

Writing Right Newsletter

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NEW PUBLISHER FOR WRITERS

Tony DeLorger will announce a new publishing initiative our August Meeting on Friday, 18th at 6.30 pm in the SA Writers' Centre, Rundle Street, 2nd floor above Café Buongiorno.

Tony has teamed with Digital Print Australia in a new online bookstore project which has a special offer for Writing Right members

** WINNER OF THE JULY WORD CONTEST—KAREN PEATT OF GREAT WESTERN, VICTORIA
WINNER OF THE JULY SHORT STORY IS RHONDA POOLEY
HER STORY IS PRINTED ON PAGE 4. THANKS TO ALL ENTRANTS... WE HOPE TO PRINT OTHER STORIES IN COMING NEWSLETTERS.....*



POETRY SOUGHT

WE ARE INTERESTED IN PUBLISHING POETRY UNDER 50 LINES. SUBMIT TO US ON DYOZ@OZEMAIL.COM.AU. COPYRIGHT REMAINS WITH THE WRITER AND THE INTENTION IS TO PROMOTE MEMBER'S WORK.

**Writing Right ANTHOLOGY Now Only \$15
Plus Postage \$20**

**Critique Session on
SATURDAY
AUGUST 5th
at 12 Sandford St.,
Kensington Gdns (in
cottage at rear)
Ph: 8332 6085
at 2.30pm**

**Next Meeting on
FRIDAY
AUGUST 18th
in the SA Writers'
Centre
Rundle St,
2nd floor above
Cafe Buongiorno
at 6.30pm**

*** Writing Right Labeled Wine ***

Labeled bottles still available at \$10 each.

The wine was approved by our best taste buds at the Awards Dinner during the conference, perhaps they will become collectors' items and increase in value with age.

WHOSE STORY IS IT?

And how much space do they have to tell their story? By Diane Beer

Before starting, decide which characters will own the story.

Even in a murder mystery, you have to decide whether the story belongs to the detective or crime busters, the victim's wife/lover/family or even the journalist reporting the story perhaps. Decide whose life is changed as a result of the event.

If you are writing a romance, is it the female's story, the hero's, or do they equally share the story? In either case the writer will determine the ownership of the story before starting.

If writing a biography, a family history or a factual story about historic events you will still determine the major thread and the major character or characters involved.

Writing a book is the same as running a business.

You are the boss and the characters are your employees. While you, the writer, controls the workforce you still have to let the characters tell their own story from their point of view – and your voice should not be heard or intrude into their story.

When choosing your workforce, be particularly careful about the rouseabouts or minor characters. They act as a backdrop, but do not control the management or make decisions about how the business is run.

Writing romance is sometimes easy because the two main characters meet at the very beginning to sort out their

life-changing love union. So love is the main theme.

When writing a murder mystery the theme is determined by the type of murder and the characters involved in the murder and how it affects their lives so the theme is designed by the writer.

If the book is short the number of characters must be less because there isn't the time to develop too many characters.

NEWS FROM AN AUSTRALIAN PUBLISHER

ROCKY RIVER ROMANCE

Our first 4 titles have been released in the USA and are in stores now. In order to assist with promoting the series, it would be great if you could all enlist everyone you know to hit the online sellers and take the opportunity to add a review when available.

To find them, go to the links on our website or just google the name of the book and the author and it will show you all the listings. Our first 4 titles are:

MITCHELL'S VALLEY
BY AMY GALLOW

HEART'S DESIRE
BY ANDREA FULLER

PRIMAL MAN
BY MARGUERITE TURNLEY

FACING THE WIND
BY ANNE HARRIS

This will help give our books a profile, those with a high rating

are listed higher up in the recommended sections, so go for it!

We have placed a full page ad in Romantic Times to coincide with the launch, following this up by advertising our new releases each month thereafter.

We are also awaiting reviews for our first 4 books and look forward to checking them out soon. We sent some books, brochures, posters, RRR compact mirrors and a few RRR beach sets to provide a presence at the RT Convention in Florida this week.

