

The New England Muse

New England Writers' Centre updates, announcements & program

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From the Chair ... a message from Sophie

Dear members, supporters and valued sponsors,

As we look forward into 2021, and hopefully better times to come for all of us, we also look back at 2020 and a program year for our Writers' Centre which while of course it held many challenges, also resulted in some excellent new initiatives. In 2020, we held most of our events online, and whilst it was a steep learning curve, it had great results, with our audience reach extended into other regions as well as our own.

We also had a record number of entries for the Thunderbolt Prize, which accepted only digitally-delivered entries this year, and we welcomed UNE's support in funding three of the Prize's categories:

cont'd p2

from the chair cont'd..

the New England Award, Youth Award and Emerging Author Award, for which we are very grateful!

We also collaborated with UNE's new Creative New England initiative, and very successfully worked with the Historical Novel Society of Australasia to help them deliver the inaugural ARA Historical Novel Prize, the richest literary genre prize in Australia.

Thanks to restrictions being lifted, in October we were also able to deliver our Booked In program (originally scheduled for May) with visiting author Ursula Dubosarsky, as well as local writers John Heffernan and myself. Ursula's joint workshop at NERAM with publisher Margrete Lamond was a new departure for us, as it was a hybrid of in-person and digital, with Ursula being there in person and Margrete 'Zooming' in from her home in Orange. Thanks to our new Program Manager, Lyn Aspey, as well as NERAM's great facilities and wonderful staff, it worked really well!

Goodbye, for now!

The last seven years have been fabulous, but it's time to move on — and I can do it easily knowing that I'm leaving everything in Lyn's capable hands.

I'm spending all my 'free' time working at my other jobs: owning a toy shop and making dragons (if anyone needs me you can find me at [Granny Fi's Toy Cupboard](#) in the Mall).

I'm also still working as commissioning editor for Christmas Press and all that it entails (editing, commissioning, book production, occasional swearing). However, take note of the photo! If you are looking to submit to us — don't. At least not until we open for submissions again.

We are grateful to Create NSW (our main sponsor) the Regional Arts Fund and the Country Arts Support Program, who funded several of our projects for this year. And thank you to Arts North West for the micro-grant which enabled us to create the fabulous By the Book video series that we launched in December.

As Chair, I would like also to publicly thank my fellow Board members and our wonderful staff: new Program Manager, Lyn Aspey, who started with us in August and hit the ground running, as well as our great long-term Office Manager, Paul Prenter. I also wish to thank our previous Program Manager, Beattie Alvarez, whose hard work and commitment to the Centre over many years has been second to none. And we look forward to a great new year and a fabulous array of new program events, both online and in person.

Stay well and safe, everyone! Best wishes for the holiday season.

Daphne Mason



You can read my rants on why you shouldn't submit to me [here](#).

I also have two new books coming out next year, but they are a secret, so don't tell anyone! If I ever get the chance, I'll do some writing, but let's get through Christmas first.

Thank you NEWC for keeping me around so long! I'm sure this isn't the last that you'll see of me.

Beattie!

NEWC
New England Writers' Centre

2020 Illustration Prize

When it rains, it pours

Announcing our winners:

1st place - Jennifer Goldsmith
Prize: Entry into the next prestigious SCBWI Illustrator Showcase + one year SCBWI membership

2nd place - Belinda Elliott
Prize: Portfolio assessment + 1 follow up with publisher Dirt Lane Press

3rd place - Ramona Davey
\$150, sponsored by Little Pink Dog Books

Highly Commended - Kirsten Schaefer

See our website for details www.newc.org.au

scbwi
Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators
AUSTRALIA EAST & NEW ZEALAND

DIRT LANE PRESS

Little Pink Dog Books
Children's Publishing

Visit the NEWC's website for further information and details on our talented winners and fabulous judges.

Illustration Prize 2020 Winners

When it rains, it pours!

I'm very new to illustration. With so few runs on the board it was a challenge for me to step outside my comfort zone and enter the 2020 NEWC Illustration Prize competition. I was incredibly surprised and humbled to be the winner!

Not long after the prize was announced, my first picture book 'Where Happiness Hides' published by Dirt Lane Press and translated by WestWords into 10 languages, was launched.

I've also been exploring the opportunities to develop my interest in illustration through the resources

"It was a true joy"

Isabel Atherton
2020 Illustration Prize Judge

The fifth year of the celebrated New England Illustration Prize attracted a strong field of entries from all over Australia.

