



Simon Cleary



Katherine Howell



Edwina Shaw

collections but *Thrill Seekers* is her first major publication. Released first in the UK last year, it is out this month in Australia.

Shaw admits it wasn't easy getting published but got her break when she answered an ad in the Queensland Writers Centre magazine asking for gritty young adult stories dealing with the seamier side of life. "I grew up in the Joh era when a lot of art and music and writing was forced underground,

but it was special and prolific. Sometimes it helps to have something to fight against, even if it's just the southerner's perception of us as banana benders," she says.

Fiona Stager is the co-owner of Avid Reader bookshop and says we're spoiled with the amount of literary talent in South East Queensland. Avid Reader hosts more than a hundred events each year, from book clubs to lectures from leading writers.

"Retail, in general, is tough. Nobody would argue that and there has been a lot in media about the 'death' of the book and the bookshop, but that is far from the truth. Most indies (independent booksellers) had a great Christmas.

"We do have a lot of local author events and launches and we're happy to support them. Krissy Kneen, Chris Somerville, Cory Taylor and Belinda Jeffrey are all local writers

and all good sellers. Ben Law is often in our top 10. The local scene is in very good health, and we're thrilled to be a part of that."

Other local authors books releasing this month include Amanda Gearing's *The Torrent: Toowoomba and the Lockyer Valley, 10 January 2011*, Belinda Jeffrey's third young adult story *One Long Thread* and television writer Tony Cavanaugh's debut thriller *Promise* will be released in April.

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