

Poetry is Everywhere

Thursday 24 April 2008

You will find poetry nowhere unless you bring some with you (Joseph Joubert)

This conference celebrates poetry in all its forms, from Shakespeare to Bob Dylan, in music lyrics and in advertising jingles. It offers English teachers a chance to immerse themselves, to listen, to create, to uncover and celebrate their inner poet.

The Conference will be held in the historic township of Castlemaine in central Victoria, a hop step and a jump from the CBD along the Calder Highway. Warrick Wynne, Director of Learning and Curriculum at Methodist Ladies' College, will present the keynote address. This will be followed by a range of workshops, readings and presentations that will inspire and enthuse aspiring and practising poets, classroom teachers and combinations of same. You can enjoy lunch at one of the many delightful cafes in Castlemaine, and the day will finish with Wine & Cheese and a Poetry Slam. You are warmly invited to participate - see the program overleaf for details.

Join VATE and some wonderful presenters for the day on Thursday 24 April, and then stay and make a weekend of it at the Harmonic Threads Poetry Festival in Castlemaine from 25–27 April. Participants from the VATE *Poetry is Everywhere* conference are entitled to the **discounted Member price** for the Harmonic Threads Poetry Festival.

Details

Date: Thursday 24 April

Venue: Phee Broadway Theatre & Continuing Education Building, Castlemaine

Program: 10:00am-3:30pm (please see over for full program descriptions)

Cost: Online Bookings: Individual VATE Members: \$135.00, School VATE Members: \$159.50,

Concession: \$99.00, Non-members: \$238.65 (all prices include GST)

For bookings done through the office, please add \$10.00 to the price

** Please note that this event is subject to cancellation if there are not enough registrations by the closing date. Please get your registration in early.*

AUSTRALIAN POETRY CENTRE REGIONAL FESTIVAL: HARMONIC THREADS



ANZAC DAY WEEKEND 25 – 27 APRIL 2008, CASTLEMAINE, VICTORIA

Three days of poetry readings, workshops, dialogues, discussions, performances, films, music and food. This is definitely one to put into the diary! The APC is proud to be hosting an Australian Poetry Centre Regional Festival, which they hope to make an annual festival that will tour the regional centres of Australia. Key guest speakers/readers include international poets: Sam Hamill (USA) - Lorna Crozier (Canada), Peter Balakian (USA) - Laksmi Pamuntjak (Indonesia), as well as many celebrated local poets. For more information about the festival email admin@australianpoetrycentre.org.au for a full program or check out www.zestemag.wordpress.com

VATE

Victorian Association for the Teaching of English

The Victorian Association for the Teaching of English
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Poetry is Everywhere Program

Session 1 Keynote: Poetry is Everywhere - 10:00-11:00am

Poet and English teacher Warrick Wynne talks about where poetry is, where it comes from, where it's gone missing and why we need it back.

Morning Tea - 11:00-11:45am

Session 2 Workshops - 11:45-1:00pm

2A: Poetry and Illustrated Texts - Middle Years – VCE Unit 1 (Reading & responding, Creating and presenting)

By comparing the linguistic and visual ways in which poetry and illustrated texts are constructed and make meaning we can encourage students to both recognise and use figurative language, as well as understand some of the basic concepts of literary theory. We will be making a mad dash into the poetic and pictorial lands of new arrivals, refugees, monsters and survivors who travel with courage, empathy and imagination, and discuss ways in which students can respond to these journeys.

Val Kent

2B: "DUSTING OFF THE RUST: Towards a fresh look at how the English curriculum makes use of poetry"

Towards a fresh look at how the English curriculum makes use of poetry"

VCE English has sought to arrest a long-term slide in its use of poetry by incorporating the song lyrics of Paul Kelly into the curriculum. The teaching of poetry, however, is currently being promoted in Victoria University's Teacher Education programs as an area of unlimited potential. In this workshop the techniques offered to DipEd and B.Ed students will be opened for discussion and critique. Forthcoming research, conducted with Tom Clark (Victoria University), into the effectiveness of teaching poetry will be introduced, and links will be made with international developments in this area.

Mary Weaven, Lecturer, and Tom Clark, PhD, MPRIA, School of Communication Culture and Languages, Victoria University, Victoria

2C: Poetry for the Middle Years

We will be looking at a range of poems that will engage students across the middle year levels. We will be looking at contemporary Australian poetry, and poets from the city and country. There will be a focus on using poetic forms and images to show students how to have fun with language, whether it be colloquial or formal, and how to play around with narratives. We will also be looking at writing class poems and creating a class or school anthology.

Brendan Ryan, English teacher and poet

2D: Writers on Poetry - Julie Gittus and Catherine Bateson

Central Victorian writer, Julie Gittus, will discuss the questions of how to convey the power of poetry to students and how we can give poetry a context and relevance to young adult lives. Julie's soon to be published young adult novel, *Saltwater Moons*, incorporates a range of world class poems from literary luminaries such as Anna Akhmatova, Seamus Heaney, Czeslaw Milosz, John Shaw Neilson & Amy Witting. Then Catherine Bateson, an award winning writer for children and young adults, including the verse novels, *A Dangerous Girl* and *The Year It All Happened*. The most recent, *His Name in Fire*, was short listed for the Queensland Premier's Awards. She has published two collections of poems for adults and a new collection, *Marriage for Beginners*, will be published this year by John Leonard Press. Last year, her novel, *Being Bee*, won the Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Award, Younger Readers. Catherine teaches Professional Writing and Editing at Box Hill TAFE and frequently works as a writer in schools. She is on the Board of the Australian Centre for Poetry.

