

Writers Voice



Summer Edition #250 DEC 2015

QUARTERLY BULLETIN OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS NSW INC.

State Council Delegates gather in Moruya

A FEW carloads of Committee members, plus some husbands, made the journey to the Eurobodalla for the November 7 conference. There were plenty of smiles and fond greetings, especially between those who had met before. Unfortunately the weather did not smile on us; I suppose it was too much to expect after perfect conditions for the Graniteton Music Festival the weekend before!

Not put off by this, we had a very productive meeting with our branch members appreciating the opportunity to hear about recent initiatives, ask questions, share ideas and, most importantly, lunch!

One of the initiatives spoken about came from a Branch whose members write a regular column in the local paper, after first soliciting a sponsor whose ad is placed close to the column—a win/win arrangement! Another was the compilation of a book based on interviews with local unsung heroes which is planned to be launched at their Council's Seniors' Expo. There were also critiquing ideas, including a round robin anonymous process and running

a critiquing workshop. Pat Lindsay's "Show and Tell" workshop came highly recommended, as did manuscript assessment by Dr Rae Luckie, who attended the Conference and

presented a workshop to our branch the following week.

It was good to meet Barbara Simmons from the Shoalhaven Branch and Eurobodalla feels inspired to share expertise with them via workshops in 2016. One of the Eurobodalla members is hoping to give young children an opportunity to write together on Saturday mornings, followed by publication of some of their stories in the local press.

After lunch most of us tripped over to the annual Eurobodalla ReVive Art Exhibition, which showcases the imaginative and beautiful transformation of recycled materials. The variety of entries was quite astonishing and we were all keen to submit a Peoples' Choice vote.

Later, some of the delegates took advantage of being chauffeured around the area, with the beaches being the most popular destination. The Eurobodalla coast and hinterland have a reputation for unspoilt beauty and productive farming land. There's history too: for instance, how many of you know that all the granite for the Sydney Harbour Bridge pylons came from Moruya?

Drinks and dinner at the Moruya Golf Club rounded off the day, but not before a Poetry Slam, a spur-of-the-moment requirement of the Committee members who kept praising a certain cake from lunch and were asked to construct a poem about it, with one stipulation that it had to rhyme. One of our members had declared earlier in the day that it's not a poem if it doesn't rhyme! This resulted in an uproar which

we wisely decided to divert to the evening's entertainment. It was wonderful to see the committee members get into the spirit of this and the results were hilarious—a fitting end to the day.

I'd like to thank Maureen Kelly, Trevar Langlands, Cate Plink, Barbara Simmons, Stefania McDonald, Colleen and Doug Parker, Kay and Geoff Bakon, Rae and Barry Luckie, and Dave Mathers for their generosity in taking, in many cases, a very long trip to bring their fellowship to us. I'd also like to thank them for presenting us with some wonderful gifts for our Christmas Raffle. And lastly, thank you to the Eurobodalla members who attended, and especially Dianne Wiggins, for her assistance in the preparation for the Conference.

Rosie Toth,

President Eurobodalla FAW

Photos page 5...



Rosie Toth

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QUARTERLY COPY DEADLINES:

15 FEBRUARY, 15 MAY, 15 AUGUST, 15 NOVEMBER

FAW NSW Inc. State Council: Biannual Delegates Meetings

Next meeting: Saturday 7 May 2016. The Executive Committee and Branch Delegates meet the first Saturday of May and November each year. Minutes are mailed to each Branch Secretary.

General Membership and Subscriptions

Membership is open to anyone who has a love for writing—writers, whether amateur or professional—or anyone interested in promoting Australian literature.

AFFILIATION FEES – \$40 pa Full Membership (\$20 U21/Youth Rate)—due by 31 DECEMBER each year and paid to the *Branch Treasurer where a member attends meetings*. Cheques/money orders payable to **Fellowship of Aust Writers**.

