



## Synonyms for OMG and other stories



◆ Brian Morris laments the world's rapidly shrinking vocabulary.

## What a coincidence



◆ An unlikely dream sequence has links to the real world.

**Fiction to finish.** P12.

## Is it false economy to source 'NZ made' souvenirs overseas?

◆ Made in China labels are everywhere!



## Job Opportunities, near and far

◆ Including, maybe, the one you've been waiting for.

## A few images from the **BLACK AND WHITE**

### *Spider Awards.*



◆ Excellence in monochrome.

## Websites to explore

◆ Self-development, photography, blogging and New Zealand geography. Something for every taste.

## Competitions

◆ They keep multiplying!  
Go check out the SDB!

## A rich young man at fifteen...



◆ iPhone App programmer Nick D'Aloisio sells out to Yahoo! for a tidy 36 million while still a teenager.

## Fancy Acronyms

◆ Confused by all those acronyms that seem to mean the same thing?

## Michael Gerber comes to town



◆ The E-Myth and the myth of recession. In New Zealand to change minds.

## App developer was paid 36M

Young Nick D'Aloisio was 9 when he got his first computer. It fascinated him so he fiddled with it.

At age 15 he developed an application called [Summly](http://summly.com/#) which automatically summarises screeds of information into a suitably sensible précis of 1000 then 500 words, then only 400 characters, all without human intervention. Nick's algorithm does all the summarising with intelligent delicacy.

Thus, a sports feature or court ruling or RMA report can be automatically reduced to a txt message or a Tweet. It even adapts the length of the summary to the screen size of the device you're reading it on.

He explains how it works to Stephen Fry:

<http://summly.com/#>

People who are satisfied with a brief overview of news liked this app. Summly was voted best Apple iStore App for 2012. Then various investors got interested.

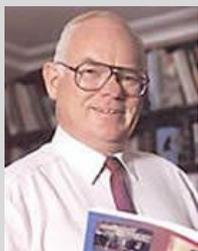
Now D'Aloisio has sold his app to Yahoo! Corporation for around \$36million. The deal includes Nick working as a part time consultant to Yahoo! while he goes back to finish his schooling in England and maybe university.

He has just turned 17.

See Nick being interviewed on CNBC television:

<http://www.cnbc.com/id/49854407>

Does Nick's story encourage you to dust off that crazy invention, app or [short story](#) you were playing around with?



You've only got to get lucky ONCE to change the direction of your whole life.

Ask [Lorraine Downes](#).

**Brian Morris** ♦ **Principal**

## THE BLACK AND WHITE

# Spider Awards

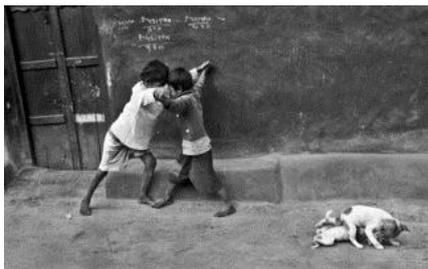
Photos reproduced for educational purposes as an example for students.  
<http://www.thespiderawards.com>



**Alex Shoykhetbrod**  
Germany

1st Place - Outstanding Achievement

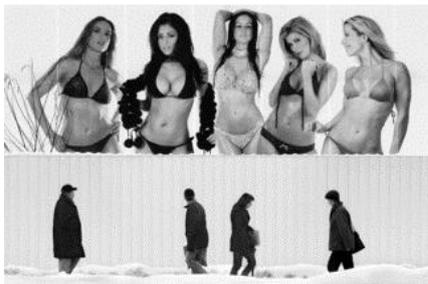
*"Hanging Around"*



**Abhijit Dey**  
India

2nd Place - Merit of Excellence

*"the little fighters"*  
Co-incidentally the little village playmates are playing fight and same way the two little dogs also in playing mood.



**Matej Peljhan**  
Slovenia

3rd Place - Honor of Distinction

*"Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus"*



**Andrei Pfeiffer**  
Romania

Honorable Mention

*"Desire"*



**Cole Hallarn**  
Canada

Nominee

*"Four Little Ladies"*  
Studio work, taken in the spring of 2011.

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## Listen to Michael E. Gerber

His name is mentioned in business circles as the guy who said, "Work ON your business, not IN your business."

His best books are 'The E-Myth' and 'The E-Myth Revisited'. He has written 28 others.

Whatever your business is, consider his advice.

"We need to go back to our childlike mentality when we were not afraid to try things."

Fear of failure stymies creativity.

"Technicians invent businesses that work because of them. Entrepreneurs invent businesses that work without them."

The different is important.

Gerber is introducing

**The Dreaming Room** process to New Zealand.

See and hear him discussing entrepreneurship with Ellie Drake on **BraveHeartTV**:

[www.michaelgerbercompanies.com/solutions/speaking/](http://www.michaelgerbercompanies.com/solutions/speaking/)

If someone in your circle is busy working, working, working, encourage them to stop and hear Michael Gerber for 10 minutes.

Ten minutes of wise counsel.

He has come to New Zealand at exactly the right time.

