our 20th Birthday a year to remember.

2005 Program of Activities

January – December 2005

RE:VIEWS 11-13 March 2005

RE:VIEWS, the second National Conference on the Reviewing of Children's Literature, ten years on from the first, was jointly organised by the SA Writers' Centre & ALLWRITE!, the literature component of Come Out, the SA Youth Arts Festival.

The aims were:

- * to raise the profile of youth literature in our culture
- * to encourage the reviewing of children's books as literature
- * to improve the quality of reviewing
- * to broaden our understanding of how all media approach the reviewing of children's literature.

Conference participants included teachers, librarians, writers, illustrators, reviewers, academics, booksellers, agents, representatives of publishing companies, members of the Children's Book Council, as well as secondary and tertiary students studying literature for children and young adults. Total attendance was 119.

Keynote speakers, Belgian writer Anne Provoost and German reviewer Siggi Seuss, both provided a stimulating international perspective on the industry.

Topics covered:

- Copyright and CAL
- Fine Pieces of Writing: What Makes a Good Review
- Words About Words and Pictures
- Young Readers have Opinions Too
- What's a Review Worth?
- Soft Centres, Soft Criticism
- Revealing Attitudes: Reviewing YA Fiction
- Reviewing on the Web
- Black and White – Reviewing Indigenous Books
- Ten Books and 800 Words, Please
- Who are Reviews For?
- How Kids Discover Good Books
- The Editors Speak

The guest speaker at the conference dinner was Frank Moorhouse who spoke on 'The Writer and the Publicity Machine.'

South Australian guest speakers included: Dyan Blacklock, Ian Bone, Helen Bonet, Kirsty Brooks, Sally Chance, Jane Covernton, Pauline Crawford, Katharine England, John Foster, Lian Hearn (Gillian Rubinstein), Fran Knight, Jeri Kroll, Gay Lynch, Bruce Macky, Robin Robinson, Rod Savage, Tony Shillitoe, Beryl Siemionow, Judith Smith, Colette Snowden, Ruth Starke, Fiona Steffensen, Alan Tucker and Julie Wells.

Interstate guests were Belle Alderman, Kim Caraher, Graham Davey, Alison Gregg, Linnet Hunter, Stephen James-Smoult, Lindsay Knight, Mark Macleod, Robin Morrow, Kathy Mossop, Sally Murphy, Agnes Nieuwenhuizen, Juliet Partridge, Boori (Monty) Pryor, Judith Ridge, Rayma Turton, Bernadette Welch, Melissa Wheeland and Kerry White.

The conference was made possible by funding from the Copyright Agency Limited's (CAL) Research and Development Cultural Fund, support from the State Library of South Australia, the Flemish Literature Fund and Australian Standing Orders. Bookwise also made a \$200 donation towards the conference.

Poetry Unhinged! Mad About Poetry 13-20 March 2005

This poetry festival, one of the City of Onkaparinga's two literary festivals, is fast becoming a 'must' for all poetry lovers. The event strives to involve as many as possible in the art of poetry, encouraging many to write, perform or listen to some of this state's best poets.

During 2005 there were:

- 14 workshops in schools run by Tony Brooks, Peter Chapman, Amelia Walker, Rob Walker and David Cookson
- 2 youth poetry competitions both judged by Jeff Guess (62 entries)

- open, bush and multicultural competitions judged by Kate Deller-Evans (open, 50; bush, 19; multicultural, 13 entries)
- spoken word competition judged by Mike Ladd, ABC Radio producer had 19 entries.

Following the launch in January at Willunga by the Hon John Hill MP, Shen, Mary Bradley and Bill 'Swampy' Marsh performed their work.

Maurie O'Brien, Kate Deller-Evans, David Cookson, Cathy Young, Martin R. Johnson, Gaetano Aiello and Peter Chapman read at the Noarlunga College Theatre at the official opening of the festival in March.

Chocolate Box Library Readings took place at four Onkaparinga Libraries:

- Chocolate Box Reading 1 - Turkish Delights Steve Evans
- Chocolate Box Reading 2 - Dark and Crunchy David Cookson
- Chocolate Box Reading 3 - Baci Louise Nicholas
- Chocolate Box Reading 4 - Chocolate Liqueur Jan Owen

Poetry and Chocolate: Choc animals - K*m Mann spoke to two groups of high school students (60) at Seaford.

Candles Wine & the Classics combined poetry by Rob de Kok, Yvonne Noark, Tony Brooks, Tess Driver, Bob Moore, Steve Evans, Meredith Cilento, Mary Bradley, Peter Colling, Bill Guy and Palitja Moore with classical music by the Bacchanalia String Quartet, good food and wine.

Similarly, at the Beat Poetry Night jazz from Kanga Bentley's Hot Foot 7 was an excellent accompaniment to poetry from Ivan Rehorek, Gail Walker, Graham Catt, Michael Kingsbury, Judy Dally and Geoff Hastwell.

