



FREEFALL WRITING NEWS

With Barbara Turner-Vesselago, Ph.D.



*what urgency
calls you to your
one love? What shape
waits in the seed
of you to grow
and spread
its branches
against a future sky?*

*Is it waiting
in the fertile sea?
In the trees
beyond the house?
In the life
you can imagine
for yourself?
In the open
and lovely
white page
on the waiting desk?*

*(David Whyte, The House
of Belonging)*

Writing Without a Parachute

www.freefallwriting.com

Earlybird Special for Freefall in Mallorca

La Serranía, a legendary retreat in the foothills of Mallorca's Sierra de Tramontana mountains, has asked to host a **Freefall Writing Workshop, April 12-19, 2008**. On 10 acres of land with stunning views, its own 14 metre pool amid terraced gardens, and exquisite Mediterranean cuisine, La Serranía has been featured in *Condé Nast Traveller*, *Harpers & Queen*, and *Habitania*.

A longer, 8-day format leaves participants time to relax and enjoy this exquisite and unspoilt region of Mallorca, as well as to experience the deep immersion of Freefall. Until **March 1**, the full cost of the La Serranía Workshop will be €1,000. This promises to be a once-in-a-lifetime experience: worth doing whatever it takes to be there.

Prizes and Publications:

Congratulations to everyone who has let me know about their publication successes.

Julie Gittus has a story she began at a Freefall workshop at Kurrimine Beach in *Journeys: Modern Australian Short Stories*, an anthology which includes Tim Winton, Helen Garner, and "many more of Australia's best contemporary writers." Julie's novel, *Saltwater Moons*, will be published by Hachette Livre this summer, and another story has already been chosen for next year's *Journeys* anthology. **Janey Runci's** "The Caravan," begun at the same workshop, is published in Ireland's, *The Fish Anthology 2007*. **Tilda Shalof**, whose memoir, *A*

Nurse's Story became McClelland & Stewart's best selling book for 2005, has written an absorbing sequel: *The Making of a Nurse* (M&S: 2007). And **Clare Boyd-Macrae's** volume of articles and reflections, *Three Gates to Paradise*, has been published by Clouds of Magellan.

Online magazines have proven an excellent publication route for **Sandra Jensen** and **Tom Pryor**. Jensen, who has published in *the Dublin Quarterly*, *r.kv.ry. Quarterly* and *verbsap.com*, has been chosen as a finalist in two prestigious literary competitions and is now shortlisted in *This Magazine's* "Great Canadian Literary Hunt." Tom Pryor, whose work has been published online in *Mr.*

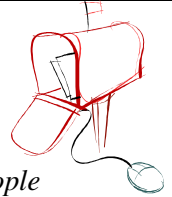
Beller's Neighborhood, Underground Voices and A Prairie Home Companion has a story in the Feb 3 City Section of *The Sunday New*

York Times -- another lovely piece that I'm familiar with from Freefall. Apologies to those I could not include here. Please continue to let me know.

From My Inbox:

I'm grateful for this description of my good friend Nicki de Hoog's experience of Freefall, which says something about the workshops I have always found it difficult to give voice to:

I think of your teaching, not as teaching as such, but as induction of an energetic state within which people rise above their pre-disposed ideas about how they can write, and they do better, go further and take risks they normally wouldn't do. This is a tremendously sophisticated and understated part of your work. Thanks to all the years of work you put in with Richard [Moss] and other teachers, plus, of course, a PhD in Lit!!!! you bring to the work something nobody else has, that I know of or have experienced.



Freefall Lunch at Glenfern:

This November, thirty past and current Freefall participants attended a celebratory luncheon at Glenfern, a Writers' Centre in central Melbourne. Well-known Australian journalist, Iola Mathews, OMA, who spent several years renovating the former Boyd family mansion to house writing studios, the Australian Poetry Society, and the Australian Poetry Library, claims she would not have undertaken Glenfern were it not for the Freefall workshop in Queenscliff where she discovered that she could write fiction. For me, it was a wonderful reunion and a great pleasure to see so many people I've thought about so much over the years.

West Coast Workshop Venue?

Because of commitments in Ontario in June, I have had to cancel the Edenvale Writing Workshop customarily held in Southern B.C. in mid-June. But I will be out on the West Coast earlier, and I could give a workshop there during the last week in May. Devon Ronner, a tireless supporter of Freefall on the West Coast, has offered to organize the workshop, which several people have already said they would like to attend. So if you know of a venue suitable for Freefall, which would be free at that time, please let me know!

Freefall Writing Tip:

People who take part in peer writing groups often report feeling confused or overwhelmed by the variety of other people's suggestions about their writing. An invaluable guide in this situation is the sense of **recognition** (something quite different from thinking, "That's a good idea."). When someone makes a suggestion that feels familiar, or to which some part of you says, "I know," *pay attention*. This kind of knowing comes from the same place where writing happens, beyond ordinary conscious thought. Noticing it will help you find your way.



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UPCOMING FREEFALL EVENTS @ www.freefallwriting.com

Hockley Valley Writing Workshop, Orangeville, Ontario

February 24th -- March 1st, 2008 \$1295 CDN (tuition + accommodation included)

Poulstone Court Writing Workshop, Hereford, England

March 24th - 30th, 2008 £660 (tuition + accommodation included)

La Serranía Writing Workshop, Mallorca, Spain

April 12th – 19th, 2008 €1,000 (tuition + accommodation included) before 1 March; €1,200 after.

New York City Writing Workshop, Yonkers, New York

May 1st – 4th, 2008 \$520 US (tuition + accommodation included)

Vermont Writing Workshop, Proctorsville, Vermont

September 25th – 28th, 2008 \$395 US (non-residential)

Jan Juc Writing Workshop, Victoria, Australia

October 16th - 19th, 2008 Details TBA

Perth Writing Workshop, Perth, Western Australia

October 26th – October 31st, 2008 Details TBA

Dwellingup Writing Workshop, Western Australia

November 9th – 15th 2008 Details TBA

Cairns Writing Workshop, Queensland, Australia

November 22nd – 28th, 2008 Details TBA

Freefall CD Now Available

Reviews are good for *Freefall: Writing Without a Parachute*, now available on CD, read by the author and published by The Writing Space. “Hearing this in your voice makes it go straight inside me somehow,” one listener reports.

The CD is available from the Freefall Office (via Vicki Pinkerton, lifelines@ican.net) or from the publisher at \$16.00 CDN/US (plus \$3.00 shipping & handling in North America).



A CALL FOR E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

Please help us to keep you posted about upcoming Freefall events quickly and easily by sending your current e-mail address (if you're not receiving this by email, we don't have it) to the Freefall administrator, Vicki Pinkerton, lifelines@ican.net.