

History Week 2007

Eminent historian, **Henry Reynolds**, and Miles Franklin Award-winning novelist, **Roger McDonald**, are coming to Armidale in September to join local historians/writers in our celebration of NSW History Week 2007.

Following our successful participation last year, we're looking forward to a great debate and fascinating workshops.

The following events are brought to you by the New England Writers Centre, UNE's Department of Classics, History and Religion, Arts NSW and the Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place.

On Friday, September 21, we have three of our four events:

***Drawing the Global Colour Line**, a seminar with Henry Reynolds, 9.15am, at UNE, free event, our members are welcome to attend.

***Aboriginal Massacres across the New England Region**, a discussion between Henry Reynolds and Aboriginal elders, 2-3.30pm, at the Aboriginal Cultural Centre & Keeping Place, \$5 including afternoon tea.

***The importance of national identity to Australian writing**, a debate with Roger McDonald, Henry Reynolds and local participants, 5.30pm (finger food) for 6pm start,

at New England Regional Art Museum. (Enter via Café). \$15 including finger food. To be chaired by Steve Harris. This promises to be a lively discussion, to be followed by audience questions.

***On Saturday, September 22**, 1.30pm to 4, a workshop, **Making Fiction Work in History**, with Roger McDonald at NEWC.

Further details will be announced in the September newsletter. However, members can book for the debate and the Making Fiction Work in History workshop, by phoning NEWC 6772 7210. As always, members are given preference in booking for a fortnight following the first announcement of events.

Workshops must be paid in advance to keep your reservation. They are held at NEWC, unless otherwise stated.

* See page 4 for more workshops coming up.

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Henry Reynolds



Henry Reynolds is ARC Senior Research Fellow, School of History & Classics, at the University of Tasmania. His research interests include Aboriginal-European relations, racial thought, frontier societies, and early colonial settlement.

Much of his work has focused on the frontier

conflict between European settlement of Australia and indigenous Australians. His books include *Frontier: Aborigines, settlers and land* (1987, 1997), *Dispossession* (1989), *With the White People* (1990), *Fate of a Free People* (1995), *Aboriginal Sovereignty* (1997), *This Whispering in Our Hearts* (1998), *Why Weren't We Told* (2000), and *Black Pioneers* (2000).

He has received numerous awards, including in 1982 the Ernest Scott Historical Prize for *The other side of the frontier: Aboriginal resistance to the European invasion of Australia* (1981), in 1988 the Human Rights Commission Award for Literature for *The Law of the Land* (1987, 1992), and in 1996 the Australian Book Council Award: the Banjo Award for non-fiction.

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Roger McDonald



Roger McDonald was born in Young and grew up in country New South Wales and Sydney. He worked as a teacher, and an educational radio and television producer with the Australian Broadcasting Commission in Brisbane and Hobart, before taking up a position as an editor with the University of Queensland Press in 1969.

Roger McDonald is a poet, essayist and scriptwriter, but is perhaps best known as a novelist. His novels include *1915* (1979) turned into the acclaimed ABC TV series, *Slipstream* (1982), *Rough Wallaby* (1989), *Water Man* (1993), *The Slap*, *Mr Darwin's Shooter* (1998), and *The Ballad of Desmond Kale* (2006).

His account of travels with New Zealand shearers in the Australian outback, *Shearers' Motel*, won the 1993 National Book Council Banjo award for non-fiction and has been republished by Vintage. The internationally acclaimed bestseller *Mr Darwin's Shooter* was awarded the New South Wales, Victorian, and South Australian Premiers' Literary Awards, and won the National Fiction Award at the 2000 Adelaide Writers' Week.

His latest novel, *The Ballad Of Desmond Kale*, won the 2006 Miles Franklin Award. This novel, Roger's seventh, is set in Australia of the early 1800s and it centres on the rivalry between two men over the possession of sheep that produce the finest wool. It is both a love story of unusual interest and an epic novel of greed, ambition, conceit, and redemption. The novel is rich in its characterizations and the rawness of its settings, vigour of language, and vividness of personality.

WRITING GYM WORKSHOP

With award-winning novelist and creative writing teacher, **Wendy James**.

Saturday August 25, 10am to 4pm, \$50/\$45 members.

Need some ideas to add zest to your writing? Don't know what to write about? These writing exercises will limber up the imagination. Bring paper, pen – and a towel!

The workshop is open to writers at any stage, in any style. We recommend that anyone wanting to do Wendy's November 3 workshop (Polishing for Publication), do this one.

See our website for more information about writers/events: www.northnet.com.au/~newc

Newsflash: Winner of the 2007 Australian Literature Society (ALS) Gold Medal for an outstanding literary work was **Alexis Wright** for her novel, *Carpentaria* (Giramondo), which also won the Miles Franklin Award this year.