

Sleepers In Somnia

Sleepers In Somnia is the
Sleepers newsletter.
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A Very Vulgar Salon

The Very Vulgar Salon, held on Thursday 20th May, was an opportunity to celebrate and discuss the trials and tribulations of Australia's small publishers and the chance to put Melbourne's very own Vulgar Press in the spotlight. We kicked off the night with Ryan Downey's Melbourne debut followed by a lively interview between Ralph Mclean and Jeff Sparrow and Jill Sparrow, authors of *Radical Melbourne 1* and *2*. The three of them provided a colourful debate about radicalism, Melbourne's history, and the Left, letting the audience know that while Melbourne is full of old radicals, there are also many new bearers of the red flag proudly beating their drum.



Vulgar Publisher Ian Syson

After the break, Miles Vertigan wowed the audience with his own brand of modern poetic prose. Especially the one about the body builder who pulled his own head off with blackhead strips. We laughed our heads off.

Next up Ian Syson, publisher and founder of Vulgar Press, was interviewed by Janet Greason. Janet didn't leave the tricky questions out, and Ian made many friends that night, with big, honest answers.

Throughout the night, artist Merryn Trevethan sketched members of the audience, presenters and performers. And, of course, there was the regular Post-It Note Poetry comp. Full details page 2.

Sleepers Internships - Wanted

Sleepers has many supporters, but sometimes we still need a little help. Especially since the Salons have spread from the Planet Café to the Next Wave Festival, the Overload Poetry Festival and the Melbourne Writers' Festival in 2004. Not to mention publishing the Almanac later this year.

Sleepers has no money to pay you, but we make great coffee (and often there's a beer or two). If you would like to help out, please email us with your interests and abilities as well as a short bio. Interns should be based in Melbourne and must be available Mondays. At this stage we are only seeking one intern, and the hours could be fairly irregular. However, Sleepers promises a wonderful and unique working experience. Email sleepers@sleeperspublishing.com

Melbourne Writers' Festival - Contestants Wanted

As part of the Melbourne Writers' Festival this year, Sleepers is running five consecutive nights in the Tower at the Malthouse. The last Sleepers Salon at the Festival, Wednesday 25th August, heralds the arrival of the much-anticipated gameshow, *Perfect Pitch*, the gameshow that gives you the opportunity to pitch your book to real publishers. Hosted by Cordite's Davey 'Dreamnation' Prater. Email sleepers@sleeperspublishing.com with your reasons why you should be one of the three contestants for this new hit show.



Ralph Mclean, Jeff Sparrow and Jill Sparrow

DON'T FORGET
The next Salon is July 1st!

Sleepers raises a glass to the following people for help with the Very Vulgar Salon: Ian Syson and all at Vulgar Press, Jodie Webster, Nick Dattner and Kate Stones, Merryn Trevethan, Justin Treyvaud, Kealin Hanigan, Mat Shears, Ant Swinn, Brett and the staff of the Planet Café, and Tom Anderson.



Sleepers Almanac

The Deathbed Challenge is on!

Sleepers is producing an anthology-cum-journal-cum-almanac and submissions will be closing on July 19th. We are looking for writing from new, emerging and established authors from Australia and around the world. For more information on the Almanac, including its theme, and the Almanac 365 competition, check-out the Publishing page on our website www.sleeperspublishing.com

Please read the submission guidelines carefully before sending us anything. It makes our lives a lot easier!

Sleepers Prevents... Bad Poetry

Is it possible? Can we really prevent bad poetry? Well, if you happened to be at the Next Wave Festival on Monday May 24, you would have been one of the lucky few to find out. Poets Shelley O'Reilly, Terry Jaensch and Steve Smart pursued a hot discussion with Stella Glorie on this contentious subject, followed by a performance from each poet.

Ever-eager to prove how pinpoint accurate the poet delegates were on the matter of poetry's lack of public attention, a pack of young festival goers stood at the back of the room gaffawing and talking loudly,

refusing to pay the same respect they had so generously given Harvey Pekar only minutes earlier. In what eventually turned into a battle of the voice projectionist, each poet gallantly battled on, stating such pearls as 'No poem should be written in under 10 minutes', 'No poet should utter an apology during a performance', and 'All poetry should seek to create meaning across the board, so that there is an image there in an instant for all who read it.' In the next of the 'Sleepers Prevents...' series, Sleepers takes a look at Insolent Audience Members. I mean really guys, there's like 300 bars in this city.



Stella Glorie, Shelley O'Reilly, Terry Jaensch and Steve Smart

SALON

Sleepers thanks the Salon prize givers: Angletons stationers, Allen & Urwin and Jodie Webster, Cinema Nova, Babble spoken word night, Vulgar Press.

Thanks also to sponsor Spinach7

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More photographs and information can always be found on our website: www.sleeperspublishing.com

Sleepers

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miles vertigan off his face

Sleepers Events

Sleepers 1st Birthday Salon

Featuring Carmel Bird, Gideon Haigh, Sally Warhaft and Crazy Elf, with live music.

When: 1st July

Where: Upstairs at the Planet Café,
386-8 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy. \$6 entry

Sleepers at the Overload Poetry Festival

As part of the Overload poetry festival this year, Sleepers presents the Sleepers Retrospective 2034; a retrospective look at the lives of the original presenters who performed on that infamous night – August 15, 2004 at Bar Open.

When: 15th August

Where: Upstairs at Bar Open – 317 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy.

Sleepers at the Age Melbourne Writers' Festival

Sleepers presents five nights in the Tower at the CUB Malthouse as part of this year's Melbourne Writers' Festival.

When: Saturday 21st to Wednesday 25th August at 8pm.

More information available soon.

Put these dates in your diary!

The Post-It Note Poetry Competition

Proving ever popular, the Very Vulgar Salon saw more entries than ever. To help celebrate the release of *Radical Melbourne 2*, the theme for this comp was Radical. Judged by award-winning poet Terry Jaensch, the quality this time was so high, we had to award a runner-up as well as a winner.

Thanks to everyone who entered.

1st

Dear Santa,
something radical please!

by Ethel (Edwina Preston)

She's a radical,
writing madrigals,
divining crystals,
delivering jewels,
stories that writhe,
history that strives
for the radical truth
by David Prater

Runner
Up

Sleepers Academy

Sleepers has developed a program for Years 9 and 10, taking students through the writing, editing, layout, production, printing and launching of a collection of their writing over the course of a semester. If you are a student, teacher or parent who is interested in this program appearing at your school, contact us at sleepers@sleeperspublishing.com for more information.