Artists and Illustrators were asked to create a colour illustration suitable for a children's picture book, and the entrants responded with work that was touching, fantastical and humorous.

Judges this year were Isabel Atherton, Margaret Connolly and Nette Hilton. All entries were judged anonymously and the awards chosen based on a score from each of our three judges on artistic merit, how well the art fitted the theme and suitability for children's book publishing.

Once again, the Illustration Prize has served to showcase the incredible talent and creativity of Australia's illustrators and a deep commitment to children's art and literature.



offered by my prize-winning membership to SCBWI.

Scribbling-wise, I've been researching standards for and putting together a portfolio of images to one day show to publishers. I'm hoping this will be the start of something new and exciting for me.

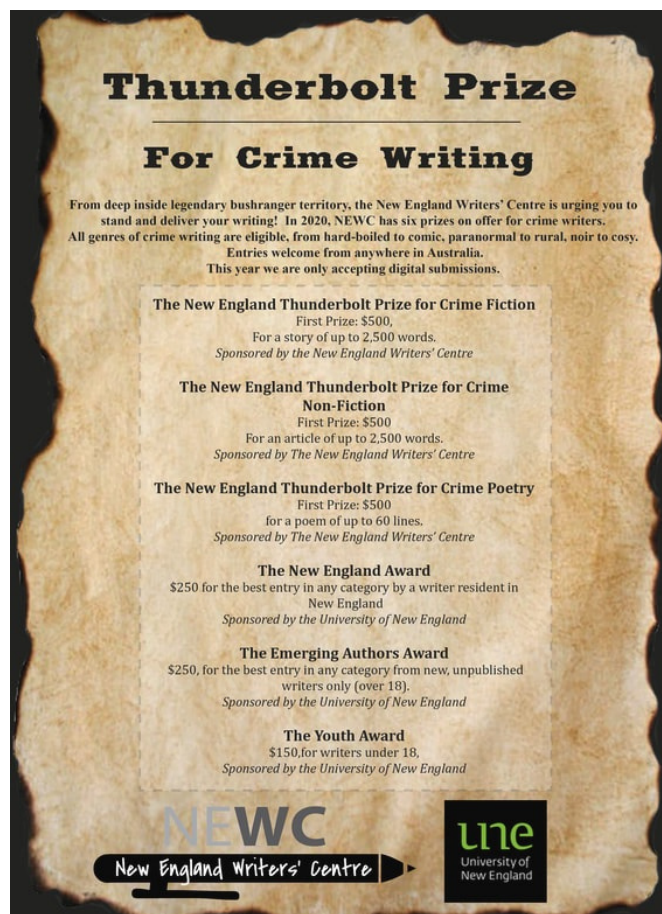
Jennifer

Criminally Great Writing!

Once again, the Thunderbolt Prize for Crime Writing attracted a strong field of entries from all over Australia, by writers both published and unpublished. There are three main categories: Fiction, non-fiction and poetry, with three special awards: New England award for a writer resident in New England, the Emerging Author Award for an unpublished writer over 18, and the Youth Award for writers under 18.

It was exciting to see the Youth category so well represented and both the non-fiction and New England Award were awarded to a local writer.

We would like to thank our hardworking and thoughtful judges and the generous co-sponsorship by the University of New England for helping to make 2020 another successful year for the Prize, and of course a very big THANK YOU to all of our entrants. We can't wait to see what outrageous, imaginative, funny, dark, thrilling and brilliant writing you have in store for us in 2021!



Visit the NEWC's website for further information and details on our talented winners and fabulous judges: [2020 Thunderbolt Prize winners & commended](#)

Congratulations to our 2020 Thunderbolt winners!

Poetry: Richenda Rudman (VIC) for *The River*

Fiction: Kerry James (VIC) for *True Blue*

Non-fiction: Roderick Makim (NSW) for *The Late Guardian*

Emerging Author Award: Alyssa MacKay (QLD) for *Monster in the Dark: The Murder of Betty Thomson Shanks*

Youth Award: Eva Mustapic for *The Dead Thing*

The New England Award: Roderick Makim (NSW) for *The Late Guardian*



Click on the links to read the winning submissions online!

Celebrating & supporting local writers

The New England Writers' Centre is proud of our partnership with Varuna, The National Writers' House in providing the opportunity for a week's inspirational writing residency in the beautiful Blue Mountains. The residency includes full board and accommodation at Varuna, funds towards travel, a one-on-one consultation with a Varuna expert and more!