Each Branch sets its own ANNUAL FEE from which the \$40 (or \$20) affiliation fees are forwarded to FAW State Council for costs involved with printing and mailing *Writers Voice*, public liability insurance and administration.

ISOLATED WRITERS – \$46 pa (\$51 overseas, \$23 Youth U18)—see inside back page. Please mail subscriptions to the FAW State Treasurer Kay Bakon (address at left). Please make cheques/money orders payable to 'Fellowship of Australian Writers'.

Writing Fellows

FAW Writing Fellows are listed here: <fawnsw.org.au/membership/writing-fellows/>. The broad criteria for this class of membership, are that the applicant should have had a substantial body of work published and should normally have been a member of the FAW for at least two years. A committee of the State Council adjudicates on each application, which should be forwarded to the Registrar of Writing Fellows, FAW State Council, C/- Hon Sec. 22 Promontory Way, North Arm Cove NSW 2324. The application should:

- be accompanied by a \$50.00 cheque, payable to 'Fellowship Aust. Writers'
- indicate the Branch where the applicant is currently a member and the number of years of FAW membership.
- have attached a list of published, performed or broadcast works, with dates and details of publication. Also list any literary prizes awarded, although such works may be unpublished. Unpaid contributions to newspapers etc. and self-published works (unless widely sold and acclaimed) should not be included.

The one-time fee of \$50.00 will be used to cover costs of administration and cost of certificate. Excess funds will be used to further the work of the FAW. If the application is unsuccessful, the cheque will be returned, perhaps with a suggestion to re-submit an application when a greater body of work has been published.

Distinguished Service Award

This annual award recognises FAW members confidentially recommended by their Branch Committees and approved by the DSA Assessment Committee. DSA members will be honoured in the following way: a ceremony will be held at the Annual Presentation Luncheon and the successful candidates will be presented with certificates acknowledging their outstanding service. In addition, a permanent Honour Roll in *Writers' Voice* lists the names of recipients of the DSA, as well as on the website <fawnsw.org.au/about-us/distinguished-service-awards/>.

Guidelines for assessing recommendations for Distinguished Service Awards:

- Recommendations must be as a result of a unanimous decision of a current Branch Committee.
- Qualifications to include the following features:
 - Length of service as a current financial member to be at least ten (10) years.
 - Required to have a regular attendance record at Branch Meetings.
 - Required to have participated in activities organised by the Branch Committee on a regular basis for at least eight years or to have served on the Branch Committee for at least eight years.
- All recommendations to be submitted to the DSA Assessment Committee, C/- Hon Sec. 22 Promontory Way, North Arm Cove NSW 2324, by 30 June of each year.
- A committee comprising the State President, the Vice President, the Secretary and the Treasurer will assess recommendations. The DSA Committee's decision is final.

ISBN

Members requiring their FREE ISBN (one number per publication) should, in the first instance, contact the FAW Secretary Maureen Kelly <honsecretary@fawnsw.org.au>. Your request will then be passed to Alan Russell (phone 02 9680 3374) <Alan_Russell@internode.on.net> for action.

Public Fund

Donations of \$2.00 and over to this account are tax deductible. When there are sufficient funds, Branches may approach State Council for an amount for a specific purpose. Without donations FAW cannot grow and achieve this aim. When a member makes a donation, a note of his/her Branch is made.

FAW Manuscript Assessment Service

Critical reading with general criticism, editing including interpolation of articles, short stories and novels. A fee applies of \$50 (\$60 non-members) for a sample assessment of 2 chapters and \$25 (\$30 non-members) for 1 or 2 poems of no more than 60 lines each. A detailed quote for the critical assessment of the remaining work will be supplied should the author require further editorial or constructive advice. For manuscripts, please include a synopsis and approximate word count and a stamped self-addressed envelope for return of all the assessments. For further information phone 0417 403 720 or write to FAW Assessment Service, C/- Hon Sec. 22 Promontory Way, North Arm Cove NSW 2324.

