

Sleepers In Somnia

Sleepers In Somnia is the
Sleepers newsletter.
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Happy Birthday Sleepers!

The 1st of July tasted like chocolate cupcakes at the Planet Café. Sleepers celebrated our first birthday with free massages from the very dextrous Adrian Lynch, delicious cupcakes baked by Augusta Zeeng, an even bigger raffle, and the usual crazy Post-It Note Poetry antics. Not to mention an all-star cast.

The night kicked off with a guitar debut. A swell job, Marcus Glue – stick with it. Carmel Bird was then interviewed by Tamara Fahy, talking intimately about fiction and novel writing, about her experiences as a writer, her influences and how other cultures have affected her writing, and the risks and sacrifices that she has made in order to pursue a successful literary career.

After a break consumed by cakes and manic poetry writing, the audience fell silent as Crazy Elf took to the stage as priest and then stripped down to become a Samurai Warrior. The Salons have never before seen anything like Elf, and his Sleepers debut was <expletive> funny.



Gideon Haigh chats to Sally Warhaft

When the giggling subsided and we'd all wiped our eyes, Gideon Haigh joined Sally Warhaft on stage to discuss the place of non-fiction in Australia. Fiction lovers and non-fiction fans alike listened to Gideon discuss his experiences as a journalist and researcher, learning – amongst other things – that one of the reasons Gideon writes is to work out what he thinks.

The night ended with the drawing of the raffle, the announcement of the winner of the Post-It Note Poetry competition, and many lively discussions around the bar.

The Sleepers Almanac – Closing date now 9th August

In case you haven't heard yet, Sleepers is publishing an Almanac of short fiction.

The theme is The Deathbed Challenge and is open to interpretation but it comes from the idea that when a decision is difficult, it is sometimes helpful to look back as if from your deathbed and base the decision on how you may feel in that moment. Similarly, it could be interpreted as a plea to live every moment, in the "if I die tomorrow..." frame of mind. It could also just be a really uncomfortable bed.



Crazy Elf, post-priest transformation

Sleepers Appoints Interns

Sleepers is delighted to announce the appointment of our first two interns, Augusta Zeeng and Louise Pine, as well as welcome Alex Grantham who is doing Practical Placement with Sleepers as part of her professional Writing & Editing diploma at the CAE.

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

www.sleeperspublishing.com

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Almanac 365 Competition

For the first Almanac, in addition to the other pieces that we will be publishing, we will include our favourite stories selected from the Almanac 365 Competition. They have to be exactly 365 words long. This is the only distinguishable guideline. The winner will receive the original artwork for the first Sleepers calendar 2005.

Sleepers raises a glass to the following people for help with the 1st Birthday Salon: Julie Townsley, Augusta Zeeng, Louise Pine, Janet Greason, Justin Treyvold, Anthony Swinn, Adrian Lynch and Alex Grantham.



Sleepers SALONS

at the
Melbourne
Writers' Festival!

The Age Melbourne Writers' Festival and Sleepers Salon present five nights in the Tower

Where: The Tower, CUB Malthouse, 113 Sturt Street, Southbank.
When: Saturday 21st August to Wednesday 25th August 2004.
Time: 8pm sharp each night

To celebrate the past, present and future of Australian writing, Sleepers is proud to bring to this year's Melbourne Writers' Festival five nights of literary cabaret; the Sleepers Salons.

★ Saturday 21st August 2004

The Babble BAM! Slam

In conjunction with one of Melbourne's leading spoken word nights, Sleepers presents the best of Babble in a poetry slam spectacular; the competitive art of performance poetry, and a perfect combination of Melbourne's two great loves – art and sport! Featuring: Adam Ford, Ian McBryde, Paul Mitchell, alicia sometimes, and many more, including celebrity judges!

Put these dates in
your diary!

★ Sunday 22nd August 2004

Sleepers Salon showcases *Meanjin*

Founded in 1940, *Meanjin* is the longest running literary journal in Australia and the launching pad for some of our most celebrated thinkers. Sleepers Salon pays tribute to *Meanjin* and its many faces over the years. Featuring: Ian Britain, Linda Jaivin, and more.

★ Monday 23rd August 2004

Exorcising or exercising – How do I tell my story?

Just because you can write, it doesn't mean that you want to write a novel. Here, we discuss the many varied forms of writing and the different ways of reaching an audience. Featuring: Frank Moorhouse, and more.

★ Tuesday 24th August 2004

The Comedy in Writing

Sleepers Salon takes a look at the funnier side of writing, and the serious side of writing comedy. Featuring: Russell McGilton, Fiona Scott-Norman, and plenty more yet to be confirmed.

★ Wednesday 25th August 2004

Perfect Pitch – the new hit gameshow

Perfect Pitch gives ordinary Australians the chance to pitch their book to real publishers. Hosted by David Prater, *Perfect Pitch* is an hilarious and informative night, essential for anyone seeking publication. Judged by: Bob Sessions (Penguin), Ian Syson (Vulgar Press) and Erica Wagner (Allen & Unwin).

The Post-It Note Poetry Competition

The theme this time was, in accordance with 1st anniversary tradition, paper. And just to frustrate all the contemporary poets out there, we upped the ante a little by introducing the special condition that all entries must rhyme. And let's face it, not a lot rhymes with paper.

The competition was judged by Sleepers' Practical Placement student, Alex. The winner left the rather mysterious name 'Catherine O', and when we tried to track her down through a mutual contact, she replied: "Honestly, please thank them but tell them that I'm no poet, I'm an architect, a mum and a person who generally would not be able to give any kind of attention to poetry or the arts in the broadest sense for the next foreseeable future. But that I'm chuffed at the attention. It's very funny."

So, as you can see, it takes all types to win and all types usually do. Congratulations to Catherine O'Donoghue, who's off to the movies at Cinema Nova, just for rising to the challenge.

1st

When I was wood
I wish I could
I wish I could

by Catherine O'Donoghue

Sleepers thanks the Salon prize givers:

Black Inc, Spinach7 magazine, Antoni Jach at Modern Writing Press, HEAT magazine and Giramondo Publishers, Harper Collins Publishers, and Cinema Nova.

SPINACH7

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