We also ran a full page ad in the Romance Writer's of America Romance Writer's Report and will follow these up later in the year when space permits. We will be drumming up more publicity with any luck and are currently seeking a US publicist to kick our campaign along.

I will be flying out to the USA to exhibit at Book Expo America as part of our distributors, NBN's stand.

The Australian Embassy has arranged a launch party for us and have invited the local press, all the local romance writers and all the bigwigs in the book industry.

It should be a great start to our US campaign and we are looking forward to a fabulous event.

EDITOR
DIANE COLMAN

Support our Australian publisher and watch the progress of her great initiative –by getting into the American markets.
Diane Beer

BELIEVE IN YOURSELF

No one else can write the book for you. And you will only write it if you believe you can write.

Every writer is a unique character with unique stories to tell. But it takes courage to write a book, more courage to finish the book and even more to get the book out into the market.

The same channels are available to everyone. The pathways are clear. Just go along the path that suits you and dare to try and finish your piece of work.

Writing Right is offering skills workshops and critique groups which can help launch determined writers and support them to get their work published.

Top Tips to succeed

- Write every day – it becomes a habit and you can measure your progress
- Join associations that provides support and information
- Attend workshops and conferences
- Learn about the writing process
- Write about what you know
- Think of yourself as a writer
- Build your 'determination' as you would build muscles – exercise your mind and exercise determination
- Set goals and keep them

By Diane Beer

Writers write better with a strong injection of the following:

- Motivation
- Inspiration
- Stimulation
- Determination
- Cultivation
- Liberation
- Veneration
- Maturation
- Elation
- Fixation
- Adaptation
- Trepidation
- Realisation
- Saturation
- Graduation
- Celebration
- Enervation

LETTER FROM MEMBER *OWEN CARMICHAEL* - OUR MUCH TRAVELED FREELANCE TOURISM WRITER.

Yesterday had a delightful picnic of chicken pancakes and cherries on the Wilehminenberg. This is a hill with a palace (now a hotel) & a youth hostel on it, with a view of vineyards in the foreground and a panorama of Vienna, including Schonbrunn, spread out below.

The day before we went for a guided tour of the Musikverein (the concert hall where the New Year Concert is performed every year. It has the most perfect acoustics in the world. We were lucky to hear a young tenor practising a Handel aria with chamber orchestra - very elegant & polished, even in rehearsal.

Austria continues to be a paradox. On Wednesday it was my birthday. A friend through Hospitality Club took us to the alps. That was wonderful. We caught a cable car way up into the snow.

Through Hospitality Club we have met many nice people and have been invited into their homes. This is an amazing breakthrough for us in Austria... normally such a formal and closed society.

When we ask people here, 'How do you make friends?' they say, 'We make friends at school and hope to keep them for life.'

I sing to them, Philip does magic tricks, and of course we have brought our sketch about the bunyip.

This has been an important part of getting people to open their heart to us, just as we open open our hearts to them. Of course Austria is no paradise. On Sunday almost everything is shut... too many laws I guess.

On the other hand, our house is a charming sweet refuge, surrounded by roses and has all conveniences in it.

The weather is warm and sunny. Today we went swimming at the thermal spa.

Have finished all the interviews, except on, and submitted my article about the rainbow on a parade.

Best wishes to all my friends in Writing Right,
Owen Carmichael

WINNING SHORT STORY

RACHEL'S FEAST By Rhonda Pooley

Tilda's desk, which used to be mine, is mine again after 6 p.m. Swept clear it is my bed. In the striped jumbo bag I keep a sleeping bag, more clothing and other odds and ends. It's no big deal to drag it each morning to the basement car park and wedge it behind a skip.

When retrenchment rumour became reality the Company let me go, but where was I to go to? I couldn't afford my flat. So I stayed. I have the coffee machine, air conditioning and a penthouse view of the city. I have Jacob. He reads poetry to me and all his poems begin, "To Rachel". I think I shall never leave.

