



Volume 5, Issue 9 October 2010

Meeting Dates

2010

16 October
20 November
18 December

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October Meeting

Saturday 16 October

2:00pm to 4:00pm, Fradgley Hall, Burleigh Heads

2010 – 2011 Committee

Please welcome our new committee members to another exciting year of managing, promoting and growing our association:

President
Jeannie May Barker

Vice President
Angelika Heurich

Secretary
Elena Ormig

Treasurer
Gavin Fisher

Membership Secretary
Christina Jablonksi

Publicity Officer
Marion Martineer

Webmaster
Jeannie May Barker

Newsletter Editor
Ceresse Gardner

Speaker Coordinator
Ceresse Gardner

Christmas Party Organiser
Caren Sattle

Competition Receiving Officer
D Morris

Catering Coordinator
Helga Glinatsis



Youth Group Coordinator
Marion Martineer

General Member - Darryl Greer

General Member - Gary Ivory

General Member - Caren Sattler

General Member - Gloria Swan

Vacant Committee Positions:
Competition Coordinator and Senior Events Coordinator. If interested in these positions please contact the president to learn what is involved in the role.

president@goldcoastwriters.org.au
0431 443 385.

From the President



*GCWA President,
Jeannie May Barker*

Greetings fellow writers,

This month's piece is my 'President's Report' from the AGM.

It has been an honour for me to serve on the committee and to steer the association through such a fabulous year of change and advancement, culminating in the hugely successful Literary Luncheon held last week at Burleigh Bears.

I'd like to briefly reflect on some of the highlights here today:

In the past year we have we have grown our online presence from a simple website to an online brand with profiles on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Meetup](#). We have 170 fans on Facebook, 767 followers on Twitter and 189 subscribers to our eNews updates.

We have assisted our members to reach out into the online world and expand their audience through social networking and the opportunities that blogging presents, encouraging them to build their own author platforms which are virtually a must have for writers in this era.

We held a design competition inviting designers Australia wide to join with us to create a modern logo that represents who we are now; we ran a very successful children's writing competition which attracted entries from throughout Australia and we have just launched our new collaborative artists competition which is certain to result in some very interesting entries.

We have been booked solid with member book launches throughout the year and I already have a waiting list for 2011 which is a wonderful testament to the writing talent flourishing here on the Gold Coast.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to introduce an array of talented and inspiring guest speakers over the past twelve months: Peter Watt, Nike Bourke, Joanna Penn, Annette Henderson, Desolie Page, Christian Tamblyn, Deborah Carlyon, Katherine Battersby and Bev Ryan. Their talks on various topics related to writing, publishing and marketing were both educational and inspirational.

Joanna Penn's fast-paced, information packed workshop on building your author platform was a personal highlight for me. To be able to bring this expert to the coast to share her enthusiasm and knowledge was a fabulous opportunity for those able to attend.

The undoubted standout highlight of the year though was the literary luncheon held last week. We had a total 66 people attend the function. We gave away over \$2,700 worth of prizes. We shared in a great meal and an awesome birthday cake. And, we had the pleasure of hearing internationally renowned journalist and author, David Leser, share some of his writing adventures from around the world.



I'd like to take this opportunity to again thank all our special guests at the function: guest speaker David Lesser, MC Deborah Jarvis, authors Tiffany Bond, Kerry Brown, Annette Henderson, Katherine Howell and Oren Siedler.

A huge thank you must also go to our committee, our sponsors and the members who came along and made the function such a brilliant success.

To sum up, it has been a year of great change and growth for the association with many successes shared throughout the year.

And, lastly I'd like to share a quote from an article I read recently by Richard Millington talking about online communities:

Churches no longer unite us. We don't find that sense of community in our lives much these days. Community participation has been dropping since the second world war. Most community halls are empty tonight.

When I read that it made me realise that one of the key elements that makes the Gold Coast Writers' Association such a unique experience is that sense of community. A coming together of people with similar interests, talents and dreams.

Our community hall is not empty and we are united in our passion for sharing the written word.

I wish you all well in your future endeavours to write, to share, to publish and to be read.