2E: Poetry Zines Made Easy!

This workshop focuses on how to make poetry zines. A zine is a small, handmade, photocopied publication. Zines are highly individual and can be made about any subject or interest. The zine is a good form for the publication of poetry, especially anthologies, and students from a wide age range enjoy making them. Various types of poetry will be looked at, such as 160-character poems and rookus. Different formats of zines will be discussed including one-page A4 zines, and twelve page A5 zines. This is a practical workshop focusing on how to make poetry zines using handwriting, typewriters, computers, collages, drawings etc.

Dr Shelley O'Reilly, teaches English and Literature at Pascoe Vale Girls' College, is a member of the Word Addicts writing group, and makes zines and sells them at Polyester and Sticky Zine Shop

2F: Poetry in Lyrics

This workshop will explore the notion that Bob Dylan's song lyrics are poetry, and thus can form the rich basis for study in the English and Literature classroom. The relatively recent criticism associated with the setting of Paul Kelly's *Don't start me talking for* Units 3 and 3 English has abated, aided in part by the popularity and success of the Kelly lyrics as text. If Kelly's songs are worth studying, I would contend that Dylan's **must** be studied.

We will compare the effect of reading the lyrics, then listening to them performed, and look at the role of the troubadour, considering the relevance of this title for Dylan. We will ask ourselves whether we can use Dylan's lyrics as a chronological social map of his times. Practical classroom activities will be provided, for a range of outcomes and levels.

Margaret Saltau, English Consultant and writer

Lunch - 1:00-2:00pm

Session 3 Workshops & Presentations - 2:00-3:25pm

3A: Kickstarting Poetry; stimuli, structures, scaffolding

Why should students have all the fun? This workshop is designed to enable you to literally kickstart your own poetry. Facilitators Donlon and O'Heare will give you stimuli, structures and scaffolding - the three sisters of kickstarting poetry - to enable you to

actually write your own first drafts of poems. Drawing from both formal and “informal” poetry writing styles, Donlon and O’Heare will help participants to trial creative tasks that they can then confidently offer to their own students. Participants will also be given information about the poetry marketplace, for themselves and their students.

Tricia O’Heare, author and Head of English, Northcote High School and Ross Donlon, poet and English teacher.

3B: Poets on Poetry - Judith Beveridge and Ron Pretty

You will hear from two poets in this presentation. First from Judith Beveridge, whose poems are currently on the list for VCE Literature study. Judith’s three books of poetry have all won major prizes; she is the poetry editor of *Meanjin*; and she teaches poetry at postgraduate level at the University of Sydney and the University of Newcastle. She will be talking about some of the poems set for VCE including background to the writing of the poems, discussion of motifs, themes and poetry writing. You will then hear from Ron Pretty, who believes the best way to encourage students to appreciate the poetry they read is to have them engaged in writing; the two processes are mutually supportive and the gains feed into all language areas. In this session, Ron Pretty will explore ways of encouraging students to become aware of their own language choices and the language choices poets use. He will present a number of strategies and exercises that move between the poetry that students read and the poetry they write. Ron Pretty has been publishing his poetry for more than 40 years. He has published five books of poetry, the most recent being *Of the Stone: New and Selected Poems*

3C: Poetry as Creative Response

A workshop on teaching poetry across year levels, including VCE, and designed to find poems that stimulate students with differing abilities. We will look at narrative and lyric poetry and find ways to teach students the importance of writing in different forms and redrafting. There will also be a focus on using poetry to respond to the VCE English Context folios. We will look at online poetry resources and a range of poetry books which can be used to engage, encourage and enlighten the most of reluctant poets.

Brendan Ryan, English teacher and poet

3D: The Beats, Bob, and Beyond - “I saw the best minds of my generation destroyed by madness...”

Several years ago, I decided to present Allen Ginsberg’s poem, ‘Howl’ to a Year 11 Literature class. I followed it up with a passage from *On The Road* that inspired several students to read the book. We looked at Corso, Snyder, and one or two others before finishing up with Bob Dylan who successfully combined Beat style lyrics with Woody Guthrie style rhythms to create a whole new chapter in popular culture. Dylan went over pretty well, so the following year, I moved on to Leonard Cohen, Jim Morrison, and Gil Scott Heron. The year after that, I added Patti Smith, Hunter S. Thompson, Jim Carroll, and Henry Rollins while going back to Rimbaud to see where it all started. It is an evolving unit that focuses on writers who test the limits of language and meaning. The beauty of it or the classroom is that there are excellent recordings, not to mention film clips, of the writers reading their work. In this session, I will discuss the writers, the unit, and the eternal appeal of the Beats for readers of all ages.

