

International PEN Charter

The PEN Charter is based on resolutions passed at its International Congresses and may be summarised as follows:

PEN affirms that:

- Literature knows no frontiers and must remain common currency among people in spite of political or international upheavals.
- In all circumstances, and particularly in time of war, works of art, the patrimony of humanity at large, should be left untouched by national or political passion.
- Members of PEN should at all times use what influence they have in favour of good understanding and mutual respect between nations; they pledge themselves to do their utmost to dispel race, class and national hatreds, and to champion the ideal of one humanity living in peace in one world.
- PEN stands for the principle of unhampered transmission of thought within each nation and between all nations, and members pledge themselves to oppose any form of suppression of freedom of expression in the country and community to which they belong, as well as throughout the world wherever this is possible. PEN declares for a free press and opposes arbitrary censorship in time of peace. It believes that the necessary advance of the world towards a more highly organized political and economic order renders a free criticism of governments, administrations and institutions imperative. And since freedom implies voluntary restraint, members pledge themselves to oppose such evils of a free press as mendacious publication, deliberate falsehood and distortion of facts for political and personal ends.
- Membership of PEN is open to all qualified writers, editors and translators who subscribe

How to join Melbourne PEN?

Simply fill out this application form and send, together with your cheque, to

PEN International Melbourne,
PO Box 373,
Fairfield, Vic 3078

Application form

I agree with the PEN charter. I wish to become a PEN member/ associate*

Date	
Name	
Address	
Phone	
Email	

I enclose a cheque (no cash please) for:

- Annual Membership fee (waged) \$60
- Annual Membership fee (unwaged) \$35

Optional donation for:

Writers in Prison \$ _____

Women Writers Committee \$ _____

*Associate members need not be published writers



PEN
Melbourne

**BECOME A
MEMBER**

Why join Melbourne PEN?

International PEN is the leading voice of literature world-wide. Members are united in a common concern for the craft and art of writing and a commitment to freedom of expression through the written word. It is also a voice that speaks out for writers silenced in their own countries.

PEN was founded in London in 1921 and its name stands for Poets, Essayists and Novelists. It is now represented by 144 centres in 101 countries.

Who should join Melbourne PEN?

- writers of any genre

For associate* membership anyone who:

- believes in freedom of expression and that everyone should have the right to write freely, without fear of persecution
- is concerned about writers imprisoned, tortured, threatened, attacked and killed for the peaceful practice of their profession,
- believes that women should have an equal opportunity to write and be Published.

What benefits do Melbourne PEN members receive?

- A quarterly newsletter, keeping you up to date with national and international PEN activities
- Invitations to a program of events with renowned Australian and international writers and activists
- Special discounts on PEN events and a selection of books
- Participate in an annual card writing day to writers in prison, providing them with encouragement and support
- Meet like-minded people who are passionate about literature and be a part of a dynamic international organisation committed to freedom of expression through the written word.

**For further information write to :
MelbournePEN@gmail.com**

Melbourne PEN Committee 2007

Arnold Zable - **President**

Judith Buckrich and Judith Rodriguez –**Vice Presidents**

Tom Shapcott - **Treasurer**

Jackie Mansourian -**Secretary**

Toni Jordan - **Writers In Prison** Committee

berni janssen- **Asia Pacific Writers Network**

Manalini Kane- **Editor, Melbourne PEN Newsletter**

Committee members: Cynthia Troup, Elaine Lewis

Melbourne PEN activities

The Writers in Prison Committee works on behalf of persecuted writers worldwide and monitors the cases of writers who have been imprisoned, tortured, threatened, attacked and killed for the peaceful practice of their professions.

The WIPC campaigns to end these attacks and opposes suppression of freedom of expression wherever it occurs. Visit

<<http://www.internationalpen.org.uk>> for more information.



The International PEN Women Writers Committee (IPWWC) was created in 1991 to address the special needs of women writers who continue throughout the world to have unequal access to publishing and resources. The IPWWC now enjoys representation in over 70 PEN Centres.

Visit www.ipwwc.org or email judy@judithbuckrich.com for more information.



The Asia and Pacific Writers Network, is an alliance of writers, individuals and organizations that work with language and stories, in all their forms.

APWN was initiated by Australian PEN Centre, in partnership with Asialink. Visit www.apwn.net for more information.