Jeannie May Barker



Karen Tyrrell

Guest Speaker – Karen Tyrrell

Karen Tyrrell is passionate about writing and mental health. She's actively pursuing a publisher for **ME AND HER: a Memoir of Madness**, a gutsy account of her struggle and victory over bipolar disorder.

She's an ambassador for SANE Australia and has written articles of 'hope' for Beyond Blue and The Happiness Institute. Trellis publishing will publish **Price of Freedom** in an anthology, **Being Bipolar** in 2011. Her Kid Sci-Fi, **Josh and the It** and her Crime Faction **Sayonara** are ready to send to Publishers. Karen is the leader of Logan City Writers and event coordinator of Logan Writers Week. <http://www.karentyrrell.com/>

Call Out to all Gold Coast Writers

Alicia Mayer Beverley is keen to help give Gold Coast writers a forum for their work in the newly revamped Coast Lifestyle, a glossy bi-monthly magazine, which is distributed throughout the Gold Coast and into newsagents.

Her aim is to make it interesting and appealing to both men and women, while at the same time keeping it almost 100% local content.

If anyone is interested in sending through their work, here is what she needs:

- A title with one para synopsis, genre and total word count – large works to be run over several issues, short stories may be run in full
- A very brief bio of the writer (couple paras should do)
- 500 words of the work being put up for publication
- If the work has been previously published, where and when
- Willingness to provide in writing that the work can be published by Coast Lifestyle

Alicia will do her best to contact all writers who send in work, but can't guarantee this or how swiftly she will be able to do so. You will not be paid for your work but will retain copyright. Email: editor@lifegc.com.au



More photos on our FaceBook page: <http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=282104&id=164258795718>



20th Anniversary Literary Luncheon

The literary luncheon was a fabulous success. We had a total of 66 people attend and enjoy a great meal, stimulating company and a very entertaining guest speaker.

We gave away over 30 prizes worth in excess of \$2,700 in raffles and lucky door prizes, so almost half the attendees took something extra home! When you consider the author autographs and the photo opportunities it was well worth the ticket price!

Thank you to all who attended and made it such a memorable event. Thank you to our guests:

Tiffany Bond, Kerry Brown, Annette Henderson, Katherine Howell, Debra Jarvis, David Lesser and Oren Siedler.

Thank you to all our sponsors:

Jeff Allen; Jeannie May Barker; Roma Blair; Lisa Blainey-Lewin; Rachael Birmingham; Border Bookstore Robina; Paul Bowden; Julie Boyd; Beverley Cassidy; Event Cinemas; Darryl Greer; Gold Coast Little Theatre; Esta Hammond; Debra Jarvis; Brian Kennedy; Kylee Legge; Virginia Lowe; Karen Mackay; Lyne Marshall; Marion Martineer and the Ten Penners; Andrew McDermott; Kerrie Phipps; Joan Songaila and the Southern Short Story Writers; Carole Sulzer; Sally Thibault; Donna Mroz Turcic; Bill Turkington and Womens' Network Australia.

If you have more photos and would to see them added to the FaceBook photo album, please email to webmaster@goldcoastwriters.org.au

Special Announcement

The luncheon was considered so successful that the committee has decided to make it an annual event!

Keep an eye out for news about our next literary luncheon and please feel free to share any suggestions you may have for venues, guest authors and potential sponsors with the committee: info@goldcoastwriters.org.au

Support Group Report

The All Genres

We had a delightful September meeting in which we discussed the seven basic story lines. They are listed in, 'Writing a Novel and Getting Published for Dummies.'

The basic story lines are - Achilles, the hero with the fatal flaw; Cinderella, virtue ultimately rewarded; The eternal triangle, two's company but three, well...; Romeo and Juliette, the star-crossed lovers; The Holy Grail, the perilous quest or journey; Nemesis, the past waiting to pounce; Triumph of good over evil, after the good guys undergo many trials the bad guys get a right kicking.'

The authors say, 'As you can see from just these few examples, the seven stories come in many forms. The point is finding ways to take these familiar stories and tell them in unexpected ways, mixing familiar ingredients into unfamiliar combinations and so making new dishes. They add, 'Writer's worry that their story isn't original. It isn't what you choose but what you do with your choices that matters.'

