CastlemaINE
POETRY
Festival 2016

Omar Musa
Chloe Wilson
Andy Jackson
E.A. Gleeson
Mike Ladd
Nathan Curnow

Workshops
Interviews
Open Mic

Poetry Slam
Poetry Readings
Poets Dinner

Mount Alexander Shire Council

Australian Government
Regional Arts Fund

Castlemaine Word Mine

21-23 October
A Note from Us

It is a great pleasure to bring you this rich, exciting program for the inaugural Castlemaine Poetry Festival. We are very grateful for funding and support from Mt. Alexander Shire’s and Regional Arts Victoria.

In 2008 the Australian Poetry Centre convened a festival in Castlemaine, a memorable success. Last year, a few members of the local poetry community joined forces to create a follow-on project. PoetiCas, the current convener of Castlemaine’s monthly poetry readings (formerly run, for over ten years, by Ross Donlon), in association with the Castlemaine Word Mine, is thrilled to bring you this special edition collection of some of Australia’s finest poets to this historic, creative town. Please enjoy.
About our Theme: INSIDE/OUT

This year’s theme reflects the two-way process at the heart of the poetic process. Poets chart both the inner and outer seas; dwell in the boundaries of self and other; import the world that is encountered outside into what Gwen Harwood called the “in-scape of self”. Between people, between the human and non-human world, and between the writer and reader, poetry is about exchange and relationship. To share their revelations, poets must bring what is inside to the outer world; inspiration comes from connection, from listening and understanding. By sharing, we bring others into ourselves, bring ourselves to others. The inside meets the outside, merging to make new worlds.

The theme also speaks of inclusion; poetry is a powerful platform to represent everyone, bringing together people of all shapes and creeds, and those who may be marginalised or unheard in the mainstream cultural dialogue. Poetry welcomes everyone, and can create an exchange of voices that strengthens us all. Our thriving local poetry community and the wider artscape also participate in an exchange: the inner life of a small regional town connects to the outer world of the Australian poetry scene, and beyond. By bringing poets from around the country and regional Victoria together with the creative local community, the Castlemaine Poetry Festival hopes to bring the outside in, and the INSIDE/OUT of us all.
Events
FRIDAY 21st

4pm to 5
Official Festival Launch
Where: Castlemaine Library Foyer
212 Barker St.
Free entry

7pm
Poetry Slam
registration from 6.30 (on the door)
Where: The Taproom
Mill Complex, 9 Walker St.

SATURDAY 22nd

9am to 11
Master Class with Chloe Wilson
Where: The Tea Rooms
Castlemaine Botanic Gardens
Downes Rd.

This practical workshop will explore a range of approaches to creating and sharpening poems. Through exercises focusing on conceptual development, form, and technique, participants will have the opportunity to generate poems of their own, and develop the skills required to edit their work to a publishable standard.
SATURDAY 22nd...

9am to 11  **Workshop with Nathan Curnow**
Where: Faulder Watson Hall
208-210 Barker St.

Explore free verse poetry, inside out. Join poet Nathan Curnow as he leads you through simple exercises that will have you seeing the world in fresh ways. For those of you wanting to think and feel to the end of each line.

11.30am to 1pm  **Poet’s Panel:**
*Poetry Inside and Out*
Facilitated by Mike Ladd,
joined by E. A. Gleeson,
Andy Jackson and Nathan Curnow.
Followed by poetry readings
by Mike Ladd and E.A. Gleeson.
Where: Castlemaine Town Hall
25 Lyttleton St.
Events...

SATURDAY 22nd...

1pm to 1.30  Award Ceremony, Castlemaine Poetry Prize, adult section
Where: Castlemaine Town Hall
       25 Lyttleton St.
Free entry

2.30pm to 4.30  The PoetiCas Readings
Featuring Omar Musa and Chloe Wilson
plus an Open Section
3 minute limit
registration from 2pm (on the door)
Where: The Food Garden
       14 Mostyn St.

