



From the top: Susanna enjoys a class; a gorgeous lion awaits next lucky fingers; and Sherryl is impressed by an air-conditioner's add-ons.

Back page: A random selection from our two weeks in HK—topped off by Christmas fervor.



## That festive—zorstive—time of year

Back home. Too zorsted to even get the spell-checker out of its box. Hands up who's going to be a Boxing Day couch potato?

Our two weeks in Hong Kong in November morphed into interviewing applicants for 2010 in our course at Victoria University. At last we can take a breath, look back, and send greetings to our readers.

Our HK experience this November was the most satisfying yet—an indulgence to have such varied conversations about writing and publishing in the midst of that thrilling city.

Our consultations were again popular to the point where sadly, we couldn't accommodate all the demand. Next trip we'll factor in more time.

Our new venture into Discovery Bay warmed our souls on one of HK's coldest days—thanks to Lorraine Cook for making it happen. And thanks again to the Women in Publishing Society and the YWCA for hosting us, organising us, supporting us.

Most of all, we thank all who participated in our sessions, whether in groups or individually. It's your interest in writing, publishing and communicating that makes our visits to HK possible. We thoroughly enjoy meeting you and hearing about your lives and projects.

Sherryl visited a number of schools this year as their guest writer, ranging from ESF colleges to local Chinese schools. In particular, teachers have wanted to hear more about her text book on Short Story writing, published this year by EPH and aimed directly at the new school curriculum.

Susanna trained staff at an education publisher and a specialist magazine, as well as advising small businesses on their publications and websites.

Writing Challenge. We had such fun this time (our second Challenge) that we're talking about doing a Short Story Challenge, using the 'sledgehammer out the apartment window' story as a starting point.

We'll probably run it over a few weeks in February–March and will send out a call for participants in the New Year.

Our next issue will include an outline of our talk about Writer's Block at the China Tea Club, hosted by WiPs. It seems this has hit a nerve, with many people telling us how relieved they were by our perspectives.

Online studies. If you'd like to work with us and our Aussie students in 2010, you might like to join one of the online subjects we run through Victoria University—Fiction Elements, Writing Picture Books, Writing Chapter Books, and Corporate Writing, most of which will begin in February. (For more information, email Sherryl at Sherryl.Clark@vu.edu.au)

Here in Australia, workplaces are frantically trying to fill orders or finish projects before everyone goes on leave. Schools have closed for the summer. There's low-level hysteria in the air as Christmas parties get squeezed into last weeks. People are packing to go on holidays straight after Christmas dinner is digested.

We wish you a satisfying Christmas with the people you love and we hope your 2010 is a year of welcome surprises.

Susanna Bryceson & Sherryl Clark



**textConnection**  
writing ∞ editing ∞ training

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*the textConnection* newsletter is produced and emailed quarterly.

We see this newsletter as a resource for our readers, with useful information about publishing and writing drawn from our experience as practitioners and teachers.

Please forward it to anyone you think might find it useful.

Just send us an email to be added to our distribution list.



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- ∞ poetry writing
- ∞ non-fiction and life writing
- ∞ corporate writing
- ∞ editing
- ∞ publication production.

We have been teaching writing and editing for more than 20 years each, and both work in the writing industry.

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