For seven years I have spent my daylight hours between the library, the art gallery and a city loop bus – they're free - only returning to the office as the workers are leaving. I loiter in the loos until all is quiet and then, to be quite sure, I wait a little longer, as I am doing now. My fluoro-pale face, fly spotted, stares back at me from both sides of the washroom; long brown hair, straight dark brows; eyes like coffee, Jacob says.

In the beginning I wondered what to do with the long nights. I exercised by walking the stairs between floors, playing games of hide and seek with imaginary corporate big wigs in the elevators. Sometimes I amused myself by swapping the contents of in- and out- trays and altering

the password on fax machines, but Tilda got a bit stern about that. Then I discovered Jacob.

It was love at first sight, him in his blue Yackas, loping down the corridor, bucket and mop in one hand, book in the other. At first I stalked him, ducking into doorways and peering around filing cabinets, but finally I stood by the coffee machine and waited for him to notice me. He stopped, staring at coffee stains on the carpet, and then he raised his notebook and began to read. To Rachel...

Yes, I would have stayed forever, but I have read the office memo: this department to be relocated to the 4th floor. Jacob services the 6th to 10th. I panic. Will he come to me on the 4th floor? I leave a note for him in the cleaning closet.

*Will you go where e'er I go?
Will my abode be yours, also?*
I spend some time exploring my new home, noting the colourful bird prints hanging behind each desk, the new carpets and especially the staff canteen, but the important thing is to prepare for Jacob. I arrange lolly-gobble-bliss-bombs in café-bar cups and set two plastic wine glasses beside the bottle of Ribena. Jacob always says it is a feast that stimulates his creative juices. I would prefer oysters and champagne, but he says they have a different effect.

I have waited for him all night. I have searched for him, calling his name. I have left a trail of soggy tissues to the 4th floor, but he has not come. I know now that I have served

seven years for him and he will *not* come.

I renew my elevator games, riding between floors, pressing several buttons at a time and trying to synchronise arrivals and departures. Every time I reach one floor in time to catch the other lift, I have won the game. I discard an item of clothing each time I win. I get so good at it that by the time I reach the roof garden I am stark naked. Neon-lit tears drip to my bare breasts until a lazy breeze shuffles through the potted palms and dries them. I raise my arms and begin a slow dance of sorrow. Then, in an explosion of anger, I am dancing ever more wildly. The rustle of palms grows louder and I think I must be singing. I dervish to the sound, spinning and spinning; whirling stars above me merging into laser streaks, until I am gasping for air. All sound is distilling to a single, rich operatic note and palms, perhaps, caress my breasts.

I am lying on Tilda's desk, the desk which used to be mine. Before me on bended knee, hand on heart, is my love. I refill champagne glasses while he sings to me from *La Boheme*. As the last sweet notes hang between us I tangle my fingers in his black curls and slowly unclip his overalls.

"Another oyster, Zebulun, my love?"

USEFUL WEB SITES FOR WRITERS

Continuing alphabetically from our list last month, here are some more useful websites that you may find interesting. Don't forget to contact us if you have any other sites that you would like to add to the directory. As you can see, we currently have no 'E' sites, do you know of any?

The 'D' List

Dictionary.com/Thesaurus.com

www.dictionary.com

When you can't find the right word, or you want to make sure you are using one correctly, try these sister sites for quick look-ups.

Duotrope

www.duotrope.com/digest

Search this site's fiction and poetry database by pay scale, genre and submission length and get your work out there.

The 'F' List

Faith Writers

www.faithwriters.com

More than 10,000 Christian writers visit this site for fellowship and critiques.

Fiction Factor

www.fictionfactor.com

Not only does Fiction Factor want you to get published, but the site also posts warnings so you don't get taken in by publishing schemes.

First Writer

www.firstwriter.com

This easy-to-navigate site puts agent, contest, book and magazine publisher searches at your fingertips.

Forward Motion

www.fmwriters.com

This site encourages its members to Write here, Write now and welcomes writers of all genres.

Freelance Writing Organization-International

www.fwointl.com

A great resource site for freelancers, the Freelance Writing Organization has searchable databases for markets, articles, contests and more.

