

New England
WRITERS
CENTRE
For people who love writing and reading

Newsletter
September – November 2006

YOUTH ONLINE

Our exciting Youth Online pilot project is underway. In partnership with the Department of Education and the Highland Cluster of schools, we are running one-hour writing workshops online.

We received a small grant this year from CASP (Country Arts Support Program, Regional Arts NSW) for the pilot, and towards bringing Miles Merrill for a one-week tour of the region (in June) to schools and libraries. Although Youth Online takes place on the internet, we are using a closed website, developed and maintained by the DoE. We hope to receive a more substantial grant to develop the project next year. The potential for taking writing skills to youth throughout the region, particularly in isolated areas, is enormous. The program also creates work for local writers and makes it possible to bring far-flung writers to the region, via the web. See page 3 for more details.

BEGINNERS WORKSHOP

Another workshop has been added to our program – a one-day beginners workshop with **Wendy James**, on Saturday November 4, at NEWC. \$50/\$40.

Congratulations to Wendy on winning the Ned Kelly Award. (see page 4)!

MANUSCRIPT ASSESSMENTS

The manuscript assessment sessions with Peter Bishop, creative director of Varuna-The Writers' House, are almost full. The sessions (\$25) are only open to members – if someone isn't a member they can join to book for this. So, if you want a session call soon. Peter will be here October 23-25.

DIARY DATES

As we won't have another newsletter out until end of November, please note these dates in your diary:

Pre-Christmas drinks: after our board meeting on Wednesday, November 22, we'll be heading down to the Imperial Hotel for pre-Christmas drinks. Everyone welcome – drinks are not on us, unfortunately, but can be ordered from the bar. We'd like to meet new members, and catch up with those we have met!

Stall at Armidale markets: We're going to hold a stall at the markets on Sunday, November 26, 9am to noon, to let people know about the centre, and to sell secondhand books to raise funds. If you wish to donate books for the stall, please drop them into the office the week prior to this.

HISTORY WEEK EVENTS

Our workshop in the History Week events, featuring visiting historians and writers **Ann Curthoys** and **John Docker**, is filling up quickly. We strongly recommend that you book a place for the Friday night debate, not just turn up on the night, as pre-bookings will take preference. You can pay at the door.

*UNE Seminars *Frontiers of Australian History II*, Wednesday September 20, 2 pm to 4 pm, Education Building, Lecture Theatre 111, gold coin donation.

*UNE seminar, *Historians in the Courtroom*, Friday September 22, 9.15-10.30, in Arts A2, free.

*Debate Friday September 22, 5.30 for 6 pm, at the New England Regional Art Museum (NERAM), Kentucky St, Armidale. \$15 includes finger food.

*Workshop, *Personal Passions and Historical Writing* Saturday, September 23, 10am to 1pm. at NEWC, \$25/\$20.

WHAT WE DID THIS YEAR

Please remember to send (by email, or snailmail) a paragraph or two about what you did in writing this year (even if it was just another draft in a work in progress), and what events you did, if any, at NEWC, if you published or won competitions, etc. And your favourite book this year (any genre). If sending in email, please mark What We Did This Year in the subject line. Also, let us know what you'd like to see happening in our program next year. Particular workshops, or writers, or forums?