But what about the present slowed-down economy?

"Nonsense", says Gerber. "There is no 'this difficult economy'. There's just the world we live in. Get on with it."

Gerber says fewer than 2% of companies begun by women don't grow beyond \$1m. Something has put restrictions on women's thinking.

Gerber says, "Put that restriction behind you."

Ellie Drake invites you to meet women entrepreneurs online >> [www.braveheartwomentv.com](http://www.braveheartwomentv.com) Joining is free.

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**COMMITTEE: A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.**

**BARIUM: What we do to most people when they die.**

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## On our website

Learn new skills and make yourself a new career.

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<http://nzibs.co.nz/index.php?page=journalism-non-fiction-writing>

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<http://nzibs.co.nz/index.php?page=travel-writing>

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<http://nzibs.co.nz/index.php?page=sports-journalism>

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### Stories for Children

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### Short Stories

<http://nzibs.co.nz/index.php?page=short-stories>

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### Life Coaching

<http://nzibs.co.nz/index.php?page=life-coaching>

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### Proofreading and Editing

<http://nzibs.co.nz/index.php?page=book-editing-proofreading-and-publishing>

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Information on any course we run is available on:

**09 532 9059** or **0800 80 1994**.

You already have one foot on the first rung of a ladder; your climb could take you to the stars.

\*call **Carol Morris** ♦ Registrar, now.

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Telephone: **0800 80 1994** ♦ [www.nzibs.co.nz](http://www.nzibs.co.nz) ♦ Email: [registrar@nzibs.co.nz](mailto:registrar@nzibs.co.nz)

## Job Opportunities

### **Communications and PR Manager, Outdoors NZ, Wellington**

Plan, develop and implement a communications and PR strategy. Closes 22 April.

### **Graphic Designer, Foodstuffs, Christchurch**

Write, proofread and design marketing materials. Closes 15 April.

### **Holiday Programme Leader, YMCA, Auckland**

An opportunity for someone wanting to make a difference to the lives of children. Closes 7 April.

### **External Relations Manager, IBM, Auckland**

Generate ideas for communications initiatives that create cut-through. No closing date.

### **Communications Advisor, Robert Walters, Auckland**

Source and produce written collateral for internal and external communications. No closing date.

### **Supported Living Coach, Laura Fergusson Trust, Wellington**

Provide coaching and support to clients in the community setting. No closing date.

### **Ministerial Coordinator, MBIE, Wellington**

Build and enhance the overall capability of the ministerial writers. Closes 12 April.

### **Sub-editor, NZ Herald, Auckland**

Journalists with a passion for news and who are open to working a varied roster should apply. Closes 12 April.

### **Sub-Editor, Herald On Sunday, Auckland.**

APN publish HoS, the daily Herald and other magazines. Plenty of scope for promotion. Send your letter and CV etc to: Christine Vickers. [edapps@nzherald.co.nz](mailto:edapps@nzherald.co.nz) Closes 12 April.

### **Farming Reporter, Waikato Times, Hamilton**

Get your gumboots on and chase the latest farming news. Closes 11 April.

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## Websites to explore

### 1. Live life your way

Nicola's mix of dream and distraction; living life your way.

Bring your determination, perseverance and stubbornness. ☺

<http://achieveyourbestlife.com/>

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### 2. en\*theos

Two little Greek words which mean enthusiasm, or "God within" – this website challenges you to be excellent and extraordinary. ☺

<http://www.entheos.com/>

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### 3. NZ Geographic Board

Responsible for naming all our geographic features, this Crown entity is in the soup right now for forgetting to name a couple of largish islands. ☺

Read up on this organisation and learn how places get their names.

<http://www.linz.govt.nz/placenames/about-geographic-board>

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### 4. The Black and White Spider Awards

An online exhibition of the world's finest B&W images as nominated by a jury. Many categories.

<http://www.thespiderawards.com>



Image by Hengki Lee

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## Do fancy acronyms clarify or confuse?

by **Brian Morris**

The news announcer blamed a baby's death on SUDI. That was a new term to me so I looked it up.

SUDI is 'sudden unexpected death in infancy'. The term I've used for 50 years was 'cot death' and everyone knew what I was talking about.



It seems SUDI has become fashionable medico-speak in New Zealand and Australia, but not elsewhere.

The world health people (WHO) measure baby death incidents for international comparisons. But because there is confusion over the terminology, reported figures and comparisons are an unreliable mish-mash.

We have SUDI and SIDS (sudden infant death syndrome) and SUID



(sudden unexpected infant death) and SUDC (sudden and unexpected death of a child).

Then we have neonatal mortality and perinatal mortality and postneonatal mortality.

Surely this sad but important subject could be tidied up so we can use terms the whole world uses and measures?

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**DIPLOMAT:** A person who tells you to go to Hell in such a nice way you actually look forward to the trip.

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## How to win your first writing competition

by **Richard Bell**

Reproduced for educational purposes

Look at the competition lists for short stories and poetry, which are printed in NZIBS Jobs & Competitions each month. If you haven't entered one yet, do so asap. They don't bite.