We also studied P.D. James autobiography, 'A Time to Be in Earnest' and her book 'Devices and Desires,' in which human folly leads victims into dangerous situations.



The All Genres meet on the first Saturday of each month at 12.15 for a 12.30 start, at the Broadbeach Library, adjacent to Pacific Fair. Newcomers welcome. *Di Baker 55 383 568*

Writers Force by Marion Martineer



Being a busy working mum, I have not put in a report on my groups for a few months. However, our groups The Ten Penners (adults writing for children) and Writers Force (young writers 7-17) are still meeting each month to dabble in some interesting creative exercises and have valuable critique from their peers. The critique, I have nurtured for my young writers only this year. Having been rather soft on them before, I felt having them critique each other would be beneficial and I think it has proved that way.

I have two die hards, Shana (13) and Amelia (11) pictured here with my daughter Starla, who are working hard toward their own anthology. From our one hour monthly meetings, the two girls created new stories, which they are still moulding and editing. They are both very different in style, having very good voice and expression. I am hoping their efforts will endure the process and we will see a book launch either year end or next year. After all, they don't want to publish too hastily or interrupt their school work and they still need some time to be kids!

In the meantime, we have allotted a second meeting for the project around the fortnightly mark but if they press on we may do weekly meetings, which I have found is the only way to get a project like this accomplished. If the project falls through they will definitely end up with rather well polished manuscripts to submit elsewhere. I am very proud of my kids group and they never cease to impress me with their talent and ability to tackle adult tasks.



The Ten Penners by Marion Martineer

As for the Ten Penners... we have been nurturing new stories for competitions, personal projects and perhaps a new anthology next year. We always have fun at our meetings, being entertained by listening to each other's stories.

If anyone would like to join us, give me a call, Marion 0416 027 016, The Ten Penners will be meeting at Broadbeach library 1st Saturday morning of each month for the rest of the year.

Being a coordinator of a support group is a great pleasure, we all volunteer our personal time to enhance the GCWA's values, to encourage and support writers from all genres, age groups and levels of writing to grow, learn and excel in their craft. A coordinator is there to do just that ... coordinate! So remember to appreciate their time they give to you too when you next go along to a meeting.

I have been appreciating Dianne Baker's time at the All Genres group for the past few months and have enjoyed listening to many varieties of style and genre. Dianne's group is the longest running at GCWA. See photo on previous page taken at the July meeting.

If anything, you can get a good buzz to rekindle your own thoughts and creativity at these events, so take the time for yourself and join a support group!

Happy writing,

Marion

The first chapter sells the book. The last chapter sells the next book.

- Mickey Spillane

(submitted by Robert Young)

Members' Achievements

Congratulations to:

John Millett won 1st.Prize in the Book Abyss Writing Competition with his story, *At The River's Bend*.

Book Launch

Author: **David Byerley**

Book: London's Falling

When: 16 October 2010

Where: GCWA Monthly Meeting, Fradgley Hall, Burleigh Heads

Time: 2:00pm – 3:30pm (time of meeting)

Author: **Kay Danes**

Book: Beneath the Pale Blue Burqa

When: 18 October 2010

Where: Major Bookshops across Australia

Advert: See Page 13 of this Newsletter

Member Book Sales at Meetings

A reminder that if you would like to sell your books at a GCWA meeting, it is essential you contact the president to reserve a place by the Wednesday prior to the meeting. Please email or phone Jeannie to request a booking: president@goldcoastwriters.org.au 0431 443 385.

Mini Book Promo

Do you want to promote your book at a meeting but are unable to do a book launch because it isn't a new book? Do a Mini Book Promo instead!

You have 5 minutes on stage to talk about your book plus a half table space to sell copies after the meeting.

Tips for a good promo

- Cover all the important facts about your book: title, publisher, year of publication, price.
- Briefly explain what it is about.
- Share why you wrote it.
- Only read from the book if you can find a very short compelling extract. There won't be time for a long piece.
- Rehearse your talk so you can do it confidently without needing to read a speech.
- Rehearse the timing of your promo talks and make sure it does not exceed the time limit.