Chosen by Varuna judges from a shortlist of two previously selected by judges from the New England Writers' Centre, Helena's winning submission included an extract from her memoir, based around the wartime and migration experiences of the author's Dutch mother, and the relationship between mother and daughter.

Helena's submission was praised by the judges as lucidly, evocatively and accessibly written, with an honesty and understanding that reveals the complex layers of relationships.

Writing Rewards!

"I'm honoured (and so happy!) to be awarded the 2020 Varuna NEWC Fellowship. A fully-funded residency at Varuna is a rare and wonderful gift, and I'm really pleased that my new memoir project *One Fork, One Knife, One Life* is already resonating with readers.

Thank you Varuna and NEWC for creating this fabulous opportunity for writers in the New England region!"

Helena Pastor

Be in it, to win it!

The Fellowship is open to all writers, at any stage of their career, and working in any literary genre, who are either currently living in the New England region (defined as the federal New England Electorate), or who have previously lived there for at least five years.

Winners of the Fellowship are selected through an anonymous and competitive process. Assessment of applications is conducted by a panel of New England-based literary professionals to establish a shortlist of finalists, from which Varuna selects a winner announced in December.

The 2021/22 Fellowship will be opening again in August 2021. Entry forms and submission guidelines will be made available on the NEWC website.

VARUNA
The National Writers' House

NEWC
New England Writers' Centre

2020 FELLOWSHIP Winner

HELENA PASTOR

"One Fork, One Knife, One Life"

Through memoir and fiction, Helena aims to encourage discussion around motherhood, war and growing up in an immigrant family.

www.helenapastor.com/

Congratulations!

Helena wins a week's inspirational writing residency at the beautiful Varuna House, in the Blue Mountains.



ARA Historical Novel Prize 2020

The New England Writers' Centre is proud to be associated with the Historical Novel Prize, as part of the Prize sub-committee and in the administration of entries.

The ARA Historical Novel Prize is designed to give historical novelists the opportunity to be recognised in a class of their own, as part of an Australian and New Zealand literary award.

The award is among the top five richest literary prizes in Australia and New Zealand, and makes it the most significant genre-based literary prize in Australia.

"Historical fiction has the power to enlighten and entertain. The ARA Historical Novel Prize is a true celebration of the genre, and a real opportunity to foster it on a grander scale," said HNSA Chair and Author, Elisabeth Storrs.

More information on the prize can be found on newc.org.au/historical-novel-prize



Are you considering writing an historical novel or memoir? Then don't miss out on our Writing Historical Fiction workshop with Ariella Van Luyn. See the 2021 Program for further details.



VIDEO SERIES

Showcasing the creative talent and professional expertise in the New England NSW region, aimed at aspiring writers and illustrators

Featuring

Sophie Masson Author, Publisher & New England Writers' Centre Chair
Helena Pastor Author (non-fiction)
Trish Donald Author-illustrator (children's books)
Linda Nix Editor & Director at Golden Orb Creative (publishing services)
Kathy Creamer Illustrator & Director at Little Pink Dog Books (children's publisher)
Ian Irvine Author (speculative fiction)
Bronwyn Parry Author (crime, historical & romance fiction)
Beattie Alvarez Commissioning Editor, Christmas Press (children's & YA fiction)

Find the full playlist on the NEWC YouTube channel

Local professionals online

We're very proud to launch a series of engaging and informative short videos by local professional writers, illustrators, editors and publishers offering tips and advice on book creation and production. Each video was filmed by our presenters on their phones, desktops and laptops with post-production also provided by home-grown talent, Whiptail Productions.

Made possible by funding support from Arts North West and Create NSW, the full By the Book series playlist is available to watch now (and at any time!) on the [NEWC YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8).

The NEWC team are proud to have worked with so many talented and experienced professionals. Here's a quick look back on some of the wonderful workshops that we delivered to you in 2020!

NEWC
New England Writers' Centre

First Look
Manuscript Assessments

Opens July!
Closes August 31
Cost: \$80 for NEWC members
\$105 for non-members

Send us the first 10 pages of your manuscript (full text for picture books) with a one page synopsis and we'll send it off to a professional assessor for you.

Categories:
• Children's and YA
• Fiction
• Non-Fiction
• Poetry

NEWC
New England Writers' Centre

Quick Crime
with Sulari Genill

Learn how to write short, but gripping crime stories in this two hour Zoom workshop with award-winning crime writer Sulari Genill

Includes free entry into the 2020 Thunderbolt Prize for Crime Writing!