Competitions have become such a big market for writers in both these genres that advice about them even finds its way into the how-to books on writing. They are definitely an excellent way to get your name known as a capable writer.

A successful competition may attract several hundred entries, and from all those there can be only one winner, so no one is suggesting winning is easy. But you can shorten the odds and put yourself in line for the significant cash prizes many competitions offer.

Tip #1 Be sure you approach the competition in a professional manner. Read the rules.

Tip #2 Do your research. If you are aiming to write for a magazine, you will always be told to do your research first. You will be advised to check the kind of stories or poems they have published previously and make sure yours meet what appear to be their requirements.

Exactly the same advice applies when you are entering competitions. The first sensible move is to get the winning entries from previous years, and this is usually not difficult.

Many competitions, for example, are sponsored by magazines (usually small press magazines) as a way of seeking new talent.

The good news is they publish the winning entries.

You should be able to get the back issues in which they appeared.

Most competition organisers publish their winning entries in annual anthology form - often accompanied by the judges' comments, which can help give you a good understanding of what the judges are looking for.

Writers' News UK make things even easier for you: winning entries are published in each issue of Writers' News and Writing Magazine together with the judging comments.

Tip #3 Keep to the rules. The judging comments published in Writers' News and Writing Magazine often provoke readers' letters. The rules specify that judging decisions are final, and no correspondence will be entered into, and the letters are seldom about the way in which the competitions were judged. Usually the letters are queries about the rules, particularly concerning the word count.

Writing Magazine short story competitions asking for 1600 - 1800 words are usually specified in the rules. However, it is quite amazing how many people write to ask us how flexible the rule is. A common query is: Would we consider an entry that was, for example, 1,810 words?

The answer is yes, we probably would. But remember that final judging decisions are often very close calls. It is not uncommon for judges to be faced with two or three entries of equal merit and they have to select just one winner from among them. In that situation, if one of the entries is ten words above the word count it gives the judges an easy reason not to choose that story winner. So why do it?

If the rules say 1600 - 1800 words then keep within those limits and don't jeopardise your chances of winning.

A more difficult query concerns the rule so many competitions include, stating that entries must be previously unpublished

material. What exactly, we are asked, does 'previously unpublished' mean? The kind of example people quote is: What about a short story or poem that appeared in my local Writer's Club Annual Anthology and which was not paid for?

It may seem tough to exclude those entries that have been previously published in such a low key context.

However, the competition organisers want to avoid a situation in which someone complains that they have read the winning story or poem elsewhere before. And writer's circle anthologies are usually sold locally, albeit in small numbers, so there could be some competitor out there who has read your story or poem in them - and if the same material later pops up as an 'unpublished' competition winner, they feel justified in lodging a complaint. That seems fair.

Be sure to keep to the rules the competition organiser has provided, rather than trying to invent dubious loopholes for sliding around them. It's not worth it.

When we ask competition organisers what advice they could give would-be entrants, the answer is usually the same: 'Keep to the rules, and remember the stamped-self-addressed-envelope - SASE.

Tip #4 Remember common courtesy. If you are asking for competition details or entry forms, remember to enclose a sase for the organiser's reply. Certainly this is good manners, but it is also a matter of economics.

Most competitions are run by volunteers on a shoestring. Entry fees are kept as low as they can be, (usually \$5 or £5).

So if you plan to enter any of the competitions listed, please remember to enclose that all-important sase.

For foreign competitions, buy an IPC at any PostShop for NZ\$1.85. It is recognised in all countries as return postage for one standard size first class letter - but not a package! ❑

## Job Opportunities

**[Reporter, Taranaki Newspapers](#)**  
Seeking reporter with a passion for social media, news websites and print. Closes 12 April.

**[Lifeskills Manager, Timata Hou, Porirua](#)**  
Lead, coach and support people to achieve quality rehabilitation outcomes. Closes 15 April.

**[Communications Advisor, BNZ Online, Auckland](#)**  
Communicate online changes to existing customers. Closes 11 April.

**[Managing Editor, NZLawyer, Auckland](#)**  
Manage the brand, business and content of NZLawyer publications. No closing date.

**[Graphic Designer Graduate, Atlas Gentech, Auckland](#)**  
Create electronic price lists and catalogues. No closing date.

**[Deputy Editor, Creme Magazine, Auckland](#)**  
Would you love to interview Taylor Swift IRL? No closing date.

**[Senior Producer Reporter, Te Karere, Auckland](#)**  
Set up interviews, prepare stories, provide editorial advice. Closes 28 April.

**[Journalism Jobs in Rarotonga](#)**  
Learn the ropes of news journalism in an exciting Pacific location. No closing date.

**[Editorial Assistant, Woman's Day, Auckland](#)**  
Help to ensure the Woman's Day editorial department runs smoothly. Closes 8 April.

**[Mentor/Coordinator, Auckland](#)**  
Use your life experience and skills to influence and transform young people. No closing date.

**[Technical Writer, Edge Recruitment, Auckland](#)**  
Write user guides and assist with newsletters and IT communications. No closing date.