Writers' Festivals

Sydney Screen Writers Festival

Dates: 29 October – 5th November 2010

Fantastic Planet - Sydney Science Fiction and Fantasy Film Festival

Website: <http://www.fantasticplanetfilmfestival.com/>

Workshops – Media Training

Byron Bay

Learn how to promote your ideas, achievements or work (writing-related or otherwise) in the media.

Former Journalist, Stephanie Dale, author of *My Pilgrim's Heart*, will teach participants how to 'think like a journalist' - how to identify good stories and pitch them to newsrooms with a focus on news values, rather than simple promotion. Teach people how to position themselves as leaders in their field.

Saturday October 9 - 9.15am - 4.30pm

The Lotus Temple

5 Wollongbar St, Byron Arts & Industry Estate

Cost: \$110 - 10% discount for writers centre members

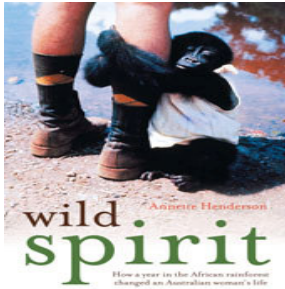
Book Review

By Jill Smith

Title: **Wild Spirit**

Author: **Annette Henderson**

Publisher: **William Heinemann: Australia**



Annette Henderson



In *Wild Spirit* Annette relates an enormously heart-warming and heart-wrenching episode in her life.

After meeting and marrying her soul mate Win, they plan an adventure driving across Africa in a Kombi van. This episode is about their time in Gabon, where they found themselves without cash due to a robbery, or even a safe place to park the Kombi. Fate stepped in when an ex pat working in Gabon came to the rescue. Win, as a builder, was asked to reconstruct an old mineral exploration camp that was being reopened with the support of the Gabonese government. As Annette spoke some French she could assist with translating for the Gabonese laborers and the international team of workers, she was also taking on the job.

The journey was amazing in itself, the Belinga camp being deep in the interior of the jungle. Annette and Win discovered a love of nature and the jungle, and particularly the rare and abundant animal life. This was tempered with the realization that the natives ate bush meat, including Gorillas and rare and endangered species.

Annette's turning point came with the arrival at camp of a badly wounded baby female gorilla. She helped Win, with their friend and co-worker Rodo, clean and tend the wounds. They named the little gorilla Josie, and tended to her every need, helping her recover both physically and partially mentally. Management of the camp, radio links with the outside world, building accommodation for surveyors and other workers, still had to go ahead. When the boss realized a baby gorilla was disrupting the operation they were forced to find a new home for Josie. This proved to be more than Josie's frail constitution could bear.

The life in the jungle held fascination and danger in the same instance. Annette shows the reader the depth of awe she felt for her surroundings, and her delight in being able to meet gorillas. Her determination to change her life, and the depth of helplessness she felt at the natives continued slaughter of wildlife, is clearly relayed in this volume.

I couldn't put this book down. I applaud Annette for delivering this powerful story of her incredible adventure. To purchase your copy of this book go to <http://www.randomhouse.com.au/Author/Henderson,%20Annette>

RRP \$34.95.

Member Book Sales at Meetings

A reminder that if you would like to sell your books at a GCWA meeting, it is essential you contact the president to reserve a place by the Wednesday prior to the meeting. Please email or phone Jeannie to request a booking: president@goldcoastwriters.org.au 0431 443 385.

New Members

We welcome the following new members:

Melissa Rogers, Patricia Huckle, Aldwyn Altuney, Kay Danes and Mark Wren.

Writing Competitions

2010 Overland Judith Wright Poetry Prize for New and Emerging Poets

sponsored by the Malcolm Robertson Foundation

The judge of the 2010 Overland Judith Wright Poetry Prize for New and Emerging Poets is [Peter Minter](#).

Prizes: The major prize is \$5000, with two runner-up prizes of \$1000.
Entry fee: \$11 per poem, (or \$5.50 for subscribers)
Deadline: Monday 15 November 2010
Website: <http://web.overland.org.au/poetry-prize/poetry-prize-guidelines/>

The winners will be announced in March 2011.

