



The Storytelling Guild
of Australia (WA) Inc

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'Something is happening in the power and practice of story: in the midst of overwhelming noise and distraction, the voice of story is calling us to remember our true selves.'
Christina Baldwin,
The Storycatcher

A Twist of Yarn

an alternative to the 'Spinning Yarn'
An occasional Bulletin for the Storytelling Guild in Western Australia

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From the Presidents' Desk

Every blade of grass has an Angel that bends
over it and whispers, "Grow! Grow!"
The Talmud

The Guild has over the last year been quietly gathering breath and we are small in numbers. But the power of story – the power of the human voice to bring stories alive, is strong. The need to breathe stories back into the landscape and community is strong.

We are currently looking at the role of the Guild in WA and what we would like it to be:

What is our vision?

Where is the pulse?

How can we nourish and support the oral tradition here?

These will be ongoing questions during the year and we would love ideas and input. Our next business meeting will be on

Tuesday 1st May at 7 pm at 10 Canada Street, Dianella

and both members and non-members are most welcome.

On a practical level, thanks to Neville Blampey, our **storysharing evenings** for 2007 are up and running. The first of these will be on **Tuesday 10th April at 7.30 pm** at the home of Mabel and Franz Kaplan in the form of a workshop: **'Working with Stories'**. These gatherings are open to anyone who would like to tell or listen. It is a place for practice and sharing in a warm and supportive environment.

Later in the year we are hoping to organize a workshop introducing I.T. knowledge relevant to storytellers (there are all sorts of new terms like "pod casting" which we should know about!?) and a second workshop with the Arts Council on grant information. Also lookout for a performance coming up on the **30th June** with a visiting Irish storyteller and musician.

We look forward to a year of exploration.

Jenny Hill and Ingrid Ipp

The Wandering Fiddlerman

a true story from Piret Päär in Estonia as part of a World Story Day Performance

In Martu village there lived a merry chap who was a great fiddler. Once it happened that he had been in town and was on his way home. It was a pitch-dark night. He walked through Viimsi manor park. As you walk down Viimsi hill there's a thick fir forest and the road forks in two: one way goes to Leppneeme village, but the man turned towards Rohiküla village. There he got lost in the forest and couldn't find his way out.

All of a sudden he fell into a huge hole – kerthump! The men of Viimsi parish had dug a hole to trap wolves, and that's where he fell. But a wolf was there before him, for in those days there were plenty of wolves about.

As he fell upon the wolf, the animal let out a menacing growl. The man was afraid that the wolf would tear him apart.

But he had a bit of luck after all – his fiddle was unbroken. The man thought: there's no way out, so I'll play the fiddle. And as he was playing, the wolf began howling and kept away from him. Thus the fiddling and howling both lasted until sunrise. The man's hand turned numb, but whenever he stopped playing, the wolf growled: go on! The man's hand was all swollen by morning.

Then some men came to check the trap and heard the noise from afar – what's that over there? A wolf's howls and some thin squeaking. They stepped to the edge of the hole and peeped in. What's the matter? They saw a man crouching and fiddling on one side of the hole, while a wolf was singing on the other.

The men were wondering what to do and whom to take out first. They thought that

they would throw a rope down and first pull out the man. They lowered the rope and told the man to fasten it around his waist so that they could pull him out. The man tied the rope around him and began climbing up, but the wolf snatched him by the leg – snap! You see, a wolf has the wits of nine men and the strength of one.

It was no good. The man was lowered back into the hole. He began fiddling again and the wolf sang along.

Then the men shot the wolf dead with two guns at the same time and pulled both the fiddler and the wolf out. After that they were merry, skinned the wolf at once – rip! – and took the hide to the inn. There the men set about toasting their catch, with the fiddler playing all the time.

* * *



...AND THE WOLF SANG ALONG

Guild Happenings

Tuesday
10 April, 2007
at 7.30pm

"Working with Story" Workshop
in the Patio
54 Hudson Avenue, Girrawheen
Mabel Kaplan 9342 7150

May

TO BE ADVISED

Tuesday
12 June, 2007

STORYSHARING EVENING
"Mixed Bag"
at the home of Pip & John Leake
42 Dunrossil Street, Wembley Downs
Pip Leake 9341 2880

"Because there is a natural storytelling urge and ability in all human beings, even just a little nurturing of this impulse can bring about astonishing and delightful results."
-- Nancy Mellon

World Story Day—March 20

Website:
<http://storytellingday.net/world/>

World Storytelling Day grew out of a Mexican celebration honouring storytellers on March 20 each year; and, since 2003 has grown into a global celebration of story and the art of storytelling.