**[Social Media Coordinator, Hamilton City Council](#)**  
Provide a cohesive social media programme for the Waikato Museum. Closes 7 April.

## Clubs & Organisations

### The Poets Society

Membership of the New Zealand Poetry Society entitles you to their bimonthly magazine and reduced fees in their annual competition.

Several other benefits include a **members-only** website page.

<http://www.poetrysociety.org.nz/join>

### New Zealand Freelance Writers' Association

Have you found their site yet? You can't always find a writer's group, so here's another place you can go to connect with writers.

<http://www.nzfreelancewriters.org.nz/>

### Society of Authors

The NZ Society of Authors works in the interests of authors in New Zealand. The Society (PEN NZ Inc) is guided by values of fairness, accountability and responsiveness.

The mission of the Society is to support the interests of all writers in New Zealand, and the communities they serve.

**Join up here:**

<http://www.authors.org.nz/>

### Romance Writers of NZ

This non-profit organisation was founded in September 1990 by Jean Drew (NZIBS tutor) RWNZ has over 260 members (published and unpublished writers) from NZ, Aust, USA, UK and SA.

<http://www.romancewriters.co.nz/>

### The silliest laws?

In **Liverpool**, it is illegal for a woman to be topless except as a clerk in a tropical fish store.

In **Milan**, it is a legal requirement to smile at all times, except funerals or hospital visits.

In **Vermont**, women must obtain written permission from their husbands to wear false teeth.

In **Florida**, unmarried women who parachute on a Sunday could be jailed.

In **England**, It is illegal to enter the Houses of Parliament in a suit of armour.

**Yeah, right!**

## Everything has a price. Will you pay it?

by **Anthony Smits**

The world's available oil, one of its most sought-after commodities, is priced in American dollars, as this has been the most valuable exchange medium for several decades.

What's your most valuable exchange medium? More than likely, it is time.



A hamburger you casually buy may cost the change in your pocket, but it really cost the time you took to earn that change.

A gold medal you seek costs years of focus.

You'll give up many other choices during that period.

If you don't understand, in advance, the price (more-or-less) you'll have to pay for the goals you're trying to achieve, you're likely to stall when the going gets tough.

This happens because you won't have enough resources to do everything, and won't have made decisions to give up other things. Don't under-estimate the importance of this.

It's 'packing for the hike'.

That brings us neatly to another question - the location of what you seek. This may be one of the hardest things to determine.

Most "How do I..." questions involve intangibles, and the route to these is different for everyone - which means no-one can draw you a definitive map.

You have to figure out where you are 'now', and what you'll need to learn along the way.

What don't you yet know? Who has that information?

Can you find those people?

You'll get times when price is obvious and location is not.

Sometimes it's the other way around.

Ever thought of climbing Mt Everest? Over 4000 have done it now - though more than 200 died in the attempt. It's not technically difficult and the way is well marked.

But if you're going, you'll want more than the experience; you want the peak. So you'll need to factor in a large price. You'll consider these and many more: Alternative routes, camps, supplies, time, companions, emergency preparations.

Overall, the price is months or years of training; hours and hours of time. Mentally, you'll probably need to pay everything you have to achieve a goal like climbing Everest.

Other goals you could set may feel equally pricey, like mastering public speaking.

# OMG!

## That's unbelievable!"

by **Brian Morris**

Today's most over-used and mindless exclamation makes me reach for the paper puke bag.

Just because every belly-button-displaying teenager has a mere 500 word vocabulary doesn't mean you have to restrict yourself.

Someone running, dodging and weaving the length of a football field to score isn't "unbelievable" at all. Such feats happen multiple times every Saturday.

Now if the player carried a bale of barbed wire and was dive-bombed by 20 magpies, and STILL ran etc and scored – now that is certainly remarkable. Perhaps even unbelievable.

As for the prayer, I doubt it is meant as such. It lacks religious fervour, so it's a throwaway line. Best thrown away.

One of our tutors told a student "If you suspect the phrase you wrote has a slight familiarity to it – it's probably a cliché. Replace it with something original."

Good advice.

Professional football caller Keith Quinn told me he keeps a list of synonyms for 'run' on the desk while broadcasting. When he uses the word "jinked" or "sliced" to describe a remarkable run, he strikes that word off his list. Each word gets one airing per game.



That level of meticulousness makes Quinn the best of the world's rugby commentators.

Something for the rest of us to aspire to.

## Online Openings

### for editors and proofreaders

When searching online, search for variations of what you want, i.e:

- **Proofreading**
- **Proof reading**
- **Book editing**
- **Editing**
- **Manuscript correcting, etc**

Get creative. Here are some ideas:

### Craigslist.org

Don't overlook this international billboard of opportunities. Covers all parts of the world.

<http://auckland.craigslist.org/>

### Online Writing Jobs.com

<http://www.online-writing-jobs.com/jobs/freelance-proofreading-jobs.php>

### Freelance Writing Gigs

Online references, contract jobs and plenty of contacts.