State Council News

From the President

ANOTHER YEAR almost here and Agone and our Awards Lunch again with a jolly good Fellowship.

We had a great State meeting at Moruya, lots of laughs and an excellent meeting. It was really good to meet the folk from Eurobodalla branch, lots of charming people carrying on the Fellowship theme.

It really is good to put faces to names and all of us can do that a little more now. We had a poetry reading to end off Sunday night and such a load of laughs. Never having been to that part of Australia I found it to be very laid back and very beautiful.

The Eurobodalla writers group is a very dynamic and enthusiastic group and it was great to have them participate in our meeting during discussions.

Thank you to President Rosie and other members for taking us on a drive to see the sights. We also managed to take in a local art exhibition and it was wonderful to see the creative works on display.

Thank you to Colleen and Doug Parker and to Barbara Simmons for helping me get there and part way back by car and then train.

Secretary Maureen Kelly and I had a load of laughs concerning travel etc on the return journey, despite being in the quiet carriage. Marvellous how you can laugh quietly when need be.

Our regional meetings have been very enjoyable, Moruya was the final one involving our State meetings. I think it has given members who are far away more of an idea how we all operate and has also given us all many new friends.

As the year ends I want to say how much I appreciate the work done by all our Committee members, they all have a special quality which they bring to their positions.

Also of course to our Bulletin Editor Ken Driver. Thanks also to Barbara Simmons for her work on the former website; then by Ken who took on the job of building our new-look website; and finally Wayne Jarman from North Arm Cove branch, who took over ongoing management of the new site in the role of webmaster. [Intro page 24].

Every Committee needs new blood, younger people and ideas as none of us go on forever, as much as we would like too.

So next AGM we would like to see some new nominations or helpers join in.

Good Reading

While at Moruya I bought a book called *Absorbing Yarns* by Mike Robinson and Tony Maynard from the Eurobodalla FAW writers group.

Profits from the publication have gone to Cancer Research. The 214 pages are a mix of over 90 short stories and poems. I have to say it is great entertainment and even the titles are entertaining... e.g. 'The Attack at the Zoo'; 'Marie Antoinette's Chest'; 'Camels and Babies and Things'; 'When Jesus comes to Town' etc.

I think they still have a few copies left. Thanks Tony and Mike for some interesting entertainment.

I have met some great people during the year in my role as President; books to launch and to read and I have especially enjoyed helping involve children in reading in schools.

During the year some of our Branches have lost good members through age or illness; I thank those departed writers for their work and dedication over the years—may they rest in peace.

Annual Luncheon

Our annual Awards Lunch was terrific; thank you to the people who came and so sorry for those who did not as you missed a fabulous day. Jim Haynes was really wonderful and not only funny but spoke a lot about writing especially to the young people there. Jim sold quite a few of his books which I highly recommend.

Congratulations to our Secretary Maureen Kelly OAM who was awarded an FAW Distinguished Service Award by her Branch, instigated by Bob Bush and members. Maureen is so dedicated and so competent at all she does. Also congratulations to Mavis Gunter for all the efforts she has put into her Branch and being awarded the DSA.

I will be reviewing Mavis' book in the next WV.



Lovely to have Dr Hilarie Lindsay there and she gave a very interesting talk to our audience about the FAW literary competitions and their history. Looking so smart and chic at a young 93—and celebrating 50 years being in the Fellowship.

It was wonderful to have all of our young winners attend, some coming such a distance. Congratulations to Lindsay Morrison coming from Kempsey with family; Hazel Law with family flying from Maroochydore Qld, and Chinmai Saha who came from Empire Bay with his mum. Also Georgia Cleverly from St Ives.

Congratulations also to Dorothy Simmons for winning the FAW Marjorie Barnard Award. Dorothy was born in Ireland and has achieved many literary goals in Australia.

