

# Fine Lines

The **Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators**  
**Australian Chapter Newsletter**  
[www.scbwi.ampl.com.au](http://www.scbwi.ampl.com.au)

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**Spring 2005**

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## From Your Co-RA Australia

Hi SCBWI'ers

Can you imagine an eight hour board meeting? Sounds boring right?

Ah, but wait! It's in LA. It is filled with the top writers, illustrators and publishers from all over the world. And it moves fast and furious.

Well at least it had better move fast - because for two years I'm the SCBWI Board Chair and if anyone yawns it's my fault.

Yes, that's right, an Australian is Chair of the whole international SCBWI. Pretty amazing considering we've never even had an Aussie on the Board before.

I thought you might like an overview of the international trends. Here's some of the great ideas and projects which came from the August SCBWI board meeting.

- The USA conferences are running very well - sessions for published writers are a popular addition and the new SCBWIdol in LA was a smash hit. (You HAVE to be there next year!)

- The Illustrator Committee (formed in June last year) created the very successful Illustrators Day before the Feb 2005 NY conference. This will continue in future years.
- We are also looking at the possibility of a published authors pre-conference day, based on this model, for Feb 2007. Go to the conference and then meet up with all the NY publishers.
- The International SCBWI conference is set for February 17th-19th 2006 in ....wait for it... Sydney, Australia! YES, it's us! The conference is at the beautiful boutique hotel The Hughenden. Warning: book fast, we can only take 60 guests there, others have to stay elsewhere. Email Susanne Gervay for details: gervays@bigpond.com
- The SCBWI will be looking at ways to support international growth and cater for members in other countries. Great for Australia. We currently have about 25 international chapters. The latest country to set up a region is Mongolia! Travel anywhere in the world and have an SCBWI group ready and waiting for you.
- The SCBWI will also explore ways to connect to other professional organisations like ALA and IRA. Can you imagine the synergy which could be created by a collaboration between us all? That could have a huge impact.
- On a lighter note, the recommendation about selling advertising space on one of the VIP board members' butt did not get approved. This was the reoccurring joke of the meeting, (laughter sure helps get the work done) but don't ask about that one - even I'm not sure how it started!

Board members include:

Authors - Judy Blume, Bruce Coville, Erzszi Deak, Sid Fleishman, Jane Yolen, Linda Sue Park

Illustrators - Tomie dePaola, Robert Sabuda

Publishers - Cecilia Yung (Putnam), Frank Sloan, Arthur Levine, (Scholastic, editor of Harry Potter)

It was a great meeting of smart people and strong minds. The SCBWI is forging ahead and most noticeable of all is the underlying goal which has been unwaveringly adhered to by it's creators Lin and Steve. For over 30 years that goal has been to help writers and illustrators expand their craft, succeed in publishing and feel enriched through their talent.

It's an honour to be part of it all.

**Jen McVeity**  
 SCBWI International Board Chair  
 Australian Co-Regional Advisor

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# SCBWI Australia Regional News

## New South Wales

From **Susanne Gervay**  
Assistant Regional Advisor  
SCBWI NSW

*A host of info to update you on what has been, what is being, and what will be!*

### **A Visit To Sydney SCBWI By Newberry Prize Winner**

LINDA SUE PARK (USA author) Newberry prize winner visited Sydney with her family at the end of June 2005. Christopher Cheng and Susanne Gervay SCBWI welcomed her to Australia.

Linda Sue Park was the guest of a small gathering of SCBWI members Jeni Mawter, Moya Simons, Chris Cheng, Susanne Gervay and respected authority and academic Ron Stevens at The Hughenden.

Linda Sue Park's website is [www.lspark.com](http://www.lspark.com)

### **Deborah Abela -SCBWI Author Going International**

Deborah Abela MAX REMY SUPER SPY series (6 books) will be hitting the USA and UK market in 2006.

The MAX REMY series is a BEST seller in Australia and Deb will be doing an author tour in 2006.

### **South Korea Loves Australian Authors**

Korea hold an annual Children's Book Fair in Seoul. Korea is buying books the USA, UK and Australia. Susanne Gervay (SCBWI member) has sold translation to her junior books 'I AM JACK' and 'Super Jack' to South Korea.

Picture books are particularly popular with Emma Quay being embraced. Kim Gamble and Anna Feinberg have had translation right sold to South Korea.