Faw Mornington Peninsular Prize

Faw invites open-themed poems up to 30 lines.

Prizes: First \$200; Highly commended and Commended certificates.
Entry fee: \$5 per poem, (cheques payable to: FAW Tasmania Inc)
Deadline: 29 October 2010
Email: peninsulafaw@bigpond.com

2011 Finch Memoir Prize

Unpublished non-fiction memoirs may be submitted. A memoir, for the purposes of this competition, is defined as a truthful account of a life in whole or part, told by its subject.

First prize: \$10,000 and publication on the Finch list in September 2011.
Deadline: 15 October 2010
Entry form: www.finch.com.au/about-us/finch-memoir-prize

Inverawe Nature Poetry Competition

A nature poem is defined as one whose major inspiration and subject matter is the natural world, not necessarily excluding its significance for humans or their interaction with it.

First Prize: \$1,000
Minor Prize: \$300
Best emerging poet: \$200
Deadline: 11 October 2010
Entry Form: <http://inverawe.com.au/Open%20Entry%20Form%202010.pdf>

Raspberry and Vine Short Story Competition

Fiction of any genre to 4,000 words per submission is eligible.

Entry fee: \$10 per submission. (Students \$8)
First Prize: \$300
Deadline: 29 October 2010
Website: <http://home.swiftsl.com.au/~raspberryyandvine/Competitions.php>

Special Offer to Members

DYMOCKS
BOOKSELLERS

10% discount at Pacific Fair.
Ph: 5572 2411.

Writing Opportunities

Griffith Review

Submissions open for edition 31: *Ways of Seeing*, due for release in February 2011.

Scientific rationalism informs and quantifies human endeavour—from politics and economics to health care, journalism and education. The gulf between the two cultures—science and the humanities—is widening and threatens to limit our ability to address complex global and local issues.

Deadline: 22 October 2010.

Website: www.griffithreview.com/contact-us.html

The Specusphere

A free Australian speculative fiction webzine seeks articles including features; essays; reviews of books, movies and games; interviews with people using spec-fic in the creative industries; short stories and poetry.

Maximum length for poetry and fiction is 1,000 words. There is no limit for non-fiction but the guideline is 2,000 words.

Website: www.specusphere.com

Bright Light Multimedia

Calling for the submission of short stories (100 to 3,000 words) on the theme of romantic love between 2 people. Submissions to be considered for inclusion on our writer-showcase website, The Bright Light Café, and also for publication in an anthology of Bright Light Café work, scheduled for release later this year. If chosen for inclusion in the anthology, a license fee of \$50 (Australian) will be paid upon publication. Stories must be ultimately uplifting and positive and can be humorous. Submissions for the website are welcome at any time.

Website: www.brightlightmultimedia.com/SubGuide.htm

Out and About - Tim Flannery

Professor Tim Flannery is a writer, scientist, explorer and the 2007 Australian of the Year. He has published more than a dozen books including the award-winning best seller, *The Future Eaters* and *The Weather Makers*.

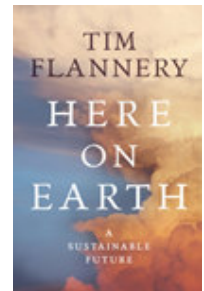
Tim's latest book *Here on Earth: A Sustainable Future* is not just a dazzling account of life on our planet. It will change the way you live. Copies will be available to purchase on the night **and Tim will be available for book signings.**

When: Tuesday 12 October

Time: 7pm

Where: [Albert Waterways Community Centre](#)

Bookings: Phone 5581 1555



*Inside every fat book
there is a thin book
trying to get out.*

- *Unknown*

Legal Queries

If you have a question on a legal issue relating to writing, please email it to the editor gcwa.editor@gmail.com. Our Honorary Solicitor, Darryl Greer will respond to queries via the newsletter as time and space allows.

