



Saturday, 25th July
St Margaret's Church Hall, Pitt Street, Eltham

Stories: Beautiful Lies 10.30am-12.00pm

When narratives skim across fact and fiction do they mirror a world ruled by fictions of every kind? What devices help the writer to sneak in at the edge of the narrative and place a unique thumbprint on the story? Are these just new voices retelling ancient stories? Has the shape of the novel changed? Debut novelists Gaynor McGrath, *Lemniscate*, Claire Thomas, *Fugitive Blue*, David Sornig, *Spiel*, Katherine Johnson, *Pescador's Wake* share their insights into the literary craft of story telling

Chair: Jane Sullivan, Literary Columnist, *The Age*

Fundraising Lunch 12.00pm-12.30pm
 \$10.00

World on a Plate prepared by Asylum Seeker Resource Centre Catering Service. Please book ahead

Testimonies: Witnessing Life 12.30-1.30pm

“Writers trouble themselves, rightly, about the usefulness of writing in troubled times-and times are always troubled.” Do books have the power to effect social, personal and historical change? How are personal memoirs and biographies of other people journeys that bring our humanity home to us? In *Bitter Shore*, journalist and human rights lawyer Jacquie Everitt, presents the tragic story of young Shayan Badraie's Iranian refugee family. Hear Jacquie's journey as a writer of a story that breaks her heart even as she speaks about it.



Chair: Julian Burnside, QC.
Wordwatching, Watching Brief, On Privilege, Human Rights Overboard

Memoirs: Shifting Perceptions 1.30pm-2.30pm

Two writers, two cultures, two childhoods-search for identity, understanding of family, religion, politics and place are all under scrutiny in this session on writing memoirs with talented Irfan Yusuf, *Once Were Radicals* and Dmetri Kakmi, with his confrontational debut *Mother Land*



Chair: Arnold Zable, *Sea of Many Returns, Scraps of Heaven, Jewels and Ashes, Fig Tree, Café Scheherazade*

Poetry: The Calligraphy of Thought

2.45pm-3.45pm
 Why does poetry still us into silence? What do poets seek-sounds? textures? emotional sustenance? How do poems reveal a vast universe of experience in so short a space? Listen to Adelaide based Friendly Street Poets, M.L. Emmett, Rob Hardy and Jules Leigh Koch, *New Poets 14*, read and lead us into an open mic session. Please register early.

Chair: Fiona Sievers, *Rebus Press*
This session will be introduced by local poet, Carmel Macdonald Grahame, Warrandyte Writer's Group

Ellen Gudrun Kastan Literary Award-Nurturing New Voices 2009



4.00pm-5.30pm
 Keynote speaker: **Dr Karen Simpson Nikakis**, Head of Bachelor Writing and Publishing, NMIT and author of the *Kira Chronicles*, will speak on *My Fascination with Words*.

Join us to celebrate the winning entries of the **Ellen Gudrun Kastan Literary Award**. Prizes of \$1000 and \$250 for the First and Second winners will be announced in each of the categories of Poetry, Essay, Short Story and Novella. Judges **Morag Fraser, John Jenkins, Anne Manne** and **Karen Sparnon** will read from the works submitted. Meet new writers and local publishers; enjoy readings and music.

True Stories: Windows on the World

6.00pm-8.00pm
 Another perspective on the connections between story and history. Do writers effect change by being both witness and agent of historical circumstance? How do personal accounts relate to historical event? And when it comes to finely observed truth, the writer's subject doesn't get much finer than microbes: what is their story? Roger Averill, *Boy, He Cry*, L M Robinson, *Madame Brussels*, Lorraine Campbell, *Resisting the Enemy*, Idan Ben-Barak, *Small Wonders: How Microbes Rule Our Worlds* explore historical intersections, scientific truths and shades of non fiction.
Chair: Kevin Rabalais, *Landscape of Desire*

Entry: \$5.00 per session. Full Festival \$20.00
Lunch: \$10.00
Bookings are essential for each session:
ELTHAMbookshop@bigpond.com
970 Main Road, Eltham
9439 8700



Our Debut Works

Lemniscate – In the 70's travel scenes of Afghanistan, India and Thailand, Elsie, a restless spirit torn between the call of family and the world, discovers adventure, friendship and freedom in *Gaynor Mcgrath's* deeply affecting, sprawling, beautiful novel

Fugitive Blue – *Claire Thomas's* captivating, multi-layered novel unfolds the story of a fifteenth century painting, its controversial creation, restoration by a young art conservator and a journey across the world to its current residence in the home of a Greek migrant family.

Spiel – A fast paced trek through the streets of Berlin as an Australian young architect retraces his family footsteps in *David Sornig's* roller-coaster ride of emotion and discovery.

Pescador's Wake – A boat caught is fishing illegally and being pursued by an Australian patrol vessel out in the ocean. The secrets and ambitions harboured by the men on the boat are revealed as they plot an escape route into a ferocious storm in *Katherine Johnson's* gripping tale of love, loss and hope.

