Writers & Their Worlds
Seminar Series

Semester 1, 2012
Schedule and Biographies

Writers and Industry Professionals talk about their work.

Noel Stockdale Room, Central Library
Thursdays at 12 noon

22 March  Sharon Mascall-Dare
29 March  Alastair Sarre
5 April    Bill ‘Swampy’ Marsh

[MID SEMESTER BREAK: 9th to 22nd April]

3 May      Jan Owen
10 May     Deb Kandelaars
17 May     Amy Matthews
24 May     Flinders University Creative Writing Postgraduates

For further information, contact:
Steve Evans, steve.evans@flinders.edu.au

Recordings of these talks will normally be available on FLO.
22 March  Sharon Mascall-Dare

Sharon is a journalist specialising in investigative documentaries for the BBC World Service. Last year, she wrote, produced and presented 'The Big House', a radio series that told the stories of eighteen young men, including nine Indigenous Australians, as they experienced the hardships of rehabilitation at Port Augusta prison. In her talk, Sharon will discuss her journalistic methodology - grounded in ethnography - and will talk about the ethics of covering crime, violence and trauma.

A link to the Adelaide Review article about the series is available here: http://www.adelaidereview.com.au/article/847

29 March  Alastair Sarre

Alastair Sarre has hands-on experience in science, natural resource management and communication. He has caught (and released) geckos at Kelleberrin in the Western Australian wheatbelt, hare-wallabies in WA's Shark Bay, and snowshoe hares in the Yukon, Canada. He has worked as a forester in a mining company, and spent two years in Japan as editor of an international journal urging sustainable forestry in the tropics. He now works as a freelance writer and editor with a passion for the interactions between people, science and the environment.

In Prohibited Zone, mining engineer Steve West just wants a dirty weekend in a desert town, but becomes the reluctant accomplice in a detention centre breakout. Suddenly it seems he is on the run with the world on his tail. The only way out is through the prohibited zone.

'A courageous endeavour achieved in style ... Prohibited Zone very cleverly seduces at the outset with its raw outback humour and colourful characters ... It is clever, insightful, thoughtful and a rollicking good tale all at once.' – Wet Ink magazine

Prohibited Zone was shortlisted in the National Year of Reading awards 2012.
5 April  Bill ‘Swampy’ Marsh

Bill ‘Swampy’ Marsh is an award-winning writer/performer of stories, songs and plays. His experiences of growing up in a small rural town with a population of 64 has been a huge influence on his life and writing. To date Bill has had thirteen books of short stories published including the popular ‘Great Australian’ series for ABC Books that include the flying doctor service, shearing, droving, railway stories, outback towns and pubs and, most recently, the CWA.

Bill is a Part-Time Instructor/Lecturer within TAFESA’s Professional Writing Unit and runs writing workshops in schools, communities throughout Australia. His website is at: http://billswampymarsh.com/

3 May  Jan Owen

Jan Owen is an Adelaide poet whose sixth book, Poems 1980 – 2008, was published by John Leonard Press in 2008. She has worked as a librarian, editor and teacher, and has been a writer in residence in Venice, Rome, Paris and Malaysia. Awards for her poetry include the Wesley Michel Wright Prize, the Gwen Harwood Poetry Prize and the Max Harris Prize. An interest in languages, travel, science, art and philosophy is reflected in her work. She has said of her writing practice and philosophy: ‘I am interested in how poetry can create and pattern meaning, and challenge received ideas. I aim towards some personal truth and trust the crafting to create what formal beauty is fitting.’
Deb Kandelaars was born in the Riverland and grew up in Adelaide’s north eastern suburbs. She graduated from the University of Adelaide with a Masters in Creative Writing.

Deb writes with the aim of reflecting ordinary Australian life - the experience of growing up, nuances in relationships, the weight of the everyday – and is inspired by a line from the film Shadowlands: 'We read to know we are not alone'.


Amy T. Matthews has published short stories in collections including Best Australian Stories, and been long-listed for The Australian/Vogel literary award. She has co-edited two anthologies of short stories and poetry and was the winner of the 2010 Adelaide Festival Unpublished Manuscript Award for her novel End of the Night Girl, published by Wakefield Press in 2011.

In the novel, Molly is a sassy Australian waitress haunted by the ghost of a murdered Polish Jew. The two young women’s stories combine, exploring shadows cast by the Holocaust across decades, continents and cultures. It has been called ‘a novel of ideas in the best possible sense’ (Gillian Dooley, Writers Radio), and a ‘humanist, realist novel of the kind that makes for truly compelling reading’ (Naomi Milthorpe, The Canberra Times). It was named in the Best Books of 2011 by ABR and The Advertiser and has received many positive reviews.

Amy also has an author webpage: www.amymatthews.com.au

Flinders University Creative Writing Postgraduates will be reading and responding to questions about postgraduate studies in creative writing. Bios will be distributed.