When: June 13, 10-12
Where: the comfort of your own living room
Cost: \$50 for NEWC members
\$65 for non-members

Our website for full details and how to book

NEWC
New England Writers' Centre

The Perfect Pitch
with Alex Adsett

What is a literary agent?
What do they want?
What don't they want?
Literary agent Alex Adsett is coming to NEWC to answer the do's and don'ts

Includes free entry into the 2020 Thunderbolt Prize for Crime Writing!

When: June 13, 10-12
Where: the comfort of your own living room
Cost: \$50 for NEWC members
\$65 for non-members

Our website for full details and how to book

NEWC
New England Writers' Centre

Basics of InDesign

Adobe InDesign can be used to create weeks such as posters, flyers, brochures, magazines, newspapers, presentations, books and ebooks that is IF you know how to use it.

When: August 29, 2-4:30pm
Where: Indigo Art School (above the bank on the corner of the street)

Design to the front, content in the middle, and the back cover to the back.

NEWC
New England Writers' Centre

Once Upon a Time
a fairy tale workshop

Take a journey into the world of fairy tales with award-winning author, Sophie Masson.

Discover fairy tales as both source and inspiration to create enchanting and powerful fiction for all ages.

When: Saturday 7 November, 2020
Time: 2pm - 4pm (NSW)
Where: via ZOOM
Cost: \$50 for NEWC members
\$65 for non-members

NEWC
New England Writers' Centre

Leaf, Stone, Beetle
FULL DAY CREATIVE WORKSHOP
NERAM

In collaboration with NERAM this all day workshop features writing illustrated book (Leaf, Stone, Beetle, a story of displacement and new beginnings through the medium of a touching and imaginative fable.

At the end of the workshop, participants will have their own illustrated book to take away. This is an accessible, exciting workshop suitable for ages from primary school to adults.

THE PRESENTERS
Ursula Dubosarsky
Margaret Lamond (aka Mimi)

When: FRIDAY 16 OCT
Time: Starts 9am
Where: Reader's Companion 124 Beady Street Armidale
Cost: Free

For further details and information visit: www.newc.org.au

Big thanks to our major sponsors!

NSW Arts, Screen & Culture
Create NSW
Armidale City Council
Country Arts Support Program

NEWC
New England Writers' Centre

Historical Novel Writing

Many of us are fascinated by the past: our family's local history. This workshop is designed for writers of all levels who wish to creatively capture an aspect of your family history: a story of a place you live or feel connected to, or a historical event you are passionate about.

Join Dr Ariella Van Lyon in this three part writing workshop, held over six weeks.

When: 25th of July, 8th and 22nd of August from 10am-12pm

Where: wherever you have an internet connection these workshops will be held via Zoom.

Cost: \$70 for NEWC members
\$85 for non-members

See our website for full details and how to book: www.newc.org.au

NEWC
New England Writers' Centre

The Grammar Teacher
with Hilary Cadman and L...

online workshop available for writers at the behest of grateful and confident writers of...

When: 9, 16, 23 May from 10-12
Where: ONLINE!
Cost: \$65 for NEWC members, \$99 for non-members (2nd edition) for renewed grammarian Elizabeth Manning Murphy and course co-ordinator Hilary Cadman and access to presentation materials after the course finishes.

Big thanks to our major sponsors!

NSW Arts, Screen & Culture
Create NSW
Armidale City Council
Country Arts Support Program

NEWC
New England Writers' Centre

Illustrate This
with Fiona McDonald

When: 11 & 18 July 10-12
Where: Online, via Zoom
Cost: \$50 for NEWC members
\$65 for non-members

A series of three, two hour workshops with professional illustrator Fiona McDonald on the art of illustration.

Session 1 - Reading between the lines
Learn how to interpret text and how to illustrate it.

Session 2 - Read and write
How to create successful text and write images that get your points across.

Session 3 - All the colours of the rainbow
Get your points across.

See our website for full details and how to book: www.newc.org.au

NEWC
New England Writers' Centre

Poetry

Whether you're a practicing poet or just starting out, this workshop is for you. We'll explore how to deal with pandemics, lockdown, business & climate change.

Derive into the creative and how to deal with the creative.

When: Saturday 3
Where: Online, via Zoom
Cost: \$50 members
\$55 non-members

See our website for full details and how to book: www.newc.org.au

NEWC
New England Writers' Centre

Poetry Crime: Jenny Blackford

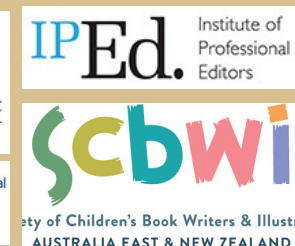
Poetry is hard. Writing a gripping crime story is hard. Merging the two: impossible. Or not?

