



2007 BYRON BAY WRITERS FESTIVAL

Festival Writer: Emma Hardman

Emma Hardman grew up in inner-city Sydney, and worked as a waitress, receptionist, editor, ski instructor, and desktop publisher. She moved to Byron Bay in 1999 to focus on writing, surfing and sleeping.

In Byron Bay Emma won the Nicholas Shand Short Story Competition two years running, and one of her winning stories, "Surfcheck", was made into a short film by local film-maker Barbie English.



In 2006, Emma's novel, *Nine Parts Water*, was runner-up in the ABC Fiction Award. She got to go to the Awards' 'Do', and got very drunk.

"Lovely place Byron Bay. Lovely people. Great surfing. But I like cold water and cold weather." So, in 2005 Emma moved to Batemans Bay, "Because it has a civilized climate, and there are fewer 19 year-old Swedish backpackers to make me feel 400 years old".

In 2006, Emma toddled over to Canberra to stand by her man. ("The surf in Canberra is crap – why did no-one warn me?")

Now she works at Parliament House, and at lunch-times lies on a picnic blanket in the Senate gardens and writes her second novel.

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The festival for thinkers