Funds for Writers

www.fundsforwriters.com

With a focus on earning money as a writer, this site lists paying markets and features grant listings.

The 'G' List

Go-Publish-Yourself

www.go-publish-yourself.com

Before braving the world of self-publishing, stop by here for articles and resources so you go in with your eyes open.

Google

www.google.com

No matter how you feel about Google Print, this mega search engine is the starting point for most Internet searches.

Guide to Grammar & Writing

www.grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar

Even grammar experts will be challenged with this site's quizzes. If you need a quick answer, use the drop-down

Critique Group

The Critique Group's next meeting will be on August 5th at 12 Sandford Street, Kensington Gardens, in the cottage behind the main house.

Future sessions will begin half an hour earlier, **starting promptly at 2.00 p.m.** At the next meeting we will talk about Plotting / Pacing until 2.20 p.m. and begin critiquing work at 2.30 p.m.

See you there!

Barbara.

PRINTED ON THE WRITER BEWARE LIST

None of these agents has a significant track record of sales to commercial (advance-paying) publishers, and most have virtually no documented and verified sales at all (many sales claimed by these agents turn out to be vanity publishers).

All charge clients before a sale is made, whether directly, by charging fees such as reading or administrative fees, or indirectly, for "editing services."

Writer Beware suggests that writers searching for agents avoid questionable agents, and instead query agents who have actual track records of sales to commercial publishing houses.

THE LIST

The Abacus Group Literary Agency

Allred and Allred Literary Agents (refers clients to "book doctor" Victor West of Pacific Literary Services)

Capital Literary Agency (formerly American Literary Agents of Washington, Inc.)

Barbara Bauer Literary Agency

Benedict & Associates (also d/b/a B.A. Literary Agency)

Sherwood Broome, Inc.

Desert Rose Literary Agency

Arthur Fleming Associates

Finesse Literary Agency (Karen Carr)

Brock Gannon Literary Agency

Harris Literary Agency

The Literary Agency Group, which includes the following:

Children's Literary Agency
 Christian Literary Agency
 New York Literary Agency
 Poets Literary Agency
 The Screenplay Agency
 Stylus Literary Agency (formerly ST Literary Agency)
 Writers Literary & Publishing Services Company (the editing arm of the above-mentioned agencies)

Martin-McLean Literary Associates

Mocknick Productions Literary Agency, Inc.

B.K. Nelson, Inc.

The Robins Agency (Cris Robins)

Michele Rooney Literary Agency (also d/b/a Creative Literary Agency and Simply Non-fiction)

Southeast Literary Agency

Mark Sullivan Associates

West Coast Literary Associates (also d/b/a California Literary Services)

PUBLISHING NEWS FROM CYNTHIA STERLING

Aspen Mountain Press (<http://www.aspenmountainbooks.com/>) is now accepting submissions in a variety of genres, including horror, mystery, paranormal, romance, western, and men's adventure fiction. Word count 10,000 to 90,000 words.

Query editor Sandra Hicks at submissions@aspenmountainpress.com

Detailed submission information can be found at the website.

Author Judith B. Glad has launched **Uncial Press** (<http://www.uncialpress.com>) Uncial Press is currently seeking submissions of complete book length-and shorter manuscripts in the following areas: Georgian, Regency, Victorian and western American historical romance; fantasy/paranormal stories; cozy and traditional mysteries; non-fiction how-to books; and humor.

For more information on how to submit a manuscript for consideration, visit <http://www.uncialpress.com> or contact submissions@uncialpress.com

Ellora's Cave's mainstream fiction imprint, **Cerridwen Press** (<http://www.cerridwenpress.com>) publishes science fiction, fantasy, mystery, suspense, horror, historical fiction, romance, chick lit, and women's fiction in e-book format. 50,000 words and up.

They will soon launch a new traditional regency line, Cerridwen Cotillion, debuting in late 2006. 50,000 to 75,000 words (actual word count)~ set in Regency period; will consider late Georgian~ "no sex (if you refer to it, close the bedroom door, please), no heavy sexual tension~ historical accuracy/feel of prime importance. For initial release, they are looking for new stories.