The S Korean representative is:-

Jenny Lim  
The ChoiceMaker Pty Ltd (Sydney Office)  
Suite 5, 229 Beamish Street,  
Campsie NSW 2194 Australia  
Tel: + (61 2) 9787 9700 Fax: + (61 2) 9787 9299  
Email: [jenny@thechoicemaker.com](mailto:jenny@thechoicemaker.com)

The ChoiceMaker Korea Co. / Inter Australia Co. (Seoul Office)  
Suite 402, Sogang B/D, 464-59 Seokyo-Dong,  
Mapo-Gu, Seoul 121-841 KOREA  
Tel: + (82 2) 322 3464 Fax: + (82 2) 322 4464  
Email: [inaust3@kornet.net](mailto:inaust3@kornet.net)

## **NSW SCBWI quarterly meeting dates for 2005:**

13th September 2005  
13th December 2005

Please take note: In the winter newsletter the September meeting date was incorrectly given as 12<sup>th</sup> September. The meeting is on Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2005.

**Venue:** At the Hughenden (the beautiful boutique hotel owned by Susanne Gervay.),  
14 Queen St, Woollahra

**Time:** 5.30 – 7.00pm.

Drinks/coffee at personal cost. Optional dinner afterwards to network with fellow authors and illustrators. (And the food is great!)

**Bookings:** So that we know who is coming please advise Chris Cheng by email.

## **Western Australia**

**From Frané Lessac**  
Assistant Regional Advisor  
SCBWI West Australia

### **SCBWI EVENT TBA**

November 13th 2005

**Time:** 10am

**Venue:** Fremantle Children's Literature Centre

**Contact:** Frané Lessac [lessac@hotmail.com](mailto:lessac@hotmail.com) 9430-5479

Then please stay for... "Open Day" 11am-4pm with Special Guests Alison Lester and local children's writers and illustrators who will be available to sign copies of their books

View the exhibitions of:

Are We There Yet? Alison Lester

Winner CBC Picture Book of the Year 2005

The Mystery of Eilean Mor - Gary Crew and Jeremy Geddes

There Once Was A Boy Called Tashi- Anna Fienberg and Kim Gamble

The World That We Want - Kim Michelle Toft Winner Wilderness Society  
Environmental Award

## Fine Lines Information

Don't forget we are trying to make the Australian SCBWI newsletter more relevant to both writers and illustrators and can only do that with your contributions. If you (or someone you know) fit the bill perhaps you could contribute to some of the following items.

### *Illustrator Spotlight*

The aim of the Illustrator spotlight is to provide a profile on Australian Illustrators, their history and a brief description of their work. Illustrators who wish to be profiled need to provide a paragraph detailing themselves to the editor of Fine Lines.

### *The Market Place*

The aim of the market place is to provide up to date information on all aspects of writing and illustrating and publishing including such items as editor news, agent news, industry news, opportunities for writers and illustrators. Items should be submitted to the editor. Here is an example:

### *Industry News*

**Hodder Headline Australia** has changed its name to **Hachette Livre Australia**. Its children's book division has combined with **Watts Publishing** to be forthwith called **Hachette Children's Books**.

## Presence on SCBWI Australia Website

If you are a writer or illustrator with your own website and as a member would like to be listed on the Australian SCBWI website please contact our Co-Regional Advisor and website designer extraordinaire Chris Cheng. Your website will need to be of a decent standard to be included and should not be simply a front page and a list of books. If you fit the bill please contact Chris with an email via the Australian SCBWI website.

## International SCBWI Events

### **34th SCBWI Annual Summer Conference** in Los Angeles

"On Friday, August 5, 2005, the SCBWI 34th Annual Summer Conference on Writing and Illustrating for Children in Los Angeles opened with a junk drawer of creative words, imaginative ideas and diamonds of inspiration," writes Nancy Lewis, Co-Regional Advisor for Metro NY. "From aardvark to underpants, fantasy to perspicacious, the faculty each pulled a word out of the drawer to share with the nearly 1000 full- and part-time attendees." Thanks to Nancy, the whole conference overview which is visible to everyone is now posted at

[http://www.scbwi.org/events/conf\\_la.asp](http://www.scbwi.org/events/conf_la.asp)

In addition, session notes from the conference are also available to SCBWI members, thanks to the Regional Advisors who were there. When you go to the

SCBWI website, be sure to first log in as a member. Then click on "Events," click on "Annual Summer Conference," and click on the link that says "MEMBERS: Click here for Conference Notes."