Overall, close to 500 people - young and old - enjoyed this festival.

Inaugural National Indigenous Writers' Festival 8 – 10 July 2005

Yaritji Green, Indigenous Project Officer at the SA Writers' Centre, together with the Indigenous Writing Group organised this extremely successful festival featuring many of Australia's best Indigenous artists:

Storytelling Panel: Mona Tur-Kennedy & Buck McKenzie
 Non-Fiction Panel: Sonja Kurtzer, Jackie Huggins & Kenny Laughton

Poetry Panel: Mandy Brown, Georgina Williams & Lisa Belleair

Female Perspective on Indigenous Writing:
 Anita Heiss, Yaritji Green, Fabienne Bayet-Charlton

Publishing Indigenous Works Panel:
 Ruth Gilbert (Magabala Press), Michael Bollen (Wakefield Press)
 Marg Bowan (IAD Press), Rhonda Black (Aboriginal Studies Press)

Children's Books Doris Kartinyeri and Kunyi McInerney

Male Perspective on Indigenous Writing:
 Kenny Laughton and Jared Thomas

Fiction Panel: Fabienne Bayet-Charlton, Bruce Pascoe and Anita Heiss

Playwrights Panel Diat Alferink, Suzi Hutchings & Jared Thomas

Songwriters Panel Buck McKenzie and Jardine Kiwat

The festival opened with a spectacular dance exhibition by Tal-kin-jeri Dance Group and closed with readings from the SA Indigenous Writers' Group and guests. The overall attendance was approximately 400.

South Australian Writers' Festival 2005 8 – 18 September

This, the third biennial festival organised in conjunction with the Onkaparinga Council, featured a wide variety of events for both writers and readers. Activities took place at wineries, libraries, an arts centre, school, the Farmers Market and at the SA Writers' Centre. As with the Poetry Unhinged Festival it aimed to actively involve as many people as possible.

New events included:

- Cover to Cover Art Exhibition featuring bookcovers by local authors at the arts centre, Port Noarlunga. Alan Tucker launched the month-long exhibition on the opening night of the festival.
- The Montefiore Group, a group of Adelaide Symphony Orchestra players, performed classical music at a Middlebrook Winery to accompany readings of SA writers' work selected and read by Katharine England

- The Anne-Marie Mykyta Lecture had internationally renowned author, Thomas Keneally address the topic, 'Writing in a Dangerous Age'
- Southern Young Authors' Night involved students, their families and teachers from 19 schools, as well as authors:

Alan Tucker (compere)	Louise Pike	Rosanne Hawke (guest speaker)
Jeri Kroll	Fabienne Bayet-Charlton	Helen Manos
Julie Ireland	Rebecca Burton	Fran Knight
Elizabeth Hutchins	Daryl McCann	Peter McFarlane
Jane Turner-Goldsmith	Robert Moore	Annette Wickes

The event was made possible by funding from the Telstra Foundation and support from Cardijn College.

- Two Industry Panels:
 - Get a Grant: How to Write Successful Funding Applications with speakers from organizations representing the SA Youth Arts Board, Arts SA, SA Film Corporation & Country Arts SA
 - Yes, there is a career in writing! With speakers, Rod Savage (*The Advertiser*), Michelle Read (*Rip It Up* magazine), Peter McFarlane (writer) & Glen Johns (Southern Youth Theatre Ensemble)
- Poets and Pizza at Coriole Vineyards featuring readings by established poets Jude Aquilina, Steve Evans, Louise Nicholas and Rob Walker
- A Writers' Bus organised to transport commuters from Adelaide to the final day of celebrations at Wirra Wirra Vineyards

The rest of the program followed the successful format set in previous festivals:

Wirra Wirra Short Story Competition

Wirra Wirra Vineyards provided a \$1,000 cash prize and trophy to David Adès, the winner of the open short story competition. Wakefield Press presented a \$200 book voucher to Anna Solding and Julia Archer for their highly commended entries, and the best 14 entries were then published in an anthology courtesy of Seaview Press and SALMAT.

The judges of the competition were Nobel Prize and twice Booker Prize winner JM Coetzee, reviewer Katharine England and Alan Smith, Director of the State Library of SA.

The winners were announced at the official opening of the festival by editor of *The Advertiser*, Melvin Mansell. The anthology, *Time Fractures*, was launched by John Fletcher, author and Chair of the SA Writers' Centre on the final day of the festival at Wirra Wirra Vineyards.