Published Members

Dianne Baker
Hazel Barker
Pam Cameron-Clarke
Margaret Cornwell
Annette De Jonge
Pat Ferguson
Tony Ferrers
Jill Ford
Caroline Glen
Darryl Greer
Frances Johnson
Helen Johnson
George Lewis
John Litchen
Marion Martineer
Andrew McDermott
John Millett

Dianne Morris
Sue Pearson
Audie-Marie Pennefather
Lynette Reilly
Debbie Renner
Kev Roberts
Nonie Sinclair
Jill Smith
Joan Songaila
Terry Spring
Lindy Standage
Helen Staples
Kathy Stewart
Jean Thompson
Dylyn Wheeler
Robert Young

Support Groups

The All Genres

Includes crime, life writing and nonfiction

Meetings are held on the first Saturday of each month at the Broadbeach Library in Sunshine Boulevard, opposite Pacific Fair, at 12:30pm.

Coordinator: Dianne Baker
Phone: 5538 3568

Southern Short Story Group

Meetings are held on the second and fourth Saturdays at 10:00am at Joan's unit in Coolangatta.

Coordinator: Joan Songaila
Phone: 5599 2581
Email: joanmay@connexus.net.au

The Ten Penners

Adults writing for children

Meetings are held on the 1st Saturday of each month at Broadbeach library or a cafe from 9:30 to 11:30am. Phone Marion to confirm venue details.

Coordinator: Marion Martineer
Phone: 0416 027 016

Writers Force

Young writers

Meetings are held on the third Thursday each month at the meeting room at Robina Library from 5:30 to 6:30pm.

Coordinator: Marion Martineer
Phone: 0416 027 016

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or service here?**

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Need help selling your book from the stage?

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Debra Jarvis, published author, professional speaker and trainer, teaches writers how to become polished speakers and sell their books and services from stage.



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Special Website offer for Gold Coast Writers' Association members.
\$450 – Website design, formatting etc (see below) for up to 5 pages. Extra pages \$60 per page. You provide the ideas and inspiration, and Joan will make it a reality. Includes:

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- Formatting of photographs
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<http://www.joansmall.com/websitedesign.htm>



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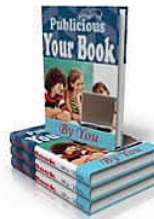
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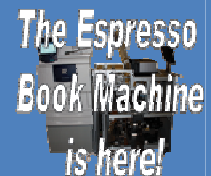
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10% discount for GCWA members!

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“If you cannot say what you mean, you will never mean what you say”

The origins of the above quote are obscure but it proved to be one of the most memorable lines from the movie epic, *The Last Emperor*. In writing for any audience, it is a good maxim to keep in mind.

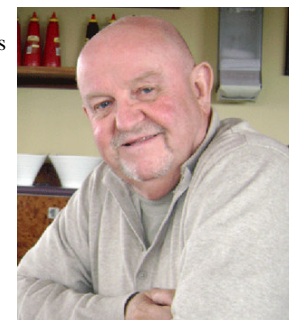
Communication involves the ability of the author to relate essential facts and ideas to the reading audience in a manner that the reader is able to understand and then, if needed, act upon. Writing style should convey this ability to communicate; indeed it is the hallmark of anyone in the teaching, research or knowledge management professions.

Dr. Michael Clancy is a published author, freelance writer, researcher and editor who has lived and worked in Asia for more than 30 years. He has now returned to Australia and has his home on the Queensland Gold Coast. He travels between Australia, the Middle East and Asia undertaking research and editing assignments for the ILO, various UN bodies and the Asian Development Bank.

As an editor, Mike believes that the best output can be obtained when writers, researchers and editors work closely together in the development and delivery of the final product. Mike firmly believes that an important role for the editor to play is that of “author’s advocate” who, while staying true to the author’s intent, looks at any piece as would a general reader. His suggestions to author’s are often made with this role in mind.

Mike is always available to assist writers and researchers with any queries they may have. Prices are reasonable, professionalism is assured.

- Volume, manuscript and copy editing
- Manuscript development
- Assistance with theses and dissertations
- Corporate presentations, manuals and reports
- Tutoring and course presentations —effective writing
- Staff creativity and productivity training



For a no-obligation discussion and quotation please e-mail Mike at thecreativegenie@gmail.com or skype: MikeClancy2

In-house web design (content, architecture and graphic design) at competitive rates.

