



## Greetings folks,

It has been a busy time of year - Book Week and Literacy Week have both gone ... so here are some bits and pieces of SCBWI news.

### BOOK EARLY AS NUMBERS ARE LIMITED

The **Bi-Annual SCBWI Australia and New Zealand Conference** is to be held in Sydney on 24th and 25th February 2008.

Download the programme and the registration form on the [SCBWI Australia website](#) from the Conferences menu page.

- Conference Bookings are being taken by the Australian Society of Authors.
- Hotel bookings are being taken by the Hughenden directly ... all details on the website.

There will also be a regional meeting in Perth 16th and 17th February 2008. Contact the ARA for Western Australia directly via [Dianne Wolfer](#).

### YOUR BOOK NEWS!!!

*Have you had a NEW book published this year - 2007?  
Then send the details to Christopher. We are going to list all new books by members on our website.*

PLEASE SEND YOUR BOOK NEWS TO SCBWI AUSTRALIA ([info@scbwiaustralia.org](mailto:info@scbwiaustralia.org)) for inclusion in the next newsletter.

**Congratulations** to Corinne Fenton whose book *Queenie: One Elephant's Story* (illus by Peter Gouldthorpe and published by Black Dog Books has been announced as an Honour Book for the Eve Pownall Awards.

### Meetings:

#### Victoria from Corinne King

Eighteen Victorian members plus a few non-members gathered. Members Jacqui Grantford and Gabrielle Wang each gave some insight into how they began their careers as writers/illustrators with an excellent 'show and tell' session on the way they approach their work.

After a lengthy afternoon tea break Ann James delivered a wonderful presentation on illustration and how she goes about producing her beautiful books. We were lucky enough to share with her a new picture book written by Margaret Wild to be released later this year. A wonderful treat for all who attended.

Once again about 10 of us lingered under the cosy outdoor heaters on the pavement until it was time to return home.

#### Queensland from Pru Mason

The Queensland branch of SCBWI had a cosy gathering in July at Rowan House discussing the techniques of turning a wobbly first draft into a scintillating second draft. We were fortunate to have Louise Cusack, an award winning author and professional manuscript assessor to talk to us about this.

Louise's fabulous tips included:

- Make sure you are clear about who the story is about, what this character wants and why they want it and what is stopping them getting what they want and why this upsets them so much and how it's finally resolved.
- Know your characters and make sure each of them has a main virtue and a main vice and make sure this is shown and not told within the first few pages of your story.
- Look at the structure of your plot and anything that isn't relevant needs to go no matter how well it's written or how interesting it is.
- If it detracts from the main focus then get rid of it.
- Understand what the conflict in your story is and be aware that the combination of an external conflict with an internal one will turn an ordinary story into a cracker that will have publishers salivating.

Also, a big thank you to Peter Taylor who has been in email contact with a number of SCBWI members in an online forum and in particular with Margot Finke, a SCBWI member in the U.S. and author of self-editing books. Margot has now offered to share her expertise with us via an online workshop. The details are yet to be worked out but it could be a great chance for all Australian members. We'll keep you informed.

### Upcoming meetings:

#### NSW:

- Thursday 27th Sept 5-7 p.m. with optional dinner afterwards

- Tuesday 6th November 5 -7 p.m. for our end of year Christmas bash with exciting industry invited attendees. Drinks and beverages purchased individually at the bar. Optional dinner afterwards.

#### WA:

October Thursday 4th 5.30 Meeting for Published Authors & Illustrators (or those with signed contracts).

As you all know, SCBWI is an organisation for professional writers and artists and it is usual policy to hold some meetings each year for the specific and different needs of the more established members. This will be the 'published only' meeting for 2007.

#### QLD:

The next meeting will be held on Sunday 21st October and we're hoping we can get Matt Dray, award winning author of the Dougal Bear picture book series to speak to us about his experiences at Bologna Book Fair.

#### Member News

**Sarah Davis** is currently working on a beautiful picture book for Hachette/Lothian, Mending Lucille, written by Jennifer Poulter and due for release in June 2008.