Library workshop sessions

History – Tony Brown & Gillian Dooley
 Romance – Lucy Clark
 Fantasy – Fiona McIntosh
 How to Write Children's Books – Ian Bone
 For Adults, Illustrating Children's Books – Sascha Hutchinson
 For Young Adults, How Picture Books are Illustrated – Sascha Hutchinson
 For 12-18 Year Olds, Cartooning Workshop – John Martin
 ABCs of SA Fiction – Jacqueline Cookes (Mostly Books bookshop)
 Choosing a Children's Book – Katharine England

At the Willunga Farmers Market

Eat Your Words, a panel session which focussed on food and wine writing
 Gay Bilson, Heather Britton, Stephanie Johnston (Wakefield Press), Russell Jeavons, Mark Lloyd

At Wirra Wirra Vineyards

SA Write - Celebrate concluded the festival with a day's activities in a giant marquee on the winery lawns. Gourmet food, wine booths, two bookstalls run by Mostly Books and the Friends of the Willunga and Aldinga Library, all helped to create a festive atmosphere.

The day began with the launch by John Fletcher of *Time Fractures*, the best short stories entered in this year's Wirra Wirra Vineyards Short Story Competition. This was followed by:

Keynote Address by Andrew Bovell, screenwriter & playwright, entitled:
 'The Night the Lights Went Out'

Panel 1: John Fletcher, Angela Goode, Fabienne Bayet-Charlton, Stephanie Luke
Adelaide: only the 25th most liveable city in the world?

Panel 2: Steve J Spears, Fred Guilhaus, Tony Love, Jo Robinson
It's a Crime to Take the Money

Panel 3: Peter Goers, Samela Harris, Christine Sweeney, Rob de Kok, Armin Mayer
Is it Reel Riting?

Renowned musicians, Chris Finnen, Josh Bennett and Sherilee Hawkins provided two musical brackets of their original compositions; Innocent Murder (Wakefield) by Steve J Spears was launched by Lindy Powell, QC; and 'Just Kidding' art workshops were held for children.

As an adjunct to the festival, the SA Writers' Centre collated a brochure, Extra! Extra! Readers Open Up to South Australian Writers, which listed books published during the two years between festivals. This was widely distributed to libraries, bookshops, all members of the SAWC, and anyone interested in reading.

An estimate of the total involvement in the festival was just over 2000.

Salisbury Writers Festival 2005 16 – 27 October

The Salisbury Writers' Festival was organised in conjunction with the City of Salisbury. It aimed to provide a range of activities designed for writers of all ages living in the council area whilst also providing opportunities for involvement by other South Australian writers.

Salisbury resident, and member of the SA Writers' Centre, Jeff Harris, provided a successful pre-festival SF workshop earlier in the year. This generated publicity in the local presses, alerting residents to the upcoming festival.

Two competitions were run to involve writers of poetry and short fiction. Both had categories for children, young adults and adults. The judges, Ewart Shaw, Jared Thomas and Diana Whiley read over 330 entries from all over Australia.

A 3-Day Novel Race was designed to get people writing and to gain publicity for the festival. The winner, Jason Fischer, received a \$1,000 cash prize as well as a mentorship with published SF writer Shane Dix. The finished product was produced as an e-book by Salisbury Council's Library service. The judge was highly acclaimed SF writer, Sean Williams.

All winners were announced at the launch of the festival, which had as guest speaker, Ashley Mallett, former test cricketer and author of 22 books.

The rest of the festival featured the following workshops at Salisbury and Mawson Lakes:

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| • Squid Ink & Periwinkles – is writing an unnatural act? | Elizabeth Mansutti |
| • Writing Novels | Stephen Orr |
| • Writing For Children | Christine Harris |
| • Writing Short Stories | Bill Marsh |
| • Writing for Film and TV Workshop | Annie Fox |
| • The Freelance Writer Workshop | Trevor Gill |
| • Writing Family/Community Histories | David Harris |
| • Getting Published with Stephanie Johnston (Wakefield Press), Dyan Blacklock (Omnibus books), Steve Lewis (The Bureau) | |

For lovers of poetry a Sunday morning Poetry Brunch was held. Guest poets, Graham Catt and Cathy Young gave readings, followed by open readings from all who attended.

In order to encourage younger writers a Northern Young Authors' Night was held at Tyndale Christian School for writers from years 5 to 7. It involved students, their families and teachers from 20 schools, as well as the following published authors:

Rosanne Hawke (guest speaker)	Elizabeth Hutchins	Rebecca Burton
David Cornish	Phil Cummings	Fran Knight
Jeri Kroll	Daryl McCann	Peter McFarlane Robert Moore
Robyn Opie	Louise Pike	
Tony Shillitoe	Jane Turner Goldsmith	

The event was made possible by funding from the Telstra Foundation and support from Tyndale Christian School.

The Salisbury Writers' Festival also encouraged the involvement of readers, both young and old, by establishing the One Book One Salisbury city-wide bookclub. Anne Bartlett's book Knitting was selected for adult readers, and Rosanne Hawke's, Soraya the Storyteller was chosen for young readers. Both authors were invited to discuss their books with readers at various functions around Salisbury.

