

# Nundle Writing Retreat

spring newsletter 2010  
nundlewriting.com.au

**A**s I write our spring newsletter I hear gentle rain falling on the 100-year-old corrugated iron roof of our store and house. More rain on top of the excellent winter rainfall bodes well for a tremendous spring in the garden and paddocks. Walking around Nundle this morning there were blossoms at every turn. At times I felt like I was in a fairyland with all the pink and white peach, plum and apple blossoms in flower.



**W**e will be doing plenty of walking around Nundle at our spring writing retreat on Saturday and Sunday, September 11-12. We will visit Nundle Public School to hear about its Garden to Kitchen to Garden program inspired by the work of well-known chef, Stephanie Alexander. We will walk to Kevin Blackwell's Maggie Manor on Nundle's intriguingly named Ratter's Flat to poke about in his sheds full of antiques waiting to be restored by his skilled hands. Kevin kindly gifted an Underwood portable typewriter that I'd admired in his shop to our writing retreat marketing.



**We will visit the elegant, historic garden surrounding "Wombramurra" homestead, owned by the Eather family and lovingly tended by Judy Eather, as well as a museum preserving artefacts from the farm, homestead and Payne family who established the property.**

**We will meet Hanging Rock artist Kelly Jaffa, who paints abstract works influenced by the forest landscape near her home and studio. Kelly is busy preparing to enter works in the Nundle CWA Art Exhibition, which starts with a Gala Opening on Friday, November 10 and continues on Saturday and Sunday, November 11 and 12. The exhibition raises funds to maintain the CWA Rooms where we hold our writing retreats, as well as housing the Nundle CWA Pre-School, and Hunter New England Health Services.**

**T**he spring retreat is our final workshop for the year. Megan's daughter Isabelle is about to sit for her Higher School Certificate so retreats are on hold until she passes that milestone. We will resume our writing retreats in 2011 with the following dates: Saturday and Sunday, March 12-13; April 2-3; May 21-22; June 25-26; July 30-31; September 3-4; and October 22-23.

**I**n time for Christmas we have Gift Vouchers available for writers who would like to add a Nundle Writing Retreat to their Christmas wish list or purchase a Gift Voucher for a writing friend. Most of us know someone who would love to indulge their writing muscle, but can't find the time. A Gift Voucher may be the motivation they need to start...and keep going.

**O**ur vege garden is still producing broccoli, kale, rocket, and silverbeet and we are waiting on a delivery of seeds from Digger's to plant out our summer crops.



Freshly picked parsley, kale and spring onions from the Trousdale garden at Nundle.

**N**icola's piece on her children's jumpers hand knitted by her mother has been purchased by Yarn magazine and will be published in the December issue.

Megan just finished a story on Scone florist Camilla Wylie and it will be published in a future issue of Australian Country Style magazine. Michael Thorley has two tanka in Eucalypt magazine, Michael Thorley and Paula Stevenson have work published online at [http://atlaspoetica.org/?page\\_id=205](http://atlaspoetica.org/?page_id=205) and two of the tanka that Michael wrote at the July retreat will be published in Simply Haiku, the online haiku/tanka/japanese verse magazine.

**W**e are excited about an idea to publish work from all our retreats in a magazine to celebrate the first anniversary of our venture. We are talking with the publisher of Q Life, a colour glossy magazine produced at Quirindi, and we invite you send your work for consideration. We encourage you to send as many works as you like because we will aim to have a variety of themes and styles to broaden the appeal of the publication. We hope to have the magazine for sale for 12 months at locations throughout the New England North West and Hunter regions. Email [megant@westnet.com.au](mailto:megant@westnet.com.au) or snail mail to PO Box 69, Nundle NSW 2340. Here are works inspired by our July retreat.

#### The annual migration

Going somewhere, getting nowhere! The laborious task of planning our annual holiday. We always head for the sea – don't know why when Seb hates the ocean. His famous catch cry is "the waves come in, the waves go out."

This year we're going inland. Now, we have to consider the time of year and what the weather will be like. Will we tow the van or treat ourselves to luxury? We count the pennies and discount the luxury. So, vaning it will be.

We can't go anywhere too hot or too cold – it's too uncomfortable in the van. Suppose we better migrate in September. OK, we've chosen when now where. The map comes out. We gaze at the little lines waiting for inspiration.

"You got anything?"  
"No, what about you?"  
"Nothing yet."

We decide to think about it. We go through this ritual every night for a week.

Finally, we agree. We'll take the van over the lush green Great Divide to Coffs Harbor, where we can sit on the sand watching the waves come in and the waves go out.



Anne Handsaker  
Activity 4  
25 July 2010  
Nundle Writers Retreat

#### The Nundle Blues – Thanks to Toni Swain

Oh, I'm back in Nundle town again and got those Nundle blues;  
Yes I'm back in Nundle town again sufferin' Nundle blues;  
I ate at the pub with some lovely ladies but they got on the booze!  
Oh, I'm back in Nundle town again and got those Nundle blues.

Oh, I'm back in Nundle town again and got those bedtime blues;  
Yes I'm back in Nundle town again and got those sleepytime blues;  
I had a bad dream and fell out of bed and I'm sportin' a nasty bruise;  
Oh, I'm back in Nundle town again and got those Nundle blues.

Oh, I'm back in Nundle town again and got those mealtime blues;  
Yes I'm back in Nundle town again sufferin' mealtime blues;  
The women are tryin' to fatten me up with soup and tarts and stews;  
Oh, I'm back in Nundle town again and got those Nundle blues.

Oh, I'm back in Nundle town again and got those conference blues;  
Yes I'm back in Nundle town again and got those conference blues;  
I got to bed at two last night, and now I need a snooze;  
Oh, I'm back in Nundle town again and got those Nundle blues.

Oh, I'm back in Nundle town again and got those writer's blues;  
Yes I'm back in Nundle town again and sufferin' writer's blues;  
The third line's here and now I'm stuck for another rhyme for "blues";  
Oh, I'm back in Nundle town again and got those Nundle blues.

Michael Thorley  
August 19, 2010

**T**hanks to everyone who has looked at our website [nundlewriting.com.au](http://nundlewriting.com.au) and sent work through to be published on the page, Writers' Work. We will continue to promote your work however we can. We have asked Glen Innes writer Georgie Keifer to bring her children's story 'Awesome Amber' to the next retreat so we can road test it with the Nundle Public School children and ask them to create a visual response to her work inspired by Nundle's graffiti knitting tree.



Georgie Keifer of Glen Innes sews swatches onto the graffiti knitting tree during a writing exercise at the July retreat.