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LAST READERS AND WRITERS FESTIVAL FOR 2009

Central Greenough Regional Library

Friday 11 September Program

Go for 2&5 Big Sky 4 Youth. Morning tea will be provided.
Creative Writing with Dr Anita Heiss
Years 5 and 6. Maximum 15 students.
Venue: Geraldton-Greenough Regional Library (GGRL), 10am-12.30pm

This workshop is designed to get the creative juices flowing. Students will be given props and exercises to delve into memory for story ideas, characters, settings, and scenes. Students will be writing, writing, writing, using their senses and having fun!

Jon Doust's school days
Upper Secondary students.
Venue: Geraldton Secondary College (GSC), 10am-12.30pm

Jon Doust's *Boy on a Wire* is a book about boarding school. What happens when your life becomes a hell away from home? How do you cope without your parents? How do you battle boredom while boarding? Jon will answer these questions, plus lots more you might like to ask him.

Feasting on your imagination
Upper Primary students.
Venue: GSC, 10am-12.30pm

Leonie Norrington's talk is an inspirational riot of readings and anecdotes about life, being an author and writing in general. Warning — includes spontaneous combustion, murdering crocodiles and exploding evil baddies.

Meet the author
Lower secondary students.
Venue: GGRL, 10am-12.30pm

Meet Simon Haynes, author of the Hal Spacejock science fiction comedy series. Session includes discussion of sci-fi technology and how it could change our lives for good and bad, anecdotes about the author's life in Spain, a few little-known facts about the publishing industry, a quick reading from one of the Spacejock books and more.

GALA LAUNCH of BIG SKY 09
Venue: Geraldton Universities Centre (GUC), 5.30pm
Begins with Welcome to Country.
Join us for the launch of Big Sky '09. Mix and mingle. Make Big Sky plans for the weekend and highlight all the sessions.
MC - Verity James, Guest speaker - Dr Brian Boyle, Music - Jim Fisher

Saturday 12 September Program

Keynote address with Dr Anita Heiss.
Venue: GUC, 9.30am
Aboriginal writers consider and shoot for the stars!

Go for 2&5 Kids Tent
Venue: GUC, 9.30-11.30am.

A chill-out zone with books to read, stories to tell and songs to sing. Come in fancy dress and bring your favourite book.

Kate Lamont cooking at TAFE
Venue: TAFE, 9.30-11.30am.

Meet celebrity chef Kate Lamont in the TAFE training kitchen, where she will cook three dishes from her latest book, *Wine and Food*, and match wines to each course. Limited numbers, book at the library, 9956 6659. Tickets \$20.

Books to Treasure
Venue: GGRL 10.30am -12.30pm
Joy Lefroy hosts a workshop bringing parents and children together to conserve some of your wondrous family anecdotes and stories. The stories will be celebrated in picture book format — your children's creativity and the significance of the story can become a valued part of your family heritage. Parent plus child aged between 3 & 7.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS Venue: GUC, 11.00-12.30pm
Panel Session
Australians are surrounded by ocean and ambushed from behind by desert — a war of mystery on two fronts (Tim Winton).
Robert Drewe, Peter Goldsworthy and Shelley Gare in conversation with Verity James.

Discussion — *Leonie's journey.*
With Leonie Norrington. From illiterate bush girl to acclaimed author — the power of story.

Music
Jim Fisher will take you on a musical odyssey as he talks about composing and performing over the years.

Cartooning — *Cartooning the starry eyed.*
With political cartoonist Dean Alston, from the *West Australian*.

BOOK LAUNCH Venue: GUC, 12.45pm
Liz Bryski & Leonie Norrington — *Bad Behaviour & The Devil You Know.*
Join us for a light lunch while we celebrate the latest works by two of our guests. Please book for catering purposes.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS Venue: GUC, 2.15-3.30pm
Panel Session — *Is there anyone out there?*
A light hearted discussion with Leonie Norrington, Simon Haynes, Liz Byrski, Jon Doust, Verity James and Dean Alston.

Readings — *Terrestrial readings.*
Robert Drewe, Barbara Temperton, Peter Goldsworthy & Glyn Parry Facilitator Deanne Davies.