7pm onwards  Poet’s Dinner
Two-course meal (including wine)
catered by Growing Abundance
Where: Anglican Parish Hall
       Cnr. Kennedy and Forest Sts.
SUNDAY 23rd

10.30am to 12.30pm "Smithereens":
Poetry Writing Class
with Alisoun Downing
For Secondary Students, Yr.8 to Yr.10
Where: The Tea Rooms
Castlemaine Botanic Gardens
Downes Rd.

Alisoun's workshop offers a ‘rich immersion in lived and imagined experience’ before you set pen to paper. Take part in fun writing activities and learn ways to develop, craft, shape and structure your work with a view to submitting for publication or to writing competitions after the workshop.

2.30pm to 4.30

Next Generation:
Young People’s Poetry
Featuring Nathan Curnow
plus an Under-18 Open Section
3 minute limit
registration from 2pm (on the door)
Where: Anglican Parish Hall
Cnr. Kennedy and Forest Sts.
Chloe Wilson is the author of two poetry collections, *The Mermaid Problem* and *Not Fox Nor Axe*, which was shortlisted for the 2016 Kenneth Slessor Prize for Poetry. She received equal first prize in the 2016 Josephine Ulrick Poetry Prize, and has been awarded the John Marsden Prize for Young Australian Writers, the (Melbourne) Lord Mayor’s Creative Writing Award for Poetry, the Gwen Harwood Poetry Prize, the Fish Publishing Flash Fiction Prize and the Arts Queensland Val Vallis Award. She holds a PhD in Creative Writing from the University of Melbourne, where she has also taught poetry.

www.chloe-wilson.com

Nathan Curnow lives in Ballarat, and writes poetry, plays, and short fiction. His work features in Best Australian Poems 2008 and 2010 (Black Inc.) and has won a number of awards including the Josephine Ulrick Poetry Prize. His book *The Ghost Poetry Project* (Puncher and Wattmann) was named by Cate Kennedy as a ‘best read’ of 2009. His most recent collection is *RADAR* (Walleah Press, 2012), together with poet Kevin Brophy. He is a past editor of *Going Down Swinging* and has recently been described by Martin Duwell as ‘a sort of poetic equivalent of Louis Theroux’. As a spoken-word performer he has featured at many festivals across the country and been heard widely on ABC, Triple J, and Radio NZ.

nathancurnow.weebly.com

Omar Musa is a rapper, poet and author from Queanbeyan, NSW. He is the former winner of the Australian Poetry Slam and the Indian Ocean Poetry Slam. Omar has appeared on ABC’s Q&A and received a standing ovation at TEDx Sydney at the Sydney Opera House. His debut novel, *Here Come the Dogs*, was longlisted for the Miles Franklin Award and the International Dublin Literary Award, and he was named one of the Sydney Morning Herald’s Best Young Australian Novelists in 2015.

Tegan Gigante lives in Guildford. She published the collection *I Will not Fall* (Tinder Press) together with Sarah Gale in 2013; performs poetry to music with her band *White Rabbit*; and most recently, completed a Masters thesis on poetry and transcendence. Together with Allis Hamilton she convenes PoetiCas, Castlemaine’s monthly poetry reading.
Mike Ladd was born to Australian parents in Berkeley, California in 1959. He has published 8 books of poetry and prose, including the haibun *Karrawirra Parri, Walking the Torrens from Source to Sea*. His latest collection is *Invisible Mending* (Wakefield Press, 2016). Mike has worked for ABC Radio for over 30 years. He was the founding producer and editor of *Poetica*, ABC Radio National’s weekly poetry program, which ran from 1997 to 2015, bringing Australian and international poetry to a broad audience. Mike is based in Adelaide and currently works for the Features and Documentaries Unit of ABC R.N.