She has also been appointed Senior Illustrator for Childhood Heroes, a company that produces personalised children's books in association with international sports stars. Childhood Heroes use cutting-edge personalisation technology to alter the text and each illustration to allow each child to star in their book as the main character - right down to incorporating specific details such as skin tone, hair colour, hair style and the names of friends and family.

In their first release kids can kick a winning goal with international soccer star Tim Cahill - it's taken soccer-mad kids by storm! Tim Cahill's book was launched at the Sydney branch of Giorgio Armani in June, and featured on Channels 7,9, and 10, the Kerry-Anne Kennerly breakfast show, and Alan Jones' show on 2GB The next releases will feature Australian fast bowler Brett Lee and cricketer Michael Clarke, and many other heroes - both Australian and international - are in the works. To find out more visit [www.childhoodheroes.net](http://www.childhoodheroes.net).

Still on the sporty theme, Sarah has also just been commissioned to illustrate a series of children's books for Velopress in the USA, written by Olympic cyclist Erin Mirabella. Her first book in the series will be released in time for the 2008 Olympic Games. Sarah would like everyone to know that she herself is a couch potato.

**Leanne Davidson** reports that The Five Mile Press will be re-releasing her self published book Quizzical next year (Feb/March) as part of a series of three books. Money Bags, the sequel will follow shortly after, then the third, Puzzle Palace. They are also publishing a shorter chapter book she wrote for their Ripper Reads series to be released in 2008.

**Tom Skinner** ([www.tomtombooks.com](http://www.tomtombooks.com)) writes that his book Round Fish Square Bowl has not only survived but thrived in it's first year with thousands of books ordered by Scholastic (ASO), littlebig bookclub selection, SA&NSW Premier's Reading Challenge selection, Vegemite Literacy Program selection and a stack (more than 12 so far) of very positive reviews. It has just sold out its first print run (hardcopy) and will be reprinted in paperback in October.

And it is selling like hotcakes (fishcakes?) to special education teachers, especially those who deal with Asperger's kids.

**Michael Gerald Bauer** is a new SCBWI member this year. Here's a quick overview of his recent titles:

THE RUNNING MAN - Omnibus/Scholastic Australia 2004

- Dutch translation - Uitgeverij Houtekiet 2007
- German translation - Carl Hanser Verlag 2007
- USA edition - Greenwillow HarperCollins 2008

CBCA Book of the Year Older Readers 2005 and shortlisted for - Victorian premier's Awards 2005; NSW Premier's Awards 2005; Adelaide Literary Festival Awards 2006; Courier Mail Book of the

Year Younger Readers 2005. It was also one of the books selected for National Literacy and Numeracy Week's ([www.literacyandnumeracy.gov.au](http://www.literacyandnumeracy.gov.au)) National Reading Day 2007.

DON'T CALL ME ISHMAEL! - Omnibus/Scholastic Australia 2006

- USA edition - Greenwillow HarperCollins 2007
- German translation - Uitgeverij Houtekiet 2008
- Italian edition - Mondadori - publishing date to be announced

Shortlisted CBCA Book of the Year Older Readers 2007 and the NSW Premier's Award 2007. It is also a White Ravens selected book, Bologna Book Fair 2007 and Junior Library Guild of America - part of Premier Selection Fall 2007.

**Louise Schofield** Festival Direction of HeARTlines and SCBWI WA member

Louise organised Hazel Edwards to be the guest author at HeARTlines at Katharine Susannah Prichard Writers' Centre, in Perth's hills, leading writers on a mystery tour as part of the heARTlines festival run by Mundaring Arts Centre.

**Hazel Edwards** with WA authors, illustrators and writers, including Julia Lawrinson, Louise Schofield, Megan McKinley,

Dianne Wolfer, Sophia Zielinski, Liliana Stafford, Clare Harris and Wendy Binks, new author and illustrator Laurel Nannup participated in the heARTlines festival of children's literature and book illustration, Mundaring Arts Centre.