Discussion — *What reading does for the mind.*
Reading and writing are inexorably linked, and this symbiotic relationship has a hierarchy: reading comes first; reading is superior to writing; without reading you cannot have writing. With Marlish Glorie.

Book Launch — *Dreams and Driftwood* anthology.
Venue: GUC, 3.30pm. Free — RSVP appreciated.

Poetry Pub Crawl at historic Central Greenough from 6pm.
Jim Fisher, Brian Poller, Yamaji stories by Simon Forrest. Bring warm clothes, walking shoes, a torch and a poem or three. Light meals available from the Central Greenough Cafe. Licensed Bar (no BYO). Free bus leaves Library 6pm sharp. Meals 6.30-7.30pm, readings start 7.30pm. Bus returns to Library 10.30pm. Please book for bus and event

at the Library. Bookings close Friday 11 September.

Dinner at Central West TAFE at 6.30pm.
Wine and food — conversation with Kate Lamont. TAFE apprentices will showcase their skills as Kate matches each course with a specially chosen wine and talks us through the experience. Ticketed event, limited numbers. Please book and pay at the library.

Sunday 13 September Program

Q & A Session Venue: GUC, 10 am
We're living in a world of perfection and extremes. Everything is pumped up and cartoon-like; there are no nuances. We're becoming these plastic creatures and when you get that plastic, there's a certain dead quality to it. (Tom Ford)

Liz Byrski, Peter Goldsworthy, Robert Drewe and Grant Woodhams. Hosted by Shelley Gare. Come armed with your questions. Are the airheads winning?

Bush walk in the valley with Leonie Norrington
Venue: Nukara Farm, 11am-1.00 pm
Drive out to the beautiful Chapman Valley for an informative bush walk amongst flowing creeks with old river gums, flowering native trees with a visit to the organic vegetable garden and orchard.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS Venue: GUC, 11.15-12.15pm
Panel Discussion — *Remember the old school yard?*
Jon Doust and his panel delve into the myths, misconceptions, misadventures and even reveal occasional realities of boarding school life in the 1960s. Oh, they may also mention his latest novel *Boy on a Wire*.

Writing Non-Fiction with Shelley Gare
The craft of non-fiction writing, whether in the form of book, memoir, essay, newspaper or magazine story, feature or diary entry. We will discuss first sentences, how to get structure right, how to take risks and find your own voice, the importance of reading, and, essentially, how you choose your subject. *What story do you want to tell?*

Black words with Anita Heiss
Anita Heiss will showcase the evolving and exciting Black Words web-facility which is a wide-ranging, inclusive and informative resource of structured information relating to the lives and stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander writers and storytellers.

Flights of Fantasy: Science Fiction & Fantasy Writing with Lara Morgan and Simon Haynes
Simon and Lara talk about the strange, the magical, the mythical and the unique challenges of writing genre fiction. Session includes insider tips on interstellar travel, what to do should you rethink writing about elves, and why genre writers love the Internet.

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CLOSING CELEBRATION at NUKARA FARM 1-5pm

Relax in a tranquil setting where you can share your talents with our invited guests at an open mic session. Catch the bus at GUC at 12.30pm or use your own transport. Bring a picnic lunch or pre-book a hamper for \$25 (vegetarian option) at the Library. Tea, coffee & home-made cakes available.

Big Sky Guests

DEAN ALSTON was born in South Perth, Western Australia in 1950. In 1985 Alston was employed by *The West Australian*. He took over as cartoonist the following year. As of December 2005, he has published nearly 10,000 cartoons, and won numerous awards, including a Walkley in 1991.



MARLISH GLORIE was born in Western Australian and has worked as a nurse, environmentalist, art dealer and playwright. Her last full-length play *The Butcher* sold out. Marlish's latest novel, *The Bookshop on Jacaranda Street* (Fremantle Press) was published this year.



SHELLEY GARE is a Perth-trained editor, writer and columnist who has been a deputy editor of *The Australian* newspaper, worked for *The Sunday Times* in London, and was founding editor of *The Australian's Review of Books* for which she won a Walkley. *The Triumph of the Airheads – and the Retreat from Commonsense* is her first book.