Tony Thompson, English Coordinator Princes Hill Secondary College

3E: Voices in the Landscape

Dawe’s poetry captures a variety of voices in different contexts. As a poet he uses the subtleties of the Australian vernacular to explore identity, aspirations, connections, fears and the complexities of living in the twentieth and twenty-first century. Compassionate, witty and perceptive, Dawe’s poetic personas capture Australian life with a humane and provocative accuracy. Barrie will be talking about using Dawe in a practical way. He will talk about “integrating” Dawe in the Context Study - ‘Identity and Belonging’ and will be providing examples and practical hints. In my presentation I will focus on selection of poems with readings and audience participation in ‘bringing them to life’. I will also provide a critical critique and discuss which poems are handy in the classroom.

Nick Konstantatos and Barrie Burton, Scotch College

3F: Reading Robert Frost reading the landscape

A session of reading poems together, talking about them and talking about how they might trigger discussion, activities and writing in the senior English classroom. Come along with ideas about your favourite Frost poems, and bring other poetry which may act as comparisons or contrasts to those written by Frost. (But don’t let this put you off - if you are new to Frost or poetry, and have no favourites yet, then come along too).

Prue Gill

3G: Poetry in The Middle Years

Poetry can and should be an integral and fundamental part of English curriculum, at all year levels. Once students have a sense of control and ownership over poetry, poems can be used to model and teach any idea and any literary technique. Elizabeth Campbell’s first book of poetry was published in 2007, by John Leonard Press. In 2008 she will appear as a guest poet at the APC Regional Festival and the Melbourne Writer’s Festival. In a fun and practical workshop, Elizabeth will present a series of linked activities for middle school classes, focussing on engagement and ownership of the text, as well as rigorous analytical skills which are easily transferable to VCE. You will come away with a pack of resources and plenty of ideas for stand-alone classes or in-depth units.

Elizabeth Campbell, Eltham High School

3H: Using Poetry as a compact platform for thinking, communicating and choosing texts

It takes a long time for a class to read a book but a few minutes to read many shorter poems. This gives teachers a lot of scope for hit-and-run text tactics, poetry circles, getting students to choose poems to match characters or situations and make some of their own choices about which pieces they like and why. This session looks at strategies for using poetry in the middle school, both to satisfy VELS ends, and to teach better.

Glenn McKenzie, Broadford Secondary College

Poetry Slam with Wine & Cheese - 3:30-4:30pm

Those who can... do. Those who can’t... teach!

Sick of the stereotype? Strut your stuff on stage at the VATE Poetry Slam. Top off a day of theory with a little practice. Vent your spleen, peddle your wares, engage in a little intellectual contact sport. Compete, compare, contrast your verse or your doggerel, (be it playful, profound or pathetic) with a cohort of colleagues. No need to freestyle, but those who can... do! (Those who can’t... palm cards acceptable).

Registration Details - Poetry is Everywhere

Registration closes Wednesday 16 April 2008

Cost

- Online: Individual VATE Members: \$135.00 School VATE Members: \$159.50
 Concession: \$99.00 Non-members: \$238.65 (all prices include GST)
 I am booking through the office (office booking fee of \$10.00 applies)
OR: I have booked online with a school order number and this form is arriving with my payment.

My session preferences:

Session 2, 11:45-1:00pm

PLEASE FILL IN PREFERENCES

- 2A: Poetry and illustrated texts
2B: Dusting off the rust
2C: Poetry for the Middle Years
2D: Writers on poetry - Julie Gittus & Catherine Bateson
2E: Poetry zines made easy
2F: Poetry in lyrics

Session 2 Preferences

Pref 1: _____

Pref 2: _____

Session 3, 2:00-3:25pm

PLEASE FILL IN PREFERENCES

- 3A: Kickstarting poetry; stimuli, structures, scaffolding
3B: Poets on poetry - Judith Beveridge & Ron Pretty
3C: Poetry as creative response
3D: The Beats, Bob and beyond
3E: Voices in the landscape
3F: Reading Robert Frost reading the landscape
3G: Poetry in the Middle Years
3H: Using poetry as a compact platform...

Session 3 Preferences

Pref 1: _____

Pref 2: _____

- Yes, I am interested in attending the Poetry Slam (just to get an idea of numbers for catering)
 Yes, I would like to participate as a presenter in the Poetry Slam (we will contact you to discuss)

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For GST purposes this will become a Tax Invoice when paid in full. ABN: 22 667 468 657 Cancellation of Registration: Please note: Cancellations must be made in writing. Cancellations received between five and three working days prior to the event will incur a 15% cancellation fee. Cancellations received after two working days prior to the event will receive NO REFUND.

Please book online or return this form with payment to VATE: 1/134-136 Cambridge Street, Collingwood, 3066
phone: 03 9411 8500 fax: 9411 8511 www.vate.org.au

Please note: We do not process applications that arrive without payment. Supply your details and avoid delays.

Need accommodation in Castlemaine? The Castlemaine Visitor Information Centre also help with accommodation bookings. Phone: 1 800 171 888 or Email: visitors@mountalexander.vic.gov.au