They will consider reissues of previously published stories for later in 2007 (author must document that they have regained full rights to book).

They are especially interested in new stories by established authors, who can bring an existing fan base with them to Cerridwen.

Note that they also accept Historical-set Regencies at Cerridwen, and erotic Regencies at Elloras Cave.

COMPETITIONS

Tarralla Short Story and Poetry Competition

Open Theme, stories to 3000 words, poems to 50 lines. \$1200 cash prize pool. Entry fee \$5. Information www.netbay.com.au/~tarralla or phone (03) 971 1078.

Travel Writing Competition

Articles between 800 and 1500 words about travel experience within the Northern Territory will win a trip with the NT valued at \$3000. Guidelines from SAWC.

Salisbury Writers' Festival October 2006

Adults Short Story maximum 2000 words.

Poetry maximum 60 lines

Children's categories for under 16s and Juniors.

Entries close July 31

Entries are submitted electronically on disk or CD and clearly labeled

Guidelines fmulholland@salisbury.sa.gov.au

Friendly Street Poets Group

Wants the Best Mystical Poem entry fee \$5 prize \$200 Writers' Centre has entry forms. Closes June 30th AND The Best Political poem Competition closes on August 1st. Same prizes and fees.

The Broadway Poetry Prize Winning poem gets \$3000. Entry from www.poetsunion.com or SAWC. Entry fee \$10 closes July 28th

Annual Bruce Dawe National Poetry Prize

Awards \$1,500 to an unpublished poem not exceeding 50 lines. Information at: www.usq.edu.au/daweprize

Mornington Peninsula Prize 2006 Competition

Closes 31 July - Short Story to 3000 words, first prize \$250. Entry fee \$5. Guidelines from SAWC.

Boroondara Literary Awards 2006

Closes 31 August - Open Short Story between 2000 and 3000 words, first prize \$1500. Entry fee \$7. Guidelines from SAWC.

Gawler Poetry Competition

Closes 31 August - Adult, youth and junior categories. Free Entry. Phone Denise at the Gawler Library on 8522 9213 or guidelines available from SAWC.

SHORT STORY WINNER

CONGRATULATIONS RHONDA POOLEY

THE JUDGE SAID:

RACHEL'S FEAST

This story reads well and is a complete story. The imagery is lovely. The situation is fun, sad and believable in an absurdist manner. Rachel's Feast brings a smile to the reader and the ending is cute and rewarding.

THE MOST COMMON PITFALLS

- Procrastination – I'll do it tomorrow.
- Talk away the story endlessly to friends and relatives and never get around to writing it.
- Aiming too high – want to write the best story ever but afraid of failing the lofty ambitions.
- Failing to study markets so writing not aimed at the right audience – writer is writing for themselves.
- Believing the first effort will make a million – it takes a while to hone this craft.
- Believe you will find an agent who will do it all for you – they won't write it, edit it or polish your work.
- Want everyone to read the work but can't stand criticism.
- Obsession with trivia and fail to see the big picture – the big plot.
- Like to write but hate editing.
- Digress from the main plot and indulge in over-writing.
- Tendency to forget that their must be a start, a middle and an end!
- Forget the main theme.
- Overuse clichés, platitudes and repeated use of favourite words.
- Depend on adjectives and forget to use strong verbs.
- Tendency to tell the story instead of letting the characters show their emotions and show how they live.
- Tendency to over-punctuate.

Punctuation Exercise

It's not what you say, but the way you punctuate it.

The sentence in the text box below can be punctuated two ways. One to read positively and one to read negatively.

Dear Bill

*I want a man who knows what love is all about you are generous kind and thoughtful people who are not like you admit to being useless and inferior you have ruined me for other men I yearn for you I have no feelings whatsoever when we're apart I can be forever happy will you let me be yours
Gloria*

SEPTEMBER WEEKEND

WRITING WORKSHOPS

Write to Sell

(Learn to write selling work in a weekend!)

