



**Stan Evans**, born into a Port Fairy fishing family, spent much of his boyhood fishing with his father in the 'Couta boat Ballarat. After War service in New Guinea Stan completed a commerce degree at Melbourne University which led to an executive career in business. In his spare time Stan began researching topics of

interest including his lifetime interest in maritime history. He published several articles, but his main research resulted in the 2003 publication of 'Fins Scales and Tails' in 2003, The Story of Fishing in Port Fairy, 1845-1945'. His son Peter illustrated charts and line drawings. Currently he is researching articles on maritime history in the Western District of Victoria.

**Don Swanson** has been a writer since his 7th grade English teacher actually approved of something he wrote. Since then he has been active in writing poetry, lyrics, press releases, stories, vignettes, philippics, essays, and even textbooks. He is an avid performer, acting in the character of Thadius Bunklefer, a 19th century raconteur, street poet, and general ne'er-do-well. As Thadius he enjoys laurels as winner of Runner Up Best Busker and Best Entertainer at the Mortlake Buskers' Festival and winner of the Mt. Noorat Story Telling Competition

He has taught Creative Writing in High Schools and Universities in Australia and the USA and has worked hard to get schools to include Campfires in their curricula to combat the loss of Australia's grand oral tradition in Literature, so far without success.

**Garry Kerr** is a professional fisherman operating from Portland. Garry's interests include his publication 'Crafts and Craftsmen of Australian Fishing' as well as a study of the making of wooden boats in Tasmania.

**Robyn Gardner** is co-editor, with Brian Edwards, of Mattoid, Deakin University's journal of literary and cultural studies, and has lectured at Melbourne University where she is about to present her doctoral thesis. Robyn has a special interest in charting the change in the locations of modern fiction. One of her observations is the development of 'real estate fiction' where the setting is always a neo Romantic mountain lake, misty pine wood or sea coast with sweeping surf and golden sands. Robyn will explore such themes in what must be the perfect locale, Port Fairy, 'Girt by Sea'.



**Andrea Goldsmith** has published 5 novels. The most recent being 'The Prosperous Thief', short-listed for the 2003 Miles Franklin award. This novel opens in the Berlin slums of 1912 and concludes in the murky fumes of the new millennium. Filtering through the book is the long dark shadow of the Holocaust.

Andrea's literary essays have been published widely and she is a lively public speaker and performer of her work. She has taught creative writing throughout Australia at universities, TAFES, writers' centres and in the community. She has mentored several new writers through the Australia Council mentoring scheme. Her interests include volcanoes and classical music.

**Marten Syme** has always had a fascination with the sea and Port Fairy seemed a suitable nautical retirement destination. Marten has been active in the Historical Society, the National Trust and in devoting much energy to eradicating invasive weeds on the foreshore. The restoration and maintenance of the magnificent Port Fairy Life Boat is largely due to Marten's vision and perseverance. Marten has published 'The Seeds of Settlement,' a study of the old buildings of Port Fairy and 'Shipping Arrivals and Departures' which documents the movements of early settlers on the southern coast of Australia.



**Dorothy Porter** has put the verse novel at the pinnacle of modern Australian fiction. With the award winning 'The Monkeys Mask', followed by this year's short listing of 'Wild Surmise', for the Miles Franklin Award, Dorothy is in a class of her own. Her latest triumph in London in

July this year, as librettist for the Jonathan Mills opera based on the 'Eternity Man', is indicative of the diversity of her writing .

**Brian Edwards and David McCooley** Associate Professor Brian Edwards and Dr David McCooley are academics and writers who lecture in literary studies at Deakin University. Widely published, they write poetry and fiction as well as literary criticism. With Robyn Gardner, Brian Edwards edits Mattoid, Deakin University's journal of literary and cultural studies. David McCooley is co-editor of the new journal, Space.