

Storytelling Spectacular with Internationally acclaimed storyteller and author **Ken Benn**

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Australian Storytelling Guild (NSW) Inc
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About Ken Benn

Ken has wondered far from the tip of Africa, the place of his birth, to the far end of the planet on the Islands of Aotearoa – New Zealand. Being the youngest in a colourful family and spending large portions of his early childhood locked up in a hot car parked somewhere in

Africa with an empty coke bottle for company, Ken had no option but to develop a wild and fertile imagination. The world walked past that car and he developed a keen eye for character and setting as he watched comedy, tragedy and sometimes death play out before him. When not in the car, he'd either listen to stories on the radio or create his own narratives.

Ken has continued to soak up stories from all corners of the planet having traveled to every continent. He loves to share these experiences and seldom allows truth to wreck an entertaining story. However, in the spirit of post modernism, it all weaves together for good. Ken has performed in Australia, South Africa and New Zealand at conferences, festivals, dinners, schools and museums. For the past two years he has been performing as Leonardo da Vinci and traveling with the da Vinci Machines exhibition. Other historical characters include Charles Darwin and Shackleton. He has written as a regular newspaper correspondent, written several mathematics and computing texts and recently published his first novel. In 2008 he won the Jill Marshall – Michael King Writer's residency for children's literature.

When questioned under oath or threat of inflicted pain, he will confess to being a teacher of mathematics and physics; once a door to door salesman selling second hand dentures; happily married to Cheryl; proud sire of James and Ceridwen and owner of a nyctophobic cat, Slopster.



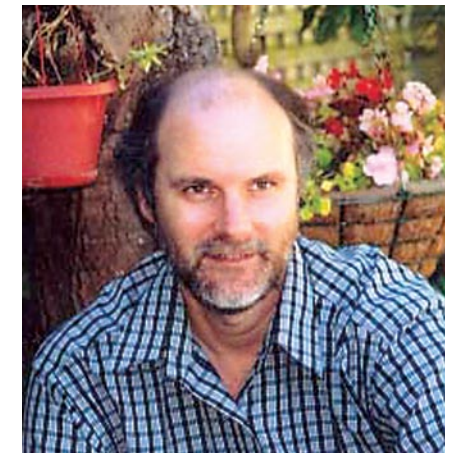
Australian Storytelling Guild (NSW) Inc.

presents

Storytelling Spectacular

with internationally acclaimed
storyteller and author

Ken Benn



Storytelling Spectacular

The Australian Storytelling Guild (NSW) Inc. is proud to present a day of storytelling workshops with internationally acclaimed storyteller and author Ken Benn. Ken will present two special workshops on Comedy and Historical Characters, both essential ingredients to the storyteller.

Date:	Saturday 23 May 2009
Venue:	The Hughenden Arts Hotel, 14 Queen Street Paddington
Time:	9.30am – 4.00pm
Cost:	Members \$95 Non-Members \$120 Concession* \$110

*includes pensioners/students/non waged.

Enquiries: Call Sue on 02 9977 0331.

Bookings are essential, wear comfortable clothes and bring pencil and paper. Places are limited so book early.

Payments can be made by credit card, cheque or money order by filling out the attached payment slip and returning to the address indicated.

Workshop Program

9.30 – 12.30	Researching and Performing Historical Characters – how to get into the life of a character you want to portray.
12.30 – 1.30	Lunch (inclusive in cost).
1.30 to 4pm	Comedy Workshop: Performance and Healing Laughter.

Morning and afternoon tea breaks will be included during each workshop.

About the Workshops

Comedy Workshop – Performance and Healing Laughter

Themes:

- Truth and pain – the seeds of humour lie within the exposed truth and pain of life. How we confront these two elements determines how we deal with them. Compassionate laughter is shown over and over again to be the greatest healer.
- Light and shade – any painter knows the value of painting the brightest colours next to the deepest shade. Such is the humour of life. It will come out of some of the darkest moments.
- Cultural traps and humour – understanding cultural context and humour is key to avoiding an embarrassing silence from your audience as well having to run for the nearest exit.
- It's all in the timing – the performance of humorous material is critical. Much of what we find funny resides within a moment's silence, a gesture or a well thought out but carefully placed oxymoron.
- Rejuvenating semantics – pie in the face has its moments but there's nothing to replace the art of well constructed oral humour. To do this, we need to study the carcass of a good and a bad joke. Why were Peter Cooke and Dudley More such a hit?

Note: Attendees must be prepared to participate fully in the workshop exercises which will mean speaking or reading to the group.

Researching and Performing Historical Characters - how to get into the life of a character you want to portray

Themes:

- What do audiences want to learn about a historical character?
- Separating fact and narrative.
- What allowances should be made for conjecture and how do you communicate to your audience, staying within character, the difference between in fact and conjecture.
- Distinguishing between light and shade – delivering the humaneness of the character.
- Giving a guru flesh and blood
- Why clay feet are better than gold
- Discarding the script and living the life!
- Performance traps

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