Shelley spent much of her childhood in Geraldton where her mother, Nene Gare, wrote *The Fringe Dwellers*. Shelley also recently edited Pat Cavendish O'Neill's best-selling memoir, *A Lion in the Bedroom*, and *My Life as a Father*, a collection of the works of humorist Ross Campbell.

Since 2002 JOY LEFROY has worked with the National Trust of Australia (WA) as Education & Learning Coordinator. She has co-authored two children's picture books inspired by Western Australian stories: *The Pipeline C Y O'Connor Built* and *The Catalpa Escape*. Joy has many years experience as a teacher. She held the position of head of Education at the Fremantle Children's Literature Centre for six years.



LARA MORGAN grew up in the hills outside Perth and wrote her first book — a plagiarised version of *The Magic Faraway tree* — when she was seven. She has worked in community arts and at a community newspaper but now spends most of her time writing fantasy and science fiction. The first novel in her adult fantasy trilogy, *The Twins of Saranthium* (published by Pan Macmillan), was launched at Big Sky last year and the second in the series will be out next March. She has also recently completed the first in a series of novels for young adults called *The Rosie Black Chronicles*, the first of which, *The Genesis Project*, will be published in 2010 by Walker Books Australia.



LEONIE NORRINGTON was born in Darwin and grew up at Barung. Leonie has always been a part of the Aboriginal stories and issues that surround her. 'I am interested in the places where cultures and languages meet,' she says. She writes in a mix of English, Kriol and Language and her stories are a beautifully conceived reflection of her life.

GLYN PARRY is the author of 11 books for children and young adults. He is the librarian at Geraldton Senior College. His latest project is a novel for younger readers.



BARBARA TEMPERTON is an award winning West Australian writer. Her poems, short stories, song lyrics and other writing has appeared in journals, newspapers, anthologies, been performed live and broadcast on radio. Her second collection of poems, *Going Feral*, won the WA Premier's Book Award for Poetry in 2002. Barbara is also the poetry editor for *Westerly*. Her third collection of poetry, *Southern Edge*, was published this year by Fremantle Press.



Dr BRIAN BOYLE completed his PhD at the University of Durham in the UK. He held positions at universities in England and Australia before his appointment as CSIRO SKA Director in February 2009. Dr Boyle has published more than 300 papers in astronomy.

His primary research interests are in the fields of quasars, active galaxies and cosmology and he is currently involved in the Australia Telescope Large Area Survey (ATLAS).

LIZ BRYSKI is the author of eleven non-fiction books and four bestselling novels including *Trip of a Lifetime* (2008) and *Belly Dancing for Beginners* (2006).

Liz is a journalist with more than 40 years experience in the British and Australian media. She is a former newspaper columnist and was a broadcaster and executive producer with ABC Radio in Perth. Her fifth novel *Bad Behaviour* will be launched at Big Sky 09.



JON DOUST, writer, MBTI I® practitioner, facilitator and self-described general nuisance, describes himself thus: *Jon has a BA in English (Curtin) and can read and write. He used to be a comedian, but he stopped when he realised there were more important things to do, like helping people help themselves through humour and an understanding of Jungian psychological models and archetypes, community engagement and growing your own fresh fruit and vegetables. People say he's still funny, but that's no longer the point.*



Jon's latest book *Boy on a Wire* was published in March 09.

ROBERT DREWE grew up on the West Australian coast, the setting for his best-selling memoir, *The Shark Net*. His many novels, including *The Drowner*, *Our Sunshine*, *Grace and Fortune*, and his short-story collections, *The Bods surfers* and *The Bay of Contented Men*, have been widely translated, won national and international prizes, and been adapted for film, television, radio and theatre around the world. His book, *The Rip*, was recently published by Hamish Hamilton.

JIM FISHER played in his first band at fifteen years of age in 1969 and was a key player in the renaissance of the live music scene in Perth through the 70s and 80s. He fostered the development of traditional country and bluegrass music from his home in Fremantle and worked for many years as music director. He is a self taught multi-instrumentalist and songwriter and has played with and supported many of the greats in the Australian and international music scene.



PETER GOLDSWORTHY grew up in various Australian country towns, finishing his schooling in Darwin. After graduating in medicine from the University of Adelaide in 1974, he worked for many years in alcohol and drug rehabilitation. Since then he has divided his time equally between writing and general practice. He has won major literary awards across a range of genres: poetry, short story, the novel, in opera, and most recently in theatre.



