



**HUNTER WRITERS' CENTRE**

## **'YOU ARE A POET'**

with Jan Dean

THE TITLE OF THIS WORKSHOP is borrowed from a book called *'You are an Artist'* (by Fred Gettings, 1965) which revolutionised attitudes to art making. Its premise is that everyone has the capacity to be an artist since they are unique beings with aspects of their life to reveal. Because there is a strong link between poetry and visual art, it follows that if you wish to be a poet strongly enough, by following a few simple procedures, consistently, everything conspires to help you on your way.

The meditative process involved in the creation of a work of art and writing is similar, if not the same. This workshop aims to generate new writing from a fresh viewpoint, through easy (but stimulating) writing and visual art exercises, enabling participants to dissolve barriers and engage with The Muse (who rules the zone where your writing lives). Various writing processes will be considered. This 'action' workshop aims to assist those who are practising poets and those who wish to be, but would also benefit those interested in other forms of writing.

JAN DEAN, a former visual arts teacher, believes her six months as an exchange-English teacher in Japan, prior to retirement, was instrumental in her reconnecting with poetry in 1996. Since then, she was runner-up in the 2002 Arts Queensland Val Vallis Award and has won several poetry competitions including the Regional Section of the 2005 Newcastle Poetry Prize. Her work has appeared in numerous publications, including *Blue Dog: Australian Poetry*, *Hecate*, *sunweight* (the 2005 Newcastle Poetry Prize anthology), *The Best Australian Poems 2005*, *The Best Australian Poetry 2004*, *The Weekend Australian Review* and *Visions from the Valley*. Forthcoming publications include *Southerly* and *Quadrant*.

When: 10am–3pm, Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2006  
Venue: The Hunter Writers Centre, 90 Hunter Street, Newcastle  
Cost: \$44 for HWC members/\$55 non-members  
Bookings: ph 4926 3485/hwcentre@optusnet.com.au

LIMITED PLACES: BOOK NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!