<http://FreelanceWritingGigs.com>

### Freelance Writing

This site gives links to many sites with writing, proofreading and editing work:

<http://FreelanceWriting.com>

### E lance.com

<https://www.elance.com/q/find-work/online-work-overview/>

### Donanza.com

Donanza does draw its job listings from other places, so you may see ads you've seen elsewhere.

<http://www.donanza.com/jobs/proofreading>



### Virtual Vocations

The whole spectrum of vocations are here – so use a targeted search to find your specialty.

<http://www.virtualvocations.com/jobs>

### iFreelance

Advertise your services here:

<http://www.ifreelance.com/>

## Job Opportunities

### [Photolab Operator](#), Photo & Digital, Christchurch

Must be confident in operating Fujifilm photo lab equipment, printer, film processor, cameras and kiosks. No closing date.

### [Digital Content Specialist](#), Momentum Consulting, Auckland

Engagement with stakeholders underpins this role, which is focused on writing. No closing date.

### [Entertainment Website Producer](#), MSN NZ, Auckland

Publish engaging entertainment content, including both original articles and videos. No closing date.

### [Court Reporter/Transcriber](#), Ministry of Justice, Auckland

Record court hearings either live from the courtroom or by transcribing digital recordings. Closed 29 March. Apply anyway.

### [Consumer Issues Web Writer](#), Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment, Wellington

Develop content that helps New Zealanders to understand their rights. Closed 29 March. Apply late.

### [Graphic Designer & Marketing Assistant](#), Trimax Mowing Systems, Tauranga

Seeking a creative dynamo. No closing date.

### [Personal Assistant](#), Madison Recruitment, Auckland

Proofread, format, and edit documents; coordinate meetings and travel. No closing date.

### [Sales, Marketing and Communication Manager](#), Teasme Tea Shop, Christchurch

Must be able to converse in English and Chinese. Closes 1 June.

### [Creative Technical Writer](#), Holistec Systems, Wellington

Seeking a person who still believes good writing might just save humanity. No closing date.

### [Portfolio Editor](#), Thomson Reuters, Wellington

Edit, develop and generate content for assigned hard copy, CD and online publications. Closes 5 April.

## Clubs & Organisations

### Kiwi Write 4 Kids

Kiwi Write4Kidz is an organisation for adults who like to write tales for children. If you want to learn more about technique, you can hear it direct from the mouths of the finest Kiwi children's authors. <http://www.kiwiwrite4kidz.co.nz/>



### International Writers' Workshop

meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month, February to November inclusive, at the Lake House Arts Centre, Takapuna. <http://www.iww.co.nz/>

### Hibiscus Coast Writers

Members enjoy workshops and up to six competitions a year including poetry, short stories, drama and non-fiction, all judged externally. <http://hibiscuscoastwriters.weebly.com/>

### Franklin Writers

This group meets at Franklin Arts and Cultural Centre, Pukekohe. Contact Judy / Barbara 09232 0132.



### Photography Clubs

They are everywhere - nationwide. Photography clubs keep you up to date with events, seminars, competitions, and more.

NZ Photographic Society details: [http://www.photography.org.nz/clubs\\_map.html](http://www.photography.org.nz/clubs_map.html)

Strippers and topless waitresses wanted. No experience necessary, hands on training will be given.

Waikato Times, 24/11/12

## Shall we scrap definitions altogether?

by *Brian Morris*



This is what is happening in New Zealand over the 'Gay Marriage' bill before Parliament.

We are losing sight of the basic definition.

I have no objection to male/male or female/female pairings. Love is a splendid thing and we find it where we can.

I was taught at school that definitions help us understand what's what in the world.

Thus, a dog is not a horse ... sort of thing. It gets confusing when a large dog is bigger than a small horse.

But going back to definitions saves me from making a silly mistake.

I've known for years that architects design structures and builders build them.

Problems arise when builders think they are architects and their structure collapses because they didn't observe some basic architectural premise.



This is not about religion. It's a matter of correct definitions.

'Marriage' is a union contract between a man and a woman.



Same gender pairings have a 'Civil Union' which now enjoys equal rights and responsibilities under New Zealand law.

When we tinker with the basic definitions of words we give away control over our language.

We might as well call a child's go-cart a car. Or a mosquito a moth. Differences are important.

Definitions should not be tampered with.

## How's this for false Economy?

by **Brian Morris**

This week the US Senate locked in US\$85Billion of government spending cuts. This means 750,000 jobs lost.

The trickle-down effect means those workers will not have money to spend locally on groceries, dresses, haircuts and suchlike.

Social benefit payments will be at about the same cost - but without anything being produced.

Don't snigger. We do equally silly things here.



Department of Conservation has stopped buying souvenir kiwis made from possum fur in Rotorua. This item will henceforth be made in China using synthetic faux-fur.

How authentic is that for a New Zealand souvenir?

In 2010 the RSA stopped buying Anzac Day poppies made by intellectually handicapped workers in Christchurch.

These are now made in China. How much does that support what the Anzacs fought for?



All Blacks jerseys were proudly made by Canterbury for 75 years. Now NZRFU buy them from Adidas, made in Asia.