'The Wanderer' was this year's theme. Reports of events stretch from Canada (including French Quebec), Israel (Limor Shiponi in Tel Aviv), Austria (Manusch - Manuela), Cape Breton Island (Richard McIntosh), Argentina (Isabel Fraire), Brazil (Maísa), France (Caroline Castelli, Sam Cannarozzi), Germany (Martin Ellrodt), USA (Larry Johnson, Elaine Wynne, Minneapolis, Mark Wagler, Madison), Sweden (Ulf Ärnström, Christina Öster), Western Australia (Mabel Kaplan).

Maísa of Casa do Contador de



Histórias (Storytelling House) Curitiba, Brazil, tells how her group celebrated the WSD by walking and

telling stories. 'We met at the Modern Art Museum of Curitiba, at night, with candles, and walked through the museum gardens, telling stories about "The Wanderer". And kept walking, and telling stories till we arrived at a nice restaurant, "Sorella", where we were waited on with hot soup and tea - and told more stories!'

Larry Johnson and Elaine Wynne report on a series of events to mark World Story Day: a

presentation for a group of business people an evening home gathering of local storytellers and close friends, a formal concert of storytelling at the American Swedish Institute, a performance/workshop for a group of adults dealing with memory loss, and a STORYTELLING FOR ADULTS at Dunn Brothers by Loring Park in Minneapolis featured the WANDERERS theme, family performances at Bachman's Garden Center with WANDERERS ON THE BRIDGE with a fund-raising for the new Japanese Bridge at the Peace Garden by Lake Harriet in Minneapolis.

**"It is not the voice
 that commands the
 story: it is the ear."
 -- Italo Calvino**

More on World Story Day

From Neppa Petterson in Finland
 We had stories from
 - the walk along the pilgrim path to Santiago del Compostela
 - a stand-up comedian making everyone cry of laughter of his wanderers through life
 - an original story about mystical events on a walk at Hanging Rock in

Australia
 - and a story by Tove Jansson about the Snufkin wandering northwards

In Perth, WA a group of year three students wandered the world with their pourquoi stories and entertained a lively audience of year ones.

From the UK is Ruth Cook who reports on "THE CURIOSITY OF THE WANDERING PEOPLE" with guest veteran storyteller, Tony Cooper, with dark and playful tales of the Roma people ...

Singapore Storytelling Festival 30 Aug—4 Sept. 2007

International Storytellers

Showcase 30 Aug - 1 Sept, 2007
 Tickets \$15 (matinees) & \$25 (evening shows).

Asian Congress of Storytellers 3-4 Sept 07 This will be a meeting of professional storytellers that nurtures and empowers through keynote and workshops that offer in-depth involvement in diverse areas of story telling.

Featured tellers include : Antonio Rocha (Brazil), Fran Stalling (USA), Christine McMahon (UK), Dr. Wajuppa Tossa (Thailand), Emily Cooper (Australia), John May (Australia), The Jumping JellyBeans (Malaysian) and lots more from all over!

The registration fee covers your participation in concurrent workshops, handouts and meals (tea

breaks and lunches).

Registration fees do not include accommodation. The Grand Plaza hotel is the nearest hotel to the Festival venue - the Arts House. The Arts House has only 2 storeys and has lift access. Rooms for the concurrent workshops are all on the same floor.

Website:
<http://www.bookcouncil.sg/sisf/>

The Storytelling Guild of Australia (WA) Inc

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We're on the Web!
[www.geocities.com.
storyguildwa/index.html](http://www.geocities.com/storyguildwa/index.html)



Guild Membership 2007

Take advantage of our membership special . The flat rate of \$10.00 offered to subscribers who paid their subscription by 11 March, 2007 has been extended to 30 April, 2007

This means that all renewals and new memberships paid by 30 April, 2007 will cost only \$10.00.

As from 1st May, 2007 subscription rates will revert to the normal rates of:

Regular Subscription \$30.00 p.a

Concession rate ... \$25.00 p.a

Cheques should be made payable to:
Storytelling Guild of Australia (WA) Inc
and forwarded to: The Treasurer,
PO Box 633 North Perth WA 6906

Check out this website—<http://www.cbc.ca/radionoonnl/media/>

Friday Night Storytelling Café

“The Handless Maiden”

Tellers include:

Marie Finlay, Leah van Leishout

Renata Millinog, Jenny Hill

with

Kevin Gillam on cello

April 13th - 7.30. pm - \$7

La Tropicana. 177 High St Fremantle