

August 2013

HUNTER
WRITERS
CENTRE



Dear Members,

In this newsletter:

- **Newcastle Poetry Prize shortlist**
- **Book launches**
- **Grieve ebook**
- **Upcoming Workshops and Groups**
- **A letter from the HWC President, Carolyn Martinez**

We are pleased to announce the **shortlist of the Newcastle Poetry Prize 2013**. With a record number of entries this year, we thank the judges Jean Kent and Dennis Haskell for their enormous effort selecting these 27 poems for the anthology:

Always Going Home	Karina Quinn
Broken	Jo Gardiner
Cane Smoking	Victoria McGrath
Diary of a Missing Poem	John Jenkins
Dog Moving	Antonia Pont
Drawback Suite	A. Frances Johnson
Festival	Philip Radmall
Hancock in Australia	John A Scott
Hurry, Last days	Catherine Wright
Lake Eyre Cycle	Rachael Mead
Late Reader	Elizabeth Lawson
Life Lepidopteran	Bronwyn Lovell
Marfan Lives	Andy Jackson
Now You Shall Know	Jennifer Compton
Picknicking on the Safety Ramp	Ron Pretty
Seasonal Work	Dylan Gorman
Signatures	Dr Anthony Lawrence
Six Bells	Paul Hetherington
The Owl Book	Judy Johnson
The Red Soil Elegies	Ian Crittenden
The Shed	Christopher Kelen
The Solitude of Friends	Robyn Rowland
Two or Three days with Debussy	Mark Tredinnick
Undrowning	Owen Kirkby
Unicorns Cross Here	B. R. Dionysius
Vapour Trails Over Sassafras	Kathryn Lomer
Wishful Thinking	Carmel Macdonald Grahame

Congratulations to these poets. Please join us at the Prize ceremony on Saturday 12th October from 4pm at The Theatre Lane Hotel, 189 Hunter St, Newcastle

Who will win the awards?

1st prize: \$12 000

2nd prize: \$5 000

3rd prize: \$1 000

Local Award: \$500

and

The Harri Jones Memorial Prize (for a poet under 36 years): \$250
donated by friends and family of Harri Jones.

Sponsored by the **University of Newcastle**

Book Launches

Judy Johnson, HWC member, is not only on the NPP shortlist but will be holding a book launch of her latest collection 'Stone Scar Air Water' on 29th August, 6.30pm at The Press Coffee and Book House 462 Hunter St, Newcastle.

Jaye Ford, well known crime writer based in our Hunter region will launch her latest title 'Blood Secret' at the Lock-Up Cultural Centre on September 7 at 2pm

Grief Awareness



HWC members have made an important contribution to the awareness of Grief and Loss with the recent 'Grieve' Writing Competition and Live Read held August 12. An ebook of the shortlisted stories will be available soon. Watch this space. And the National Association of Loss and Grief have pledged to sponsor next year's competition. If you know of any other sponsors who would like to support HWC's focus on this important social issue, please contact us.

And please read the letter below from our new HWC Board president, **Carolyn Martinez**:

Karen Crofts
Director

Not-so-boring Board News from Carolyn Martinez, President

Congratulations to our Director, Karen, and all the volunteers, judges, and contributors who made the Grieve Writing Competition and Reading Event an absorbing evening of quality works. The audience turn out was much larger than expected. Karen and the venue had to send out for more chairs, more ballot papers, and I believe, more bar staff! Having the audience judge the winners added a fun dynamic. The Board enjoyed meeting and mingling with members and hearing your appreciation of, and ideas for, the HWC.

Due to the success of this event, the National Association of Loss & Grief head office in Dubbo have now offered HWC sponsorship money to broaden the Grieve competition next year, and this week the HWC Board unanimously voted to accept this offer. With the experience gained from running the prestigious Newcastle Poetry Prize for the past 32 years, we're quietly confident that, given time, HWC may make the Grieve Competition a significant event on the national literary calendar. These are the types of possibilities open to us while we have a Director as energetic as Karen. In today's age, it's important that non-

profit organisations pursue income generating initiatives so that our future is not solely reliant on government grant funding. Initiatives such as this help our ability to support Hunter writers into the future.

Myself and board member, Jenny Blackford, are working with the Newcastle Writers Festival to consolidate HWC members' involvement. If the next festival is anything like the first one, it'll be a weekend not to miss. Mark 4th-6th April 2014 in your diary.

Writing is often a solitary pursuit. I personally gained much from attending the Grieve Competition reading night and hearing other people's writing styles. I was captivated by how many sentences stood out and had me mentally nodding in appreciation for good technique. No matter where you are in your writing journey, there's always more to learn and inspiration to be sought. I encourage you to leave your desk, attend HWC courses and reading events, and mingle with other writers.

Quote for the month: "I only write when I'm inspired, and I make sure I'm inspired at 9am every week day," Stephen King.

Yours in writing
Carolyn Martinez
President

Upcoming Workshops at HWC

August 31st:

Travel Writing - [register here](#) (hold your Ctrl button when you click to activate the link)

September 7:

Prose Writing at HWC - open to any members. Focus: How to Tighten your Writing – [register here](#)

October 12:

Newcomers Creative Writing, City Library

October 19:

Prose Writing at HWC - open to any members. Focus: Voice on the page – [register here](#)

October 26:

Self-Publishing - [register here](#)

Don't forget the new **Speculative Fiction Writing Group**.

Next gathering: September 1, 1.30-3.30pm [all the details here](#)

Remember to like our facebook page: www.facebook.com/hunterwriterscentre

Follow us on Twitter: @HunterWritersC