You know how that decision affected Lane, Walker, Rudkin. The factory closed with 186 jobs lost.

If this sort of short-sighted decision making angers you, write to the companies concerned and to your MP. . ❑

## Job Opportunities

### **Communication Coordinator, Fletcher Construction, Christchurch**

Deliver communication service to external stakeholders and the public about the rebuild work. Closes 4 April.

### **News Associate Producer, MSN NZ, Auckland**

Find and produce original news content. No closing date.

### **Research Librarian and Media Release Administrator, Springer, Auckland**

Manage the selection and processing of media releases to support editorial needs. Closes 4 April.

### **Features Writer, Fashion Quarterly, Auckland**

Write informative and lively copy for a fashion magazine. No closing date.

### **Communications Assistant, Foundation of the Blind, Auckland**

Assist with communication plans and event coordination. Closes 5 April.

### **Portrait Retouch Artist, Timeless Images Photography, Auckland**

Must be highly skilled in Photoshop and its use in portraiture photography. Closes 5 April.

### **Senior Communications Advisor, Chapman Tripp, Auckland**

Oversee and draft a wide range of communication pieces. No closing date.

### **Tutor/Employment Coach, Salvation Army, Kaikohe**

Help people on the Back to Work course in Kaikohe. Closes 3 April.

### **Marketing & Communications Coordinator, King's College, Auckland**

Support all aspects of marketing & communications. No closing date.

### **Executive Assistant & Corporate Services, Madison Recruitment, Auckland**

Manage communications; proofread, format, and edit financial reports and documents. No closing date.

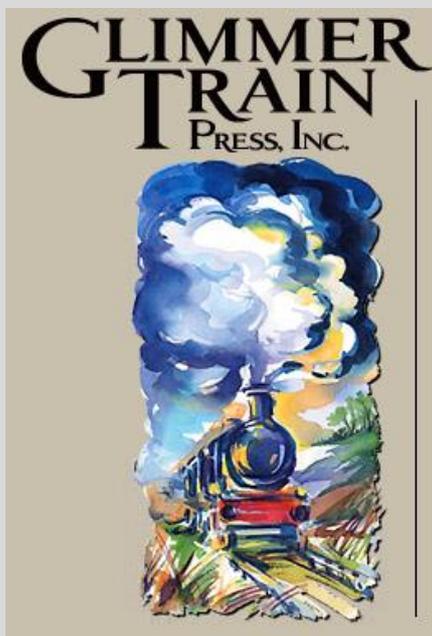


## Photo Competitions

213 competitions are listed here:  
<http://www.photographycompetitions.net>

Some of these are only open to professionals. Some restrict entry to residents of certain countries.

But among them all, there **will be** at least ONE for you. Enter it.



[http://www.glimmertrain.com/family\\_matters.html](http://www.glimmertrain.com/family_matters.html)

Family Matters Award

(1st place wins \$1,500)

**deadline is April 30.**

Most entries run from 1,500 - 6,000 words, but any length up to 12,000 words is welcome.

*For inspiration:*

Remember that sticking too tightly to "fact" can limit the larger truth fiction is able to reveal. Give your story the leeway it needs to find its own life. And, if your story is closely related to your actual experience, it is wise to change details that would allow the real-life people to say, *Hey, that's me!*

## Writer's Relief

**30 day Know Thyself Challenge.**

Define who you are as a writer – and there's a prize... but you have to enter to discover it.

You do need a facebook account.  
<http://www.facebook.com/writersrelief>

## Story Mint

Participate in a serial here:

<http://thestorymint.com/story-mintery>

You can add one chapter of up to 500 words to the latest serial.

**Put your name down** for a slot and write 480 -500 words to carry the story forward.

- develop back story
- develop the characters
- introduce a new angle

Or, you may want to take the story somewhere completely different.

## NATIONAL SHORT STORY COMPETITION 2013

Judge: Brigid Lowry

1st Prize: \$300 in book vouchers;  
 2nd: \$60 ditto, 3rd: \$40 ditto.

All those short-listed will receive an assessment from the judge.

Conditions of Entry:

- Open to writers nationwide.
- Entries will be restricted to the first 100 received. All others will be returned, along with fee.

Entry fee of \$20 guarantees written feedback, from an experienced writer, for each story.

- **Closing date is 30th April 2013.**
- Word limit of 1500; any topic.

- Work must be original and previously unpublished fiction.

For details, please contact:

Chrissie Ward  
 cj.ward@xtra.co.nz  
 106a Nile Street, Nelson, 7010

Entry forms are available from:  
[bruceastridge@aol.com](mailto:bruceastridge@aol.com)



## FanStory.com

For when you just want to write and get some feedback.

At FanStory.com you can share stories and poems and receive feedback.

Poetry, fiction... something for everyone.

[http://www.fanstory.com/page/writing\\_contest/writing\\_contest.jsp](http://www.fanstory.com/page/writing_contest/writing_contest.jsp)



Enter online or by post.

**Closing date: midnight April 30.**

Please read the competition details before entering.