Bitter Shore – In this heart breaking account of an Iranian family's experiences as refugees at the hands of the Australian Government, New South Wales journalist *Jacquie Everitt*, provides a thought-provoking glimpse into the lives of the Badraie family and a nation that watched as a child was traumatized.

Once Were Radicals: My years as a teenage Islamo-fascist – Sydney lawyer *Irfan Yusuf*, explores his decision to become a radical Islamist at the age of sixteen. His irreverent, enlightening and refreshingly honest account explores cultural confusions, community politics and one boy's search for an identity. He successfully uses laugh- out-loud humour to open the door on a discussion of deeper issues.

Mother Land – *Dmetri Kakmi's* evocative prose captures the confusion and contradiction that encompass the life of an eight year old boy growing up in a household with an illiterate father and angry mother against a backdrop of large-scale political and social change on the Turkish island of Bozcaada. Despite a picture of a brutal past the tale is steeped in nostalgia for a long-departed way of life.

New Poets 14 - is a recent anthology of award winning manuscripts *The Boy Full of Broken Promises* by Rob Hardy; *Airborne* by Thom Sullivan and *Snatching Time* by Thames Valley (aka M.L.Emmett). Published by the utterly vibrant and dynamic Friendly Street Poets (700 performances and 30 books) the three Adelaide based poets bring intelligence, grace and variety to their works.

The Kira Chronicles – Fast-paced adventure fantasy at its best. Detailing the struggles of a strong, young woman as she attempts to save herself and her people from hostile intruders, *K. S. Nikakis' trilogy* is filled with suspense- an epic journey set in a beautifully crafted world with a cast of exotic, likeable characters and an enthralling heroine.

Boy, He Cry – The voluntary immersion into an alien society by two young Australians makes for a moving tale, harrowing and tender in turn. *Roger Averill* and his anthropologist partner learn to adapt to life on a remote Melanesian island and, in the process, engage in an exploration of humanity and cultural differences.

Madame Brussels – Meet the keeper of Melbourne's most famous brothel. This small historical tale contains the larger-than-life personality of Caroline Hodgson, otherwise known as Madame Brussels. Following her rise to infamy as the 'Queen of Harlotry' in Melbourne during the 1880s and 1890s, this fascinating account, compiled by *L. M. Robinson*, provides a glimpse into the life of a prominent Australian woman.

Resisting the Enemy – Set during the German occupation of France, this is a thrilling story of conflict, danger and passion. Valli is a young French-Australian woman living in France during the German Occupation. *Lorraine Campbell* provides a fascinating look at life during the war and a love between enemies that seems impossibly doomed.

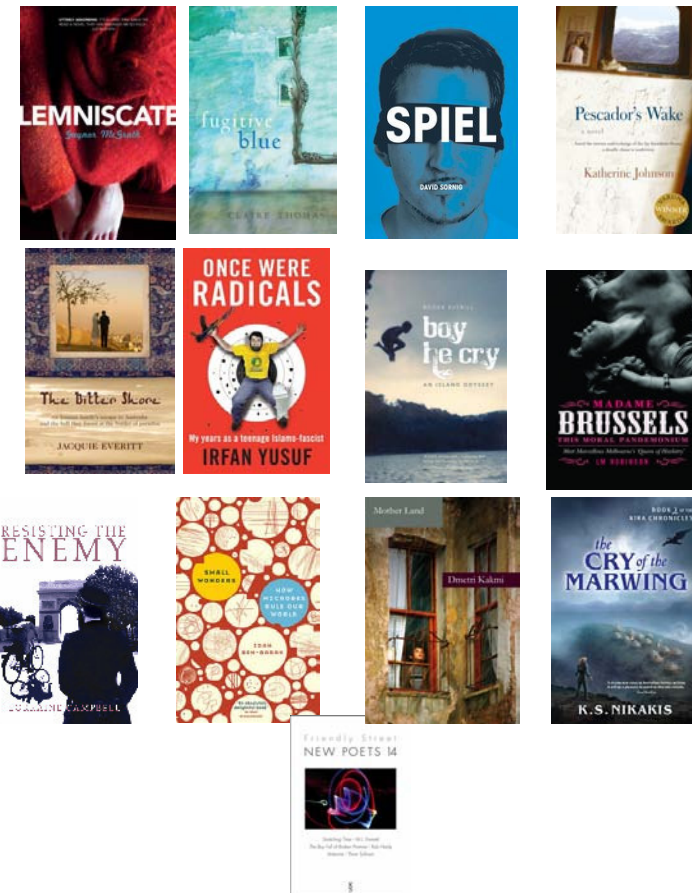
Small Wonders: How Microbes Rule Our World – *Idan Ben-Barak* demonstrates an infectious fascination with microbiology, churns out absorbing facts with an impressive verve and wit, making this an accessible and informative guide and a voyage well worth taking for even the least scientifically savvy reader.

The support of leading, small and independent publishers is gratefully acknowledged.



New Voices July 25th

2009



Bookings:

ELTHAMbookshop@bigpond.com
970 Main Road Eltham 3095 9439 8700