The food was magnificent as usual and thank you to the staff at '99 on York' for such a wonderful job all day. They are always so obliging. [Full report and photos pages 16,17—Ed].

Guest Author

An Unexpected Fork in the Road – Cairo to Nicosia and Jerusalem is a new book by author **Anya Nielsen**. This is a marvellous book that takes you on a terrific journey to wonderful places with lots of terrific photos.

I will be reviewing this book and the author in the next *Writers Voice*.

Anya attended our Awards Lunch as my guest so some of you may have had a chance to chat about her book.

cont.next page...

State Council News

From the President

cont. from previous page

On-Air Guest

Actress/now full time author **Judy Nunn** was my special guest on my radio show Wednesday November 18. We discussed her early years and love of writing and books since she was about seven, growing up in Perth and travelling to the outback with her brother and her dad.

We discussed her latest book *Spirits of the Ghan* set in the Red Centre and around the building of the Ghan rail line.

Judy Nunn's career has been long and multi-faceted. Her first three novels, *The Glitter Game*, *Centre Stage* and *Araluen* were centred around the world of showbiz.

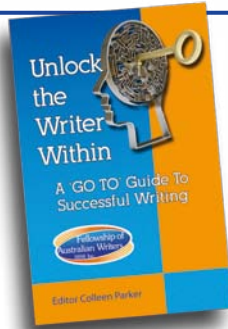
Since then it has developed into writing historically based fiction and her books have been published in English, German, French, Dutch, Czech and Spanish.

Following best sellers have been *Kal*, *Beneath the Southern Cross*, *Territory*, *Pacific*, *Heritage*, *Floodtide*, *Maralinga*, *Tiger Men* and *Elianne*.

Judy is a natural down to earth person and wonderful to have a chat with on air. All in all a really beaut guest.

Cheers

Trevar Langlands,
FAW State President



This 'go to' guide to successful writing has been developed by members of the NSW branch of the

Fellowship of Australian Writers.

Unlock the Writer Within is a valuable resource for all writers; amateur and professional. Be inspired, motivated and encouraged to dip your toes into the sea of discovery through writing.

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Cost: \$30 plus \$12 p&h.

Cheques payable to Fellowship of Aust Writers. To order your copy, or to enquire about joining the Fellowship of Australian Writers, contact:

Hon. Secretary FAW NSW,
22 Promontory Way,
NORTH ARM COVE 2324.

Email: <honsecretary@fawns.org.au>

ATTENTION ALL BRANCHES:

FEES DUE



A message from your Treasurer

HELLO TO all members. It is the end of the year again, and time to renew your memberships.

Current members pay the full yearly fee to their branch Treasurers, who will then send \$40 for each member to the State Treasurer.

Isolated Writers send \$46 directly to the State Treasurer.

To help with our finances, I am requesting that all payments be accompanied by a return self-addressed envelope for the receipts.

All those who pay before 1st January, automatically go into our 'Early Bird' draw for \$50. Any who do not renew by 26 February 2016, will no longer receive their copy of *Writers Voice*.

To all Branch Treasurers:

In January, please send me the details of payments given to tutors and/or speakers engaged between January and December 2015. No need to wait for the end of your financial year. I need to know the amounts so that I can renew the GIO Workers Compensation Insurance at the end of February.

Send to:

Kay Bakon, Hon. Treasurer
FAW NSW
Unit 801, Henry Kendall Gardens,
150 Maidens Brush Road,
WYOMING NSW 2250