SIMON HAYNES is the author of four Hal Spacejock novels, a number of articles on writing and publishing, and several short stories, one of which collected an Aurealis Award in 2001. He divides his time between writing fiction and computer software, with the occasional round of golf thrown in for a laugh.

Simon emigrated to Australia from the UK with his family in 1983. He's a founding member of Andromeda Spaceways Inflight Magazine, and lives in Perth with his wife and two children. His goal is to write fifteen Hal Spacejock books before someone takes his keyboard away.

Dr ANITA HEISS is a member of the Wiradjuri nation of central New South Wales and is one of Australia's most prolific and well known Indigenous authors. Her most recent title is *Avoiding Mr Right* (Random House, 2008) and she is currently the Coordinator of the AustLit - Black Words subset.



VERITY JAMES has been a radio and television presenter with the ABC for 20 years. She is sought after for corporate videos and also comperes awards nights, conferences and anywhere there is a gathering of more than four people! Verity's was the first voice you heard when contacting the RAC for more than a year. She has a versatile, warm 'trustworthy' voice with great diction.

KATE LAMONT has more than two decades of experience in the food and wine industry in Western Australia. She is CEO and managing partner in the Lamont's family business, an integrated food and wine business incorporating grape growing, wine production and sales.

The business also operates restaurants in the Swan Valley, Margaret River and East Perth. Kate opened a fourth wine and food venue in Cottesloe in 2008. Her personal motto is: 'Never, never, never give up!'



Program timetable

	FRIDAY 11 th September	SATURDAY 12 th September	SUNDAY 13 th September																						
MORNING	10am-12.30pm GO FOR 2 & 5 — BIG SKY 4 YOUTH Venues as indicated. Morning tea provided.	9.30am KEYNOTE ADDRESS by Anita Heiss Venue: GUC	10am Q & A Venue: GUC																						
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AFTERNOON	Yamaji Art, the Curtin Institute of Radio Astronomy, and scientists participating in the Square Kilometre Array recently met to share in a cross-cultural exchange over a three-day event in Mullewa and at Boolardy Station in the Murchison.	12.45pm BOOK LAUNCH Liz Bryski: <i>Bad Behaviour</i> & Leonie Norrington: <i>The Devil You Know</i> . Venue: GUC. Please book for light lunch.	1-5pm CLOSING CELEBRATION AT NUKARA With Verity James, Jon Doust & Jim Fisher																						
	Since then, Aboriginal Artists from various language groups in the Mid West Region have shared stories with scientists working with the world's leading astronomy equipment, bringing together the world's oldest continuing cultural understanding of the sky, its stories and the world's state-of-the-art astronomical technology.	2.15 - 3.30pm CONCURRENT SESSIONS Venue: GUC	BOOKSHOP University Co-operative Bookshop (UWA branch) will be setting up at GUC during the festival. They will stock all our guests' latest titles. Please pay them a visit, buy some books and have them signed.																						
	Yamaji Art are pleased to present you with these views of the sky, and the universe — the stars, and the space between them.	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>PANEL Leonie Norrington, Simon Haynes, Liz Byrski, Jon Doust with Verity James & Dean Alston <i>Is there anyone out there?</i></td> <td>READINGS Robert Drewe, Barbara Temperton, Peter Goldsworthy & Glyn Parry <i>Terrestrial readings</i></td> <td>DISCUSSION Marlish Glorie <i>What reading does for the mind.</i></td> </tr> </table>	PANEL Leonie Norrington, Simon Haynes, Liz Byrski, Jon Doust with Verity James & Dean Alston <i>Is there anyone out there?</i>	READINGS Robert Drewe, Barbara Temperton, Peter Goldsworthy & Glyn Parry <i>Terrestrial readings</i>	DISCUSSION Marlish Glorie <i>What reading does for the mind.</i>																				
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Big Sky Map



Thanks to our sponsors

writingWA...



Government of Western Australia
Department of Fisheries



Geraldton-Greenough Regional Library
presents
BIG SKY 09
Readers and writers festival
11-13 September Geraldton
write out there