**Judy Gauld** Educational publisher Australian National Museum of the successful series Making Tracks [www.nma.gov.au/play/making\\_tracks](http://www.nma.gov.au/play/making_tracks). Making Tracks is an innovative project where young readers enter story journey, inspired by objects from the National Museum of Australia's collection The series is written and illustrated by leading Australian children's authors and artists including SCBWI members Christopher Cheng, Hazel Edwards and Diane Bates.

#### **New Books by members:**

**Christopher Cheng** ([www.chrischeng.com](http://www.chrischeng.com)) latest titles are:

- The Melting Pot, Scholastic Australia
- Locally Wild, keeping native animals as pets, Pluto Press Australia  
Magpies Review: 'this is a worthwhile addition to any school or home library ... It is an important topic.'
- 30 Amazing Australian Animals, Random House.
- Making Tracks series by Australian National Museum, "Seams of Gold" illustrated by Donna Rawlins

Christopher Cheng is an advocate for Australian native animals and the preservation and protection of animals. He has spoken extensively on radio and TV about protection and care of native animals.

He has also been an active Literacy Ambassador this year for the federal government's initiative [www.literacyandnumeracy.gov.au](http://www.literacyandnumeracy.gov.au).

**Jeni Mawter** ([www.jenimawter.com](http://www.jenimawter.com))

June 2007, saw the publication of the following titles:

- Launched! Book#2 in The Freewheelers series, published by HarperCollins Australia Pty Ltd.
- Critical Thinking, Humour and Text: Ages 5 - 8, published by Macmillan Education Australia.
- Critical Thinking, Humour and Text: Ages 8 - 10, published by Macmillan Education Australia.
- Critical Thinking, Humour and Text: Ages 10+, published by Macmillan Education Australia.

**Trudie Trewin** ([www.trudietrewin.com](http://www.trudietrewin.com)) first picture book, "I've lost My Kisses" illustrated by Nick Bland was just released by Scholastic Press. (ISBN 978-1-86504-421-7) to critical acclaim.

**Hazel Edwards** ([www.hazeledwards.com](http://www.hazeledwards.com))

- 'Antartic Close-up' Making Tracks series for the Australian National Museum. illustrated by Meegan Parkee.
- Hey Hippopotamus, Do Babies Eat Cake Too? Illustrated by Deborah Niland and published by Penguin.

**Susanne Gervay** ([www.sgervay.com](http://www.sgervay.com))

August: Christopher Cheng saw a mega launch of Susie's book That's Why I Wrote This Song ... complete with downloadable songs with lyrics by her daughter Tory. See the video clip of 'Psycho Dad' one of the songs that drive her new book on youtube. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5s-R0dHtX8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5s-R0dHtX8).

'That's Why I Wrote This Song' crosses mediums into music, lyrics, film and sheet music. You can read her blog on myspace to see what's happening with 'That's Why I Wrote This Song' on [www.myspace.com/thatswhyiwrotethissong](http://www.myspace.com/thatswhyiwrotethissong).

Reviews include: Sydney Morning Herald, Spectrum - 'This book has fantastic energy to it, partly because of its multimedia components, but also because of Gervay's descriptions of rock concerts and Pip's musical performances, which encompass all the senses so evocatively' Angie Schiavone.

Magpies: 'Susanne Gervay and her daughter Tory have achieved a perfect synthesis of the lyrics; the composition, practice and performance processes; and above all, the interaction of life with art' Lin Linning.

**Mark Greenwood** ([www.artbeatpublishers.com/mark/mark\\_intro\\_frames.html](http://www.artbeatpublishers.com/mark/mark_intro_frames.html))

Title: Fortuyn's Ghost, (Illustrated by Mark Wilson)  
Publisher: University of West Australia Press/Cygnets Books  
ISBN: 978 1920694 777

From the award winning Mark Greenwood (The Legend of Lasseter's Reef and The Legend of Moondyne Joe) comes Fortuyn's Ghost a haunting tale of shipwreck on the high seas inspired by the 1724 event when the Dutch East India Company ship Fortuyn vanished after leaving the Cape of Good Hope, bound for Batavia.

**Virginia Lowe's** ([www.alphalink.com.au/~vlowe](http://www.alphalink.com.au/~vlowe)) Stories, Pictures and Reality: Two children tell (Routledge) by Virginia Lowe has received a brilliant review by Maurice Saxby in Viewpoint September 2007.