## International Info

### International SCBWI Conference In Sydney Feb 2006

Publishers, editors, authors, illustrators will be gathering at the first international SCBWI conference to be held in Australia.

#### HOSTS

Jen McVeity Chair of the international SCBWI board of advisors and co-RA for Australia will host the event. Supported by co-RA Christopher Cheng and ARA Susanne Gervay

[www.highlightingwriting.com](http://www.highlightingwriting.com) (Jen McVeity)  
[www.chrischeng.com](http://www.chrischeng.com) (Christopher Cheng)  
[www.sgervay.com](http://www.sgervay.com) (Susanne Gervay)

#### WHERE

The Hughenden, Sydney [www.hughendenehotel.com.au](http://www.hughendenehotel.com.au)

The Hughenden is a historic 1870s boutique hotel with arts and literature as its focus. It is the home of Sydney's Children's & Illustrators Network, with a permanent exhibition of Australian illustrators in the Reading Room. It hosts authors and writing events.

The Hughenden has hosted dinners, literary launches and events for some of the world's most loved authors including Tamora Pierce (USA), Jacqueline Wilson (UK), Anne Fine (UK), Eoin Colfer (Ireland), David Almond (UK).

Australian authors including Simon French, Donna Rawlings, Felicity Pulman, Hazel Edwards, Vashti Farrer, Jen Mawter, Dianne Bates, Bill Condon, Jen McVeity, Chris Cheng, Susanne Gervay, Moya Simons, Hazel Edwards and many others have enjoyed the hospitality and companionships offered at The Hughenden events and gathering.

Residential guests will stay in one of the heritage rooms in The Hughenden. Day delegates will enjoy the conference areas, Victorian sittings rooms, cafe and old English bar area with the grand piano available for those who enjoys tinkling the ivories.

#### WHEN?

Friday 17th to Sunday 19th February 2006

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## US Book Industry Trends for 2004

The Book Industry Study Group's statistical snapshot of the U.S. book-publishing industry, Book Industry Trends, came out in May. BISG found the number of total books sold by U.S. publishers was down, as it's been every year since 1999, but the dollar value of those books rose (not adjusted for inflation). Children's books were down last year by more than 7% when calculated by dollars, almost 7% when calculated by number of books. There were 480 million children's books sold by the reporting companies, making up more than half of all books sold through the bookstore sector.

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## Learning, Resources & Websites

### NSW Writers Centre e-tutorials

The NSW Writers Centre is running a series of non interactive e-tutorials, one of which is 'Creating Picture Books' by Libby Gleeson, a well known children's author. The cost is around \$60 and covers 8 tutorials, which are emailed weekly.

Download details from: [www.nswwriterscentre.org.au](http://www.nswwriterscentre.org.au) or ring 02 9555 9757

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## Events & Activities

### Australian Publishers & Authors Bookshow

**Saturday/Sunday 26-27 November 2005**

This weekend bookshow showcases books and magazines from independent Australian-owned publishing companies, distributors, small presses, niche publishers, self-publishers, short-run and print-on-demand publishers. The Bookshow will also feature talks from people in the writing and publishing industries, including booksellers, agents, distributors, editors, publicists, manuscript assessors, artists and illustrators, self-published writers and short-run publishers.

Contact: Irina Dunn, Executive Director  
NSW Writers' Centre PO Box 1056, Rozelle NSW 2039  
Phone: (02) 9555 9757 Fax: (02) 9818 1327  
Email: [nswwc@nswwriterscentre.org.au](mailto:nswwc@nswwriterscentre.org.au)

# **Sprung Writer's Festival - Albany**

**September 16th-18th 2005**

A gathering of children's authors participate in discussions, readings and workshops. Featuring Tim Winton, John Marsden, and Nick Earls, our own SCBWI members Dianne Wolfer and Louise Schofield. Also appearing Julia Lawrinson , Geoff Havel and Warren Flynn

Venue: Vancouver Arts Centre, Albany

Contact: Megan Anderson [meg@iinet.net.au](mailto:meg@iinet.net.au) 9842 8545

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## **Competition and Award News**

### **Queensland Government Premiers Literary Awards**

The guidelines/application forms are up on the Qld govt website for the premiers literary awards. There is a section for children's book (6-11yr readers) & YA book (12-16 yr readers). The books need to have been published between 1 July 2004 & 30 June 2005 & authors can enter their own books (ie the publisher doesn't have to do it for you).