E. A. Gleeson is one of those lucky people who makes her living from doing what she loves; engaging with people, creating ceremonies and writing. She is a poet, essayist, funeral director and celebrant. She has published two collections of poetry, *In between the dancing* and *Maisie and The Black Cat Band*. Her essays have been published in the major Australian newspapers and journals. She is a regular guest speaker at community events and reader/performer at poetry festivals.

Andy Jackson won the 2013 Whitmore Press Manuscript Prize with *the thin bridge*. His most recent collections are *Immune Systems* (Transit Lounge 2015), and *That knocking* (Little Windows 2016). A forthcoming collection, *Music our bodies can’t hold*, consists of portraits of other people with Marfan Syndrome. He blogs about poetry and bodily otherness irregularly at amongtheregulars.wordpress.com

Alisoun Downing is a secondary English, Literature and English Language teacher. She is passionate about language, literature and writing, is a published writer and poet and has run writing workshops for adults and secondary students for over twenty years. She has also developed and taught highly-successful 'Writers Workshop' courses for Year 9 and 10 students at schools including Castlemaine Secondary College and Catholic College Bendigo, whilst Head of English at both of these schools. She is now teaching senior, VCE English, English Language, and Literature at Girton Grammar School Bendigo.

Allis Hamilton creates poetry, music, art and silence. Her poems live in such places as in the *Australian Poetry Journal*, *The Caterpillar* (Ireland), *Skylight 47* (Ireland), *Plumwood Mountain Journal*, and various other places. She was an acrobat and classical musician until a brain haemorrhage put a stop to that. She collects discarded nests and forgotten dreams. Her website: thestorytellingtent.com
The Castlemaine Poetry Prize

Calling all Central Victorian poets!

Entries are now open for both senior and junior sections.

The senior (over 16) section has two awards to be presented this year, for the Best Poem and the Judge’s Encouragement Award.

There are three categories (and prizes) for juniors:
Grade 2 and under, Grade 6 and under, and Year 10 and under.

The poem must not have been published or have won another prize, a strict maximum of 40 lines applies and all entries should be double-spaced. Poets can choose any theme. Contact details, including a phone number, must be enclosed but preferably not on the same page as the poem.

Castlemaine poets Ann de Hugard and Tegan Gigante have agreed to judge this year’s competition.

Elliott Midland Newspapers is proudly sponsoring the Prize, which carries a first prize of $100 (senior section) and an award.

Mount Alexander Shire Council is sponsoring the junior prizes and Soldier and Scholar Bookshop is sponsoring the Judge’s Encouragement Award. The winners of these categories will each receive a $50 book voucher from the respective sponsors and an award.

Selected entries, including the winning poems, will be published in our sister paper the Castlemaine Mail.

Entries can be submitted via email to: editcm@elliottmidnews.com.au or mailed to 2016 Castlemaine Poetry Prize, 29 Templeton Street, Castlemaine, 3450, Victoria. The junior sections close on Friday, September 9 at 5pm and the senior section closes on Friday, September 24 at 5pm.

Details: call Jeff on 5472 1788.
Tickets

www.castlemainepoetryfestival2016.wordpress.com

Festival Pass: $70
Festival Pass with Dinner: $140
Dinner $80

Master Class with Chloe Wilson $40 with Pass
$60 without
Workshop with Nathan Curnow $40 with Pass
$60 without
Poetry Writing with Alisoun Downing $30

Individual sessions
If you choose not to buy a Festival Pass you can pay (cash only) on the door for individual sessions:

- Poetry Slam $10
- Poet’s Panel $20
- PoetiCas Reading $20
- Next Generation $10

Enquiries: castlemainepoetryfestival@outlook.com
You dance inside my chest where no-one sees you, but sometimes I do, and that sight becomes this art.

- Rumi

This project was possible thanks to support from Mt Alexander Shire’s Community Grants Program, and the Australian Government’s Regional Arts Fund, which promotes access to practice and experience the arts, administered in Victoria by Regional Arts Victoria.