Learn how to write crime poetry with award-winning poet and author Jenny Blackford in a two hour Zoom workshop.

Includes free entry into the 2020 Thunderbolt Prize for Crime Writing!

When: June 28, 10-12
Where: the comfort of your own living room
Cost: \$50 for NEWC members
\$65 for non-members

See our website for full details and how to book: www.newc.org.au

The logo for Arts Northwest, featuring the words "Arts", "north", and "west" stacked vertically in a bold, sans-serif font. A red five-pointed star is positioned between the words "north" and "west", partially overlapping the letter "o" in "north".

2021 NEWC Program

-----February-----

Saturday 6th (Online)

Managing Your Creative Business

Managing your business accounts is an essential part of any enterprise, creative or not. In this workshop, business consultant, **Allen Roberts**, will introduce you to the ideas, concepts and practices that will help you plan, develop and succeed as a creative entrepreneur.

Saturday 20th (Online)

"On Point" PoV & the point of stories

Whether you're writing fiction or non-fiction, uncovering *why* you want to tell a story can invigorate its narrative tension and drive. Award-winning Deaf poet and essayist, **Fiona Murphy**, will lead you through practical exercises to hone your writer's voice.

-----March-----

Saturday 6th (Online)

Screenwriting 101

Join **Greg Woodland**, author, screenwriter and director as he works with you to introduce the key elements to creating a successful script and an introduction to the business of script development.

Saturday 20th (Online)

Love & Danger: writing romantic thrillers

International award-winning author, **Bronwyn Parry**, will workshop the elements of writing exciting, engaging and successful romantic thrillers and crime novels.

-----April-----

Saturday 24th (Online)

Short story crit session
(Limited Numbers)

Submit a short story for review by speculative fiction author and mentor, **Angela Slatter** a week in advance, then join Angela for 2 x 90 minute online sessions: (i) teaching session in the morning and (ii) afternoon crit feedback on your work.

Friday 30th April-Sunday 2 May

Sydney Writers' Festival

(Venue tbc)

Friday, Saturday and Sunday screenings of the **Sydney Writers' Festival**. Daily screening times:

Session 1: 10am - 11am

Session 2: 11.30am - 12.30pm

Session 3: 1.30pm - 2.30pm

Session 4: 3pm - 4pm

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2021 NEWC Program

---May---

Historical Novel Prize Opens

Saturday 1 (In-Person Armidale)

More than Just Talk: For stories that matter

Join author and workshop presenter, **Graeme Gibson** for his full-day intensive workshop focusing on developing your writing skills for creative non-fiction for memoir, travel, feature article, family or local history.

BookedIn Children's Festival

Author & illustrator, **Gabrielle Wang** is our key note speaker for this year's BookedIn Children's Festival. We look forward to welcoming Gabrielle to Armidale! We're also fortunate to have joining, as a guest of the CBC, Armidale-based illustrator **Sandy Flett**.

---June---

Thunderbolt Prize for Crime Writing Opens

Saturday 9 June (Online)

Rural Crime Writing Festival

We have a packed program featuring talks with insights offered by six award-winning authors: **Emma Viskic, JP Pomare, Yumna Kassab, Dan Box, Maryrose Cuskelly, Benjamin Stevenson**, with **Carmel Shute**, convenor of Sisters in Crime! The Program also includes discussions on the genre's publishing landscape and a panel discussion on awards and what they do for crime writers' careers.

---July---

Illustration Prize Opens

Saturday 10th (Online)

Discover your illustration style

Whether you're new to the world of illustration or an aspiring creator searching for your unique style, this workshop is for you. Alongside illustrator, artist and creator **Fiona McDonald**, you will learn steps to help you define your illustration style.

Saturday 17th (In Person)

Illustrating & Writing

Photographic artist and book illustrator, **Lorena Carrington**, will be running her popular illustration and visual language workshop in Armidale, incorporating writing sessions and exploration of the process and notion of the illustrated story.