[http://www.bristolprize.co.uk/new\\_s/115-2013-bristol-short-story-prize-launched.html](http://www.bristolprize.co.uk/new_s/115-2013-bristol-short-story-prize-launched.html)

## The Fish Short Story Prize

The 2012/13 competition will open soon. Details here:

<http://www.fishpublishing.com/writing-contest-competition.php>

## Winning Writers

**Current Writing Competitions**

[http://winningwriters.com/contests/sports/sp\\_guidelines.php](http://winningwriters.com/contests/sports/sp_guidelines.php)



[http://winningwriters.com/contests/tomstory/ts\\_guidelines.php](http://winningwriters.com/contests/tomstory/ts_guidelines.php)

**Entries close May 31, 2013**

There is \$5,000 in prizes.  
[https://www.winningwriters.com/contests/sports/sp\\_subonline.php](https://www.winningwriters.com/contests/sports/sp_subonline.php)

## Competitions

Come join in these monthly competitions: lots of fun and numerous prizes. You may even get to mangle a bit of English along the way.

### Fairy Tales and Fables

Judged by **Amanda Edwards**  
For **April**:  
See the Fable Thread...  
<http://www.nzibs.org/forums/showthread.php?f=11>

### Your novel's first 100 words

Judged by **Brenda Segedin**  
For **April**:  
**Make it a dream...** real or imaginary; captivate me!  
<http://www.nzibs.org/forums/showthread.php?t=4716>

### Chinese Whispers...

a group effort – join in!  
For **April**:  
See the Chinese Whispers Thread  
<http://www.nzibs.org/forums/forumdisplay.php?f=11>

### What's the Question?

Judged by **Brenda Segedin**  
For **April**:  
The answer is **\$17.50...**  
<http://www.nzibs.org/forums/showthread.php?t=4734>

### Simplify...

Judged by **Amanda Edwards**  
For **April**:  
See the Edit and Simplify Thread...  
<http://www.nzibs.org/forums/showthread.php?f=11>

### Introduce yourself ☺

hosted by **Brenda Segedin**  
Tell us about yourself...AND WIN  
<http://www.nzibs.org/forums/showthread.php?t=4480>

### That's Life...

Judged by **Amanda Edwards**  
For **April**:  
**This is going great – join in!**  
Write an anecdote of life. Truth or fiction, or let us guess... ☺  
<http://www.nzibs.org/forums/showthread.php?t=4653>

### Photography Challenge

Judged by **Robert van de Voort**  
Continuing into **April**:  
"Hiatus" is your topic. Much hilarity and road kill... Quite a Hiata. Come and join in.  
<http://www.nzibs.org/forums/showthread.php?t=4593>

### From the competitions board:

Some **WINNERS** from last month:

#### The first 100 words...

*The vein in the centre of the fat man's forehead pulses erratically. He slurps smothering his goblet with his black tongue. The timid child anticipates the hand mauling his skinny leg gradually crawling upward to his crotch. "You're a wizard, Father Marcial", the schooled boy stutters. Tears wash his cheeks, his weak body compliantly trained. The cleric's eyes deceive his netherworld geneses. Trickles of sweat snake down his brow. The fleshy gap between them a flush of odour. "You must be punished, Timoteo poco," mockingly accuses the priest. "You are a filthy brat. Christ suffered and so too must you."*

Congratulations **Hugh**

#### In just 50 words...

*The Crimson Candle.*  
The dying man wanted to use his wife's loyalty to win a place in the afterlife. She had to swear never to remarry as proof of her worthiness. The woman swore on the sacred candle. She said "like hell I will." He died in turmoil, selfish pig; and she remarried!

Congratulations **Andrea**

#### Simplifying Don Quixote...

*Moons ago in La Mancha lived a rugged old gentleman of 50.*

*Even though he owned a lance and shield, a hag and a racing greyhound, he lazily spent most of the year reading and his own ungalant, dishonourable, selfish manner neglected his staff and estate. He absently sold acres of his arable estate in order that he could buy more books and delve further into his own selfishness.*

*His mind became so blinded by the writings of Feliciano de Silva, that his life passed him by and he never experienced the messages of love and chivalry that he so widely read!*

Congratulations **Brenda**



## Job Opportunities

### Sub-editor, Homestyle magazine, Auckland

Oversee all editorial for 1–2 months. No closing date.

### Journalist, Key Media, Auckland

Produce explosive headlines and riveting leads as you write across industries, continents and formats. No closing date.

### Business Reporter, BusinessDesk, Wellington

Cover all business and economic news of significance in New Zealand. No closing date.

*Jobs printed here are taken from lists on our active and informative Student Discussion Forum NOTICE BOARD.*

**Apply now.** Jobs get filled.

**Check the SDB** for new jobs.

**This selection of jobs** was available when this newsletter was compiled and printed.

**Be proactive.** Have your draft application and CV **ready**.

### Photography and Stock Prep, Chapman Family Industries, Hamilton

Photograph clothing and footwear for use on auction listings. No closing date.

### Communications Advisor, Hays, Wellington

Requires strong writing skills and the ability to self-manage. No closing date.