The total number of people involved with the festival was approximately 1000.

Young Authors' Night at St Peter's College 22 June 2005

The guest speaker at this year's Young Author's Night was Rosanne Hawke, short-listed in the Children's Book Council of

Australia Awards 2005 for *Soraya, the Storyteller* (Lothian 2004). The other authors who took part were:

Dyan Blacklock	Ian Bone (Chair)	Mike Dumbleton
Elizabeth Hutchins	Christobel Mattingley	Peter McFarlane
Fiona McIntosh	Robert Moore	Robyn Opie
Louise Pike	Nicole Pluss	Tony Shillitoe
Ruth Starke	Annette Wickes	

As in previous years, the event catered for students from 50 primary schools throughout South Australia, including country towns of:

Cowell	Curramulka	Watervale
Orroroo	Strathalbyn	Manoora
Port Elliot	Burra	Clare
Keyneton	Farrell Flat	Keith
Coonalpyn	Port Pirie	

Approximately 450 students, teachers and parents took part and St Peter's College offered its facilities and staff free of charge.

Country Kids Workshops 23 June 2005

Peter McFarlane and Rosanne Hawke ran workshops at the SA Writers' Centre for 53 students from the following country schools:

Cowell	Curramulka	Birdwood
Watervale	Orroroo	Strathalbyn
Mintaro Flat	Manoora	Port Elliot
Burra	Port Pirie	Keith
Mallala	Pt Lincoln	Clare

RADIO ADELAIDE SHORT STORIES

Due to a change of policy and staffing at Radio Adelaide, the last season of Radio Adelaide's Short Story program was broadcast between December 2004 and February 2005. Eleven new stories featured writers: Miffanwy May, Norman Athersmith, Stephanie McCarthy, Anne Portus, Peter Godfrey, John Sharpe, Joy Bishop, Francis Willis and Jenny Molnar.

SUPPORT FOR GROUPS

The SA Writers' Centre provided support for its member groups by subsidising workshops led by Mike Ladd, Peter McFarlane, Sally Heinrich, Bill Marsh, Tony Brooks and Rosanne Hawke. Three of these were run in country towns of Pt Lincoln and Minlaton.

During 2005 the SAWC also offered its venue and administrative support to the organising committee of Wet Ink, a new national literary journal.

20TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Thanks to Uni SA, two students documented a pictorial history of the SA Writers' Centre. Firstly, Cheryl Jordan spent the year researching, formulating a manageable process and recruiting more students from the O'Halloran Hill Campus of TAFE to design nine posters which depict highlights, celebrities and other notable people involved with the Centre throughout its 20 years.

The other student, Rachel Schmied, came on board halfway through the year and incorporated Cheryl's vision on our website, providing more detail than could be shown on the posters.

Both projects were launched by the Hon Jane Lomax-Smith at a gala event in mid-November. Long-time sponsor, Langmeil Winery, provided commemorative Port for the occasion.

MISCELLANEOUS

- The Centre's membership increased by 53 from 1123 in Dec 2004 to 1176 in Dec 2005.
- There were 15 book launches in the atrium at the Centre.
- The SA Writers' Centre dealt with approximately 14,100 enquiries through personal visits, by telephone and email. An additional 16,985 visits were made to our website.
- The Centre was used regularly by 12 writing groups throughout 2005.
- A 12-page newsletter, *Southern Write*, was produced monthly from February to December 2005. Thanks go to James Ogilvy for his diligent proofreading skills for every edition.

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- Thanks to Petra Starke, The Webmistress, the SAWC's website was updated each month with current news and information relevant to SA writers. Internode has remained proud sponsors of the SA Writers' Centre's internet services.
 - A comprehensive database listing our members' achievements was – and is continuing to be – compiled by SAWC member and volunteer, David Mercer.
 - SAWC members donated 228 books, journals and CDs to our library, which has been kept in superb order thanks to our librarian, Silvia Muscardin, and her volunteer assistant, Jo-Anne Moretti.
 - The book covers' exhibition decorating the walls of the SAWC now promotes 119 books, plays and other literary events featuring South Australian writers. Thanks go to SAWC member and volunteer Graeme Rickard, with help from James Ogilvy and Ian Watts, for their efforts in hanging this display.
 - Barossa Valley's Langmeil Winery has continued its generous support of the Centre's events by providing its award-winning wines for our activities.
 - The SA Writers' Centre acts as an advocate for SA writers. Its Director was on the Advisory Committee of the University of South Australia's Division of Education, Arts and Social Sciences, School of Communication, Information and New Media, and was a member of the Arts Industry Council's committee. Board member Elizabeth Hutchins was on the committees of both the Australian Society of Authors and the Artists in Schools program.

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