Corporate website: www.thecreativegenie.com.au; Training website: www.workingwithwords.com.au

Michael Clancy & Associates (the creative genie) | PO Box 1403, Pacific Fair 4128 | ABN 73 279 729 004

Media Release

Kay Danes is a member of the Gold Coast Writer's Association. Her other books have been bestsellers; *Families Behind Bars* and *Standing Ground*. Visit Kay's Blog: <http://kaydanes.wordpress.com/>

Beneath The Pale Blue Burqa is an inspiring story and sheds light on the struggles faced by the Afghan people, particularly women and children. Kay shows that small initiatives can deliver life-changing opportunities.

Available in all good bookstores throughout Australia (RRP\$34.99) - 18 October 2010

Beneath The Pale Blue Burqa

One woman's journey through Taliban Strongholds
Kay Danes

"Kay Danes is an inspiration for giving a voice to the oppressed and unjustly accused of the world, and for shedding light on the struggles faced by the Afghan people, particularly women and children." WHO magazine

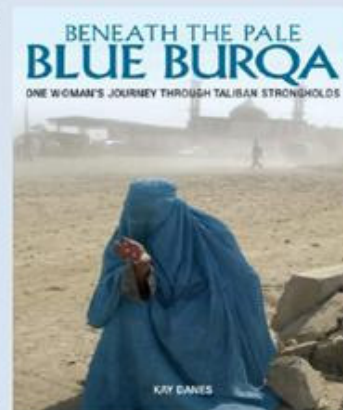
Kay Danes knows what it is like to live dangerously. In June 2001, Kay and her husband Kerry, an Australian Special Forces soldier were illegally held hostage in Laos where they endured brutal interrogations, mock executions, torture, other violations of their human rights and separation from their three children. Nine years on, Kerry has continued his Defence career, including several tours of Afghanistan, while Kay, inspired by her ordeal to help stop the suffering of others, has become a leading international humanitarian.

In November 2008, burying the haunting memories of her Laos ordeal in a plight to ease the suffering of Afghan women and children, Kay embarked on a humanitarian aid mission into war-torn Afghanistan. *Beneath The Pale Blue Burqa* is Kay's incredible story of travelling the ancient silk route through Taliban strongholds in a dusty Toyota Hiace with her four fellow humanitarians, ordinary people from diverse backgrounds, determined to do whatever it took to deliver life changing opportunities and aid to people devastated by war. Kay Danes is one of the few internationals that have travelled outside the safe bubble of Kabul. Her readiness to venture outside the accepted boundaries allows us to see the impact on Afghans and a real perspective of post Taliban Afghanistan.

"The western media tend to give a snapshot of Afghanistan that focuses only on one aspect, the war. I want to show people the other side, the progress being made, the hope, the courage and resilience of the people." she says.

Along her journey Kay:

- Experienced the terror of roadside interrogations by the Afghan "police"
- Witnessed the awe of the US marines in full force patrolling for insurgents
- Visited Universities finally back in operation, where girls, some with painted toenails and smiles illegal under the Taliban, studying alongside boys
- Delivered books from Australia to the Nangarhar women's prison and met with prison officials to discuss further opportunities for support
- Was touched by the overwhelming response and acceptance at women's and children's health and education seminars conducted by her and her companions
- Saw the positive outcomes of the establishment of poultry farms sponsored by an American Rotary Club



Beneath The Pale Blue Burqa is an inspiring story and sheds light on the struggles faced by the Afghan people, particularly women and children. Kay shows that small initiatives can deliver life-changing opportunities.

Available in all good bookstores throughout Australia (RRP\$34.99) - 18 October 2010

Kay Danes is a member of the Gold Coast Writer's Association. Her other books have been bestsellers; *Families Behind Bars* and *Standing Ground*. Visit Kay's Blog: <http://kaydanes.wordpress.com/>



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Contribution Deadline

Submissions must reach the editor four weeks prior to publishing date (first of the month). Please contact the editor directly if you are unable to meet this deadline for any reason. Submission is not a guarantee of publication. Some submissions may be rejected or held over to another month. Submissions are to be emailed to gcwa.editor@gmail.com or posted to PO Box 441, Pacific Fair QLD 4218.

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