### Documentation Analyst, Beyond Services, Wellington

Seeking writer with technical writing, documentation or journalism experience. No closing date.

### Photoshop/Lightroom Photographer, Hamlet Photography, Auckland

From image capture you will be in charge of all production, up to and including delivery to framers. No closing date.

### Life Coaches, YB 12 NZ, Auckland

Start your own YB 12 coaching consultancy. No closing date.

## What a coincidence

By *Eric Breagan*.

Reprinted as a Short Story example for students and graduates.

The old woman's eyes scarcely blinked as they stared at the crystal sphere. On the other side of the table, Michelle crossed and then uncrossed her legs. Her eyes were on the woman's face.

Finally the old woman began to speak. "You are entering a particularly fortunate phase of your life," she said in a monotone. "You probably find this difficult to believe after all your recent problems. I see a marvellous ..."

"But how do you see?" Michelle interrupted. "How are you able to foretell the future?"

The older woman frowned. "I wish you hadn't done that," she said. "Once my concentration is broken, it usually takes me a long time to refocus my mind."

"I want to know how you make your predictions."

"I'm not used to sceptics. But my skill is a gift, which through years of training and study ..."

"Gift! Study!" snorted Michelle, and she charged out, banging the door behind her ...

The coin spun as it rose and fell. "Heads!" called Michelle.

Susan caught it with practiced ease and slapped it on to the back of her hand.

"Sure?" she asked.

"It must be. It's already been tails eight times in a row."

Susan uncovered the coin.

"Tails!" said Michelle with disgust. "What are the odds of that happening?"

"You're missing my point," said Susan. "Each time the coin spins, there's a 50-50 chance it'll show tails. It doesn't matter what's happened before."

"And you're going to tell me my dreams are coincidences?"

"Look, Michelle, there are about five billion people on earth. Each night millions dream, tens of thousands dream of similar events – marriages, deaths, celebrations. When we're talking these sorts of figures, some of them have to be correct."

"What I find hard to understand is how almost all my dreams of the past few months have come true.

"I dream of road accidents, fires and shootings and within a couple of days, I see them again on the news. Even those that aren't confirmed could have happened."

"Don't you think you're getting a little carried away? Anyone who dreams of a road accident tonight is going to be right – many times over."

Michelle sighed and stood up. "I'm not convinced. The events I see seem really specific. I can recall individual faces and how people are dressed – not just hazy ideas. But thanks for listening, Sue. Would you mind if I called in again in a couple of days?"

"Sorry, I'm flying to Fiji tomorrow for a fortnight's holiday. But come round again when I get back. I'll bet you'll have found your predicting streak has finished."

Michelle paused, "I just wish I could occasionally dream of something pleasant," she said.

"Please give my love to George," said Susan.

That evening George looked across at Michelle in concern.

"I wish you wouldn't take so many pills," he said. "It's nearly treble the prescribed amount."

She washed the capsules down with a glass of water.

"At least I'll get to sleep," she snapped. "If I don't take them, I'll lie awake worrying half the night."

"And when I finally drop off, I'll dream anyway."

She slipped under the covers and closed her eyes.

At first, she'd talked her dreams through with George, but he was increasingly irritable each time she brought the subject up. Thank goodness she had Susan. Over the past few weeks, she'd been a real support.

But tomorrow both would be gone, Michelle realised with a jolt. Susan was going on holiday and George was going interstate on business.

I won't even wake up in time to say goodbye, Michelle thought guiltily. The pills will see to that. Perhaps that's why George was so grumpy about them tonight. She tried to turn to kiss him, but her body felt too heavy and sluggish.

Michelle awoke, sticky with sweat. Her head felt thick and woolly and thoughts were confused.

"George!" she called, "George!"

She could not remember her dream clearly, but she knew that something terrible was going to happen to her husband.

She caught sight of the clock. A few minutes past nine. George had said something about a ten o'clock flight.

If she drove quickly, she should reach the airport before the plane took off. She jumped into a tracksuit, and ran to her car. He'll be furious, she thought. He'll say I've embarrassed him in front of hundreds of people.

The traffic was slight and the lights favoured her. "I'm going to make it," she whispered.

Her dream started to come back. A plane tipping suddenly in mid-flight and plunging downwards. And, inside the plane, the smiles on the faces of Susan and George changing to looks of terror.

I didn't realise Susan would be on the same plane, thought Michelle.



She parked and raced into the terminal, looking at the display of flight times. Ten minutes to go.

She struggled through the crowds, spotted George and raised her hand to catch his eye.

And then she saw Susan. She was facing George and laughing. Her hands were in his. Michelle's had dropped to her side.

George and Susan embraced and kissed. They grabbed their bags and hurried towards the plane, arms around each other.

Her dream was crystal clear now. She remembered George and Susan chatting happily as the hostess brought them drinks. She remembered their faces as the plane tipped and plunged ...

A little while later, she watched as the plane lifted from the runway.

After all, she thought, it was only a dream.

And Susan was probably right. My dreams are just coincidence. □