Friday night September 8th
Saturday 9th and Sunday
10th

ONLY 16 BEDS AVAILABLE

Mylor Youth Hostel
(Adelaide Hills)

\$50 includes two nights accommodation, meals and refreshments

Saturday night Role Play Dress Up Dinner and be your novel's character for a night

(with an option to stay over Sunday night)

Program includes workshops all the basic writing skills

Six major workshops & critique sessions.

EXACTLY WHAT IS A PLOT LINE?

This has been chosen as our question of the month from Kathi Miller. And this is the fast answer to a complex question.

Obviously it would take an entire day to have a PLOTTING WORKSHOP.

Plotting is the basic skill of writing. Without a plot or plan the writing meanders without a path for the reader to follow, to remain hooked and to keep turning the pages to discover the end.

Whether writing a thesis, a sermon, a novel or an article for a magazine or newspaper some planning is needed to get the message or story across.

But in this instance we will outline a fast plotting technique for a piece of fiction.

- Draw up a character chart for each of your main characters showing all their traits, likes, dislikes, appearance, motivations etc. We have published character charts in this newsletter.
- You obviously know the genre for which you are writing, have your basic plot and theme.
- Your next step is to layer the plot with the how, when, where, why and what of your characters' story.
- Decide your time period for the plot – a day – a week or a year etc.
- Some plot lines look like a flow chart on a wall white board.
- Some a plot lines are written in diary form listed in chapters. The danger of chapter plot lines is that events follow in chronological order. Stories told in chronological order tend to have boring backfill for the first three chapters before the story actually start.

There are many ways to do a plot line. Perhaps the best way is to create a type of tree diagram. Put the Conflict on the top of the tree and the Resolution (or end) at the roots. Then weave the characters' stories through the branches.

Your tree would show where they meet with other characters, major events, major and minor conflicts and the time line up the trunk of the tree.

Weaving is the toughest part of plotting, because weaving the story into the main plot line is the layering and the depth that is the difference between a shallow tale and a satisfying story.

As your characters tell their story the plot line will uncover their motives, their passions and past events which have moulded their characters. And they must tell those aspects of themselves through their thoughts, actions and narratives. The plotting time line will remind you when to highlight tensions, conflicts, resolutions, interruptions and events.

Some can draw a plot line in one evening on a large piece of charting paper, laid out on the floor, Others will create a plot line on a wall chart over months of studiously studying their characters and their interactions.

The advantage of a strong plot line are many.

A plot line saves writing time, the book is written faster and is smoother in the story telling and the writer doesn't suffer 'writer's block' because the story flows naturally.

There is no right or wrong way, but anything that helps to make the writing easier, faster and better must be worth trying.

By Diane Beer

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We thank:

Steve Davenport for offering to help judge our contests

Congratulations to:

Astrid Cooper on her new book...*For Eternity*.....

Betrayed because of their forbidden love, Prince Kha'em and Lady Ned-jemet died traitors' deaths that denied them an afterlife.

For eternity, they have sought one another, yearning to rekindle the desire that neither time nor distance has vanquished.

In the present day, Sara and Michael invoke the magic of their passions, but their ancient enemies are also gathering around them - will history repeat itself, or can the lovers resurrect their future, by returning to the past to find a love that will last for eternity?

<http://www.extasybooks.com>

Monika Hein's book is ready for printing.

Aviva She'ba is packing to move interstate

Roger Gibbs and Jane Haese have submissions accepted for an anthology

Daniel Stacey has finished a major project..more news coming about this electronic game
www..alemno.com

WRITING RIGHT
WEBSITE
LAUNCHING SOON!

Anyware™

Rhonda Pooley has won the **Anyware** 128MB USB Flash Drives this month

Raffle tickets will be on sale at the next meeting for another USB Flash Drive.

Tickets only \$1.00 so *remember your gold coins!!*

IF ANYONE HAS ANY NEWS ABOUT THEIR WRITING PROGRESS...LET US KNOW - WE WANT TO SHARE YOUR NEWS WITH OTHER MEMBERS.