There's also the emerging writer's award for unpublished writers, but you have to have been a Qld resident for 5 years.

You can get all the details from

[www.premiers.qld.gov.au/awardsevents/awards/literary/](http://www.premiers.qld.gov.au/awardsevents/awards/literary/)

### **Wild & Woolley Best Self-Published Books Competition 2005**

**DEADLINE EXTENDED TO FRIDAY 28 OCTOBER, 2005**

NSW Writers Centre runs the Wild and Woolley Competition where \$500 will be awarded to the best book self-published between 1 September 2004 and 30 August 2005 by an Australian writer. Several categories are available for entry including Children's/Young Adult.

Entries must be sent by post to the NSW Writers' Centre, postmarked by 5pm 28 October 2005.

An entry form can be obtained by sending an SSAE to the NSW Writers' Centre, PO Box 1056, Rozelle NSW 2039 or downloaded at [www.nswwriterscentre.org.au](http://www.nswwriterscentre.org.au)  
For inquiries call (02) 9555 9757.

## ABC Fiction Award

Original, unpublished fiction

Manuscripts must be written by an Australian resident over the age of 18. Winner will receive a \$10,000 advance and have their book published through ABC Books.

Winning entry will be

broadcast on ABC Local Radio and will be available as an audio book.

ENTRIES CLOSE: 26 September

Information and entry forms from website [www.abc.net.Australia/abcfictionaward](http://www.abc.net.Australia/abcfictionaward)

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## A Word In Your Ear

### The Spelling Chequer

From Author and Marketing Consultant, Vicki Morrison

[www.vickimorrison.com.au](http://www.vickimorrison.com.au)

In order to be perceived as professional, it is essential that all your documents – proposals, manuscripts, cover letters and emails – are not only grammatically accurate but also have correct spelling. The fun piece below is a reminder not to rely on your spell checker when sending your material to editors. Always print off a hard copy and take your time to read through it carefully. Automation can only go so far when it comes to being a professional.

#### The Spelling Chequer

*Poet Tree Without Mist Takes*

Eye have a spelling chequer  
It came with my pea sea  
It plainly marks four my revue  
Miss steaks eye cannot see

Each thyme when I have struct the quays  
Eye weight four it two say  
If watt eye rote is wrong or rite  
It shows me strait a weigh

As soon as a mist ache is maid  
It nose bee fore too late  
And eye can put the error rite  
Eye really fined it grate

I've run this poem threw it  
I'm sure your policed to no  
It's letter perfect in its weigh  
My chequer tolled me sew

*Excerpted and reprinted with permission..*

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## Quote of The Season

“Finish each day and be done with it. You have done what you could; some blunders and absurdities have crept in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day; you shall begin it serenely and with too high a spirit to be encumbered with your old nonsense.” **Ralph Waldo Emerson**

This spring laugh at the blunders and absurdities! Conduct your writing or illustrating with a sense of your potential. Make sure you take time to create!!

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## Newsletter Details

‘Fine Lines’ the Newsletter of the Australian Chapter of SCBWI is a service providing information for Australian members. Please address any correspondence to the editor.

**Trudy Edgar, Editor**

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[trudye@bigpond.net.au](mailto:trudye@bigpond.net.au)

Address or membership changes should be sent to:

**Jen McVeity, Australian Co-Regional Advisor**

[jmcveity@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jmcveity@bigpond.net.au)

**Chris Cheng, Australian Co-Regional Advisor**

[cheng@bioscope.org](mailto:cheng@bioscope.org)

## Australian SCBWI web site

**<http://www.scbwi.ampl.com.au>**

**International SCBWI contact details:**

**SCBWI**

8271 Beverly Blvd.

Los Angeles, CA 90048

USA

**[www.scbwi.org](http://www.scbwi.org)**

NOTE:

*Details about non-SCBWI events, courses, competitions, grants and web sites are provided for your information and not necessarily endorsed by this organisation.*

*While every attempt is made to assure the accuracy of included material, gathering it from a variety of professional sources, markets and needs change rapidly. Please verify addresses, names and specific market needs before submitting or querying.*

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## Contacts

[www.scbwi.ampl.com.au](http://www.scbwi.ampl.com.au) (Australian SCBWI website)  
Check out the international SCBWI website at: <http://www.scbwi.org>  
[suggest@scbwi.org](mailto:suggest@scbwi.org) General Comments, Suggestions, etc.  
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