Virginia kept a record of all the books read to her children (6000 handwritten pages), and records their responses from birth to eight, and their understanding of the reality of the text with key questions including 'but animals don't talk', 'is this a real story?', 'the man who draw-ed it was wrong' and 'Tarzan is my favourite not-real person'. It argues for reading the actual words, and never underestimating young children.

**Lynelle zita Westlake** has her new picture written and illustrated released by publisher Boolarong Press, 'Molog the Frog'. it is for younger readers.

**Frances Macaulay Forde** ([www.francesmacaulayforde.com](http://www.francesmacaulayforde.com)) a writer for page and screen on the Sunset Coast of Western Australia, is currently adapting 3 teen novels by Krista Bell to feature length script: Don't forget to check out her blog: [www.francesmacaulayforde.com/MyBlog.html](http://www.francesmacaulayforde.com/MyBlog.html).

**Moya Simons** ([www.moyasimons.com](http://www.moyasimons.com)) "Hello God" illustrated by Lisa Coutts, published by HarperCollins released August 2007. "Hello God" has received wonderful reviews - Magpies: 'Although profound in content, the story is told with a light touch.'

**Goldie Alexander** ([www.goldiealexander.com](http://www.goldiealexander.com)) Goldie Alexander's new book "Shape Shifters" is a new anti-bullying book, Aussie School Books rrp \$9.95 ISBN 9781921255045. It was favourably reviewed in Herald Sun Weekender section (May 12th 2007) by the literary editor.

'Penny & Lei Lei are being bullied by Acacia and her gang but luckily Lei Lei has a trick up her sleeve. She can use her mind to change bullies and meanies into harmless beetles, mice and possums.

**Kate Forsyth** ([www.kateforsyth.com.au](http://www.kateforsyth.com.au)) International best selling fantasy author. Her new series Chain of Charms published by Pan MacMillan has 5 of the six books currently released. Her fans are waiting anxiously for the 6th and final book in the series.

### Other information

### BUZZ WORDS

An online professional monthly magazine, Buzz Words (All the Buzz About Children's Books), targeted at writers, illustrators, librarians, teachers and editors is now available. Each month the Australian e-zine features a free-entry writing contest - with prizes - as well as interviews with editors, authors, illustrators, agents, booksellers and publicists as well as writing markets, opportunities, competitions, courses, conferences, book reviews and valuable industry information all related to the children's book industry. If you wish to receive the latest free issue, please send an email to [dibates@enterprisingwords.com](mailto:dibates@enterprisingwords.com) with the subject heading BUZZ WORDS' OFFER. Compiler/editor Dianne (Di) Bates welcomes contributions of relevant material and letters to the editor. Check out Di's services and products at Writers' Career Consultancy on her website [www.enterprisingwords.com](http://www.enterprisingwords.com).

### THE KATHLEEN JULIA BATES MEMORIAL WRITING FOR CHILDREN COMPETITION

Entries are now invited from new and published writers for a picture book text suitable for younger readers. (Illustrations will NOT be considered, so please do not submit them.) The theme is at the author's discretion. Entry fee: \$5.00 (money-order or cheque payable to Di Bates). First prize: \$300. Manuscripts must be professionally presented and must include a title page showing story title, author's name and contact details. Guest judge will be Mo Johnson, prize-winner in the 2005 Ipswich Festival of Children's Literature (picture book category).

All entries must be received by 18 September, 2006, together with entry fee and a stamped, self-addressed envelope for competition results. Address: Di Bates, PO Box 2116, Woonona East NSW 2517. The winning entry will be announced on 22 November on website [www.enterprisingwords.com](http://www.enterprisingwords.com) and in the December issue of Buzz Words. Manuscripts will not be returned.

### Illustrators

Dragonpencil.com is looking for more illustrators for children's books. We provide art and other services to children's authors who are self-publishing. We currently have 17 illustrators but we keep them pretty busy so we need more.

