

Editorial

Welcome to the spring edition of *Writers Connect*. In this issue we explore the way writers use their life experiences and memories in their work. This commonly translates to memoir, an increasingly popular genre, and other forms of non-fiction, but fiction and poetry writing is shaped and influenced by the writer's background and experiences. A memoir writer chooses to be a character and delve into personal experiences with the reader, while a fiction writer might paint the scene with these memories but remains removed from the action. We have a diverse array of alumni writers working in different genres, and this is reflected in this issue as you can see the different ways they perceive their memories influencing their writing.

Patti Miller's piece, *How Proust can help with memoir*, reveals the ways that senses and stimuli can trigger our memories, and how these 'Proustian' memories are particularly helpful for memoir writers. Chris Cheng describes how his memories and experiences play an integral role in his writing, sometimes only in the sense of sparking an idea and other times using the complete memory in a story. Manisha Amin provides insight into the process of writing *Dancing to the Flute*, describing the memories, travel experiences and research that shaped how she created the landscape and characters. You will also find a review of her beautiful, vivid and touching novel in this issue. Finally, you will find a report on the Australia-India Literatures International Forum in September, which featured several of our writers.

We welcome submissions and pieces for our upcoming issues. Please contact me (rosalind.bellamy@alumni.uts.edu.au) to share news, opportunities or events, and stay in touch with us on the UTS Writers' Alumni Facebook group. Finally, we would like to say a huge thank you to Fiona Zhu, Alumni Networks Coordinator, for all of her help and support; we wish her all the very best on her parental leave!

Roz Bellamy
Guest Editor of *Writers Connect*

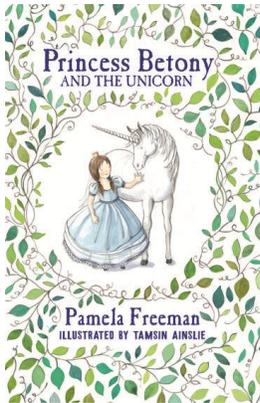
News from our network: Spring Edition

Congratulations to all of our writers who are having their work published, launched, reviewed and acknowledged with awards. We look forward to some exciting new releases in the coming months!

Alumni Publications – Get behind them and buy copies!

Kate Forsyth is finishing the final edit of *The Wild Girl*, a historical novel which tells the story of the girl who told the Grimm brothers many of their most famous stories. It will be published in April 2013. Kate has made many public appearances recently, including the Brisbane Writers Festival where she appeared on a panel with Joanne Harris & Eowyn Ivey.

Pamela Freeman's newest book, *Princess Betony and the Unicorn*, illustrated by Tamsin Ainslie, will be released in October. It will be the first in a series of four to be published by Walker Books. Please visit princessbetony.com for more details.



Robert Cashman and **Rob Harris'** book, *The Australian Olympic Caravan from 2000 to 2012: A Unique Olympic Events Industry*, was published by Walla Walla Press in August. It can be ordered online through http://www.wallawallapress.com/australian_olympic_caravan.php.

Alumni Awards and Reviews

Anna Funder and **Michelle Cahill** have books shortlisted for the Victorian Premier's Award 2012.

Victoria Milner's article 'An Expat Goes East' won third place in Transitions Abroad's Expatriate Writing Contest. Her article can be read at <http://www.transitionsabroad.com/listings/living/articles/livingabroadin-singapore.shtml>. Victoria has also just launched a travel website featuring her writing and insights on travelling.

Other News

The Australian Children's Literary Board presents **Keeping Books Alive**, a professional development seminar designed to inform and inspire primary and secondary teachers, librarians and literacy support professionals, educators and those interested in promoting literacy. It will be held on Monday 22nd October at the RACV Club Melbourne (501 Bourke Street). Please direct all enquires to Rob Leonard (rob@ozkids.com.au or 03 5282 8950).

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