Saturday 24th (In Person)

Editing your manuscript

Join **Dr Linda Nix AE**, IPEd Accredited Editor, for this intensive workshop on editing for writers - finding the right editor, the different levels of editing and when each is needed, the editing process, and self-editing techniques to improve your work.

cont'd p9

2021 NEWC Program

-----August-----

Saturdays 7, 14, 21 (In-Person)

Prepare to self-publish with Adobe's InDesign

Christmas Press Commissioning Editor & Publisher, **Beattie Alvarez**, will deliver three in-person sessions of 2 hrs each, covering the basics of In-Design and preparing a manuscript for publishing.
Sat 7th 2-4pm - an introduction to InDesign
Sat 14th 2-4pm - preparing your document
Sat 21st 2-4pm - finalising and publishing

Saturday 28th (Online)

Becoming an indi-author: self-publishing 101

Join **Debbie Lee**, self-publishing expert and a senior manager with online self-publishing company, IngramSpark, to learn how to take your manuscript on its final steps to printing & distribution.

-----September-----

Saturday 11th (Online)

Writing *Super!* Creative KidLit

Based in Hollywood, CA, the irrepressible **Henry Lien** is the author of the children's fantasy series Peasprout Chen, published in the US by Macmillan. His short fiction has appeared in Asimov's, Analog, F&SF and Lady Churchill's Rosebud Wristlet. Prepare to be inspired (and have a lot of fun) as Henry explores diversity in narrative structures and the transformative power of enthusiasm!

-----October-----

Saturday 9th (In Person)

Your Creative Body

Join remedial massage therapist, **Eva Knorles**, for a hands-on workshop aimed at writers and Illustrators specifically to help them avoid shoulder, back, wrist and neck pain and to build a sustainable approach to health, wealth & vitality.

Saturday 30th (Online)

Writing Beyond the Rules

U.S.-based author, editor, and writing coach **Dario Ciriello**, will be your guide on what lies beyond the 'Rules of Writing' to take control of your story and encourage you to unlock your unique voice.

-----November-----

NaNoWriMo Month

Saturday 13th (Online)

Writing Historical Fiction

Exploration of the past through fiction allows us to reflect on the ways the past resonates into the future. In this workshop, **Dr Ariella Van Luyn**, author and lecturer in creative writing at the UNE, will discuss source, inspiration and techniques for bringing your historical fiction to life.

Your NEWC membership & community

Our goal is to help writers and illustrators achieve their creative and professional aspirations.

Your membership allows us to offer discounts on our workshops, competitions and festivals. Membership gives us the voice and reach to lobby on your behalf and deliver community events. It helps us support the sharing of information from other communities and to showcase the New England's homegrown professional talent.

Together, we can continue to make the New England Writers' Centre a vibrant and growing community of creatives.

Thank you!

[Click here to join or renew today.](#)


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Email: newcnewsletter@gmail.com

Post: PO Box 1219, Armidale NSW 2350

Office hours: Mondays and Thursdays only, 11.00 am to 3.00 pm

Website: www.newc.org.au

 New England Writers Centre - NEWC

Contact Us

New England Writers' Centre

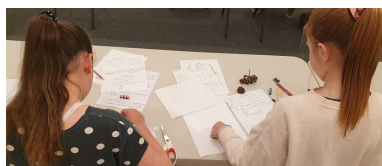
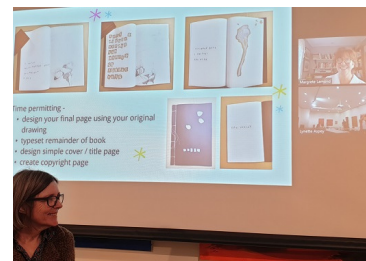
The NEWC has been operating for more than 20 years, delivering writing and illustration workshops, professional opportunities, literary events, information, resources and professional opportunities.

The extraordinary circumstances of 2020 have challenged us to respond, resulting in a significantly increased program that is reaching across Australia and overseas.

As we continue to face new hurdles, we will only get stronger. Join us on this adventure and become a member of the New England Writers' Centre today.

Website upgrade on its way!

In addition to our new online newsletter, the NEWC team will be undertaking an overhaul of the website. Standby for changes! Rollout of the redesigned site will be occurring in January to minimise any disruption and we hope that you'll enjoy the new look.



New England Writers' Centre



Create NSW

Arts, Screen & Culture

2021 SUMMER MICRO-GRANTS

Opportunities for New England Writers

The New England Writers' Centre is excited to announce the opening of application for three micro-grants around the theme "Summer in New England".

The micro-grants of \$1,000 each for new, original short work, will be awarded to three writers over 18 residing in New England.

WORKS TO BE COMPLETED BETWEEN
JANUARY 15 - APRIL 1 2021

For more
information
and to submit
a proposal visit
NEWC.ORG.AU