What we are looking for:

1. Appropriate rates. Because of the economics of self-publishing we look for artists with the most affordable rates.
2. Consistent style. Our clients need to know what to expect so we need artists who have 'found their style.'
3. Professionalism. Our children's books are a collaborative effort between the artist and author but the author is also the client so good communication and professional conduct are essential.
4. Experience. We won't turn away great illustrators because of a lack of book experience but ideally we want illustrators who have done children's books in the past and preferably self-published books.

To apply send an email with a link to your online portfolio to [opportunity@dragonpencil.com](mailto:opportunity@dragonpencil.com). If you don't have an online portfolio you can attached some samples but only send jpgs and keep them under 200k each. We also need you to include your fee per page/illustration.

Please feel free to copy this ad and post it wherever good illustrators might be found.

**Simon & Schuster** has changed its standard contract language in an attempt to retain exclusive control of books even after they have gone out of print. Until now, Simon & Schuster, like all other major trade publishers, has followed the traditional practice in which rights to a work revert to the author if the book falls out of print or if its sales are low.

The publisher is signalling that it will no longer include minimum sales requirements for a work to be considered in print. Simon & Schuster is apparently seeking nothing less than an exclusive grant of rights in perpetuity. Effectively, the publisher would co-own your copyright.

The new contract would allow Simon & Schuster to consider a book in print, and under its exclusive control, so long as it's available in any form, including through its own in-house database - even if no copies are available to be ordered by traditional bookstores.

Other major trade publishers are not seeking a similar perpetual grant of rights.

We urge you to consider your options carefully:

1. Remember that if you sign a contract with Simon & Schuster that includes this clause, they'll say you're wed to them. Your book will live and die with this particular conglomerate.
2. Ask your agent to explore other options. Other publishers are not seeking an irrevocable grant of rights.
3. If you have a manuscript that may be auctioned, consider asking your agent to exclude Simon & Schuster imprints unless they agree before the auction to use industry standard terms.
4. Let us know if other major publishers follow suit. Any coordination among publishers on this matter has serious legal implications.

The Authors Guild ([www.authorsguild.org](http://www.authorsguild.org)) is the America's oldest and largest organization of published book authors.

#### **Angus and Robertson.**

There has been much media discussion lately about the proposal by the Angus and Robertson book chain to charge the smaller publishers and distributors for shelving their titles. ASA is currently fighting the battle to ensure that all books have placement in A & R bookshops without financial penalties.

#### **Amazon Sales.**

One of the best ways to increase your Amazon sales is by increasing your sales rank. Favourable reviews are a big impact on a book's sale rank. I would like to challenge all Houston SCBWI members to take the Amazon Survival Challenge. Go to [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). Find fellow members' books and give them a great review.

As writers, we are all familiar with the Amazon. But ours is a jungle of a different sort. Our books live in the internet book jungle of Amazon.com. Just like the real jungle, we have to fight for survival. The internet bookselling giant is a major key for any author who wants to promote their book.

#### **Illustrator Information Melbourne**

Books Illustrated, Melbourne

Illustrators speak and give free sessions.

Books Illustrated website [www.booksillustrated.com.au](http://www.booksillustrated.com.au) and check out all their activities.

#### **Bruce Hale Website**

Bruce Hale is a great speaker, and USA based author, the creator of the Chet Gecko series, and, he has a really good monthly newsletter. He is on the board of SCBWI. His site at [www.bruceetalks.com](http://www.bruceetalks.com) has current, interesting writing information and tips. Subscribe to receive his free monthly newsletter.

#### **New Members**

##### **Welcome to our new members.**

- Michael Gerard Bauer
- Patrick Bruck
- Rhonda Burke
- Scott Chambers
- Beth Croce
- Megan Crozier
- David Diggle
- Cindy Duggan
- Elaine Forrestal
- Brenda Hughes
- Rebecca Kneipp
- Heather Leane
- Sharon McInnes
- Iona Massey
- Kerrie McDonald
- Anne Morgan
- Jenny Mountfield
- Ray Nagano
- Walter Renfrey
- Gail Roberts-Hudson
- Helen Versluis
- Margot Wiburd

Ciao for now,  
**Chris and Susie.**