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD HONOUR ROLL



Denise Aldridge	Elaine Burton	Margaret Jackson	Alan Russell
Carolyn Alfonzetti	Ken Challenor	John Jacobs	Albert Scott
Patricia Allen	Jan Dean	Maureen Kelly OAM	Bridget Sharp
Gavin Austin	Beryl Dundas	Lyn Leerson	Dr John Sheppard
Barbara Aylott	Margaret Ekin	Pat Lindsay	Margot Shugg
Eileen Backhus	Thelma Flower	Helen Luidens	Barbara Snel
Margaret Barlow	Eileen Gray	Vince Morrison	Dorothe Squires-Cooper
Miriam Bates	Pip Griffin	Peter F Pike	Frank Urban
Cyril Bentley*	Mavis Gunter	Margaret Robinson*	Margaret Wilkinson
Meryl Bentley*	Mavis Hayes	Rina Robinson	Margaret Young

*Deceased

MORUYA STATE MEETING (see story page 1)



L to R from top:
 Stefania, Kay and Geoff; Annie and Rae;
 Leonie, Barbara, Margaret, Doug;
 Trevar at ReVive Expo; Maureen and Dianne;
 Leonie at ReVive; Colleen, Dianne, Gillian;
 Margaret and Doug; Cate and Trevar
 at Broulee; Barry and Leonie; Moruya Golf Club.



FAW Branch Reports

BLUE MOUNTAINS FAW

WE WERE saddened by the passing of long-term member Beryl Dundas. She was an active writer who encouraged others to write. Her sense of humour will be missed.

In September we welcomed Peter Pike and members from Liverpool FAW to our meeting. We shared in writing exercises and Peter spoke on the 'Royal Order of Adjectives'—information that every writer needs.

The membership voted recently to change the name of the group to '**Blue Mountains Writers FAW**'.

Our program of writing exercises is producing results with members able to 'dive into' a story intuitively. At the November meeting we discussed why and how we write; what are our driving forces and our personal challenges as writers?

Kerry Healey-Binns

EASTWOOD/HILLS FAW

The end of the year fast approaches and Eastwood/Hills FAW has continued to work busily this quarter, beginning with a whole afternoon of Critiquing in September. The room was a-buzz with discussions in three different areas—poetry, prose and children's writing.

October was a fascinating month as Elizabeth Collins led us all in a workshop on writing historical fiction. It was interesting to see how much of the old high school history lessons returned to me and how much different people knew about so many different aspects of world and Australian history. It was easy to tell that this is Elizabeth's passion as she led us through Sources, Organisation, Atmosphere and Character needed to write Historical Fiction.

We all had a lot of fun in November recalling all the old and some new Sci-Fi favourites in both television and literature. Helena Hamilton had a lot more to share including the fact that there are about *eight*

different types of Science Fiction and a writer may even use two or three different types together in their own writing. She expertly guided us through Themes, Sources and World Creating and provided very intriguing appendices including one about how some Sci-Fi has even become Science Fact!



Lorraine and Peter Pike with Blue Mountains president Kerry Healey-Binns.

As usual, we look forward to sharing the company and talent of members at this year's Christmas party which is held in place of a December meeting. On behalf of the members of Eastwood/Hills FAW I wish all FAW members and their families a happy, healthy and safe Christmas and remaining holiday period.

Artelle Lenthall

EUROBODALLA FAW

Our branch has had a spectacular start to the warmer months.

The Eurobodalla Mayor's Writing Competition awards were announced and given out on 21st October. This year 330 entries were received from school age children residing within the shire. There is no topic and primary students may write up to 500 words with secondary students up to 1000. Mavis Hayes and Louise Falcioni, two of our members are judges and the branch donates trophies as encouragement awards. Mavis and her late husband Syd along with the late Mayor, Fergus Thomson instigated this competition. A handmade wooden pen, made from

local banksia timber by craftsman Richard Turley, was once again donated. Mavis awards this to a senior student, as an achievement award. Lindsay Brown, the presiding Mayor had started a poetry competition in 2014 that continued this year. So you can see that the Eurobodalla's young writers are well catered for.

We had the privilege of holding the **State Conference** in Moruya, November 7–8. While our group numbers were down due to unforeseen circumstances, the meeting was very informative. It was a valuable insight into how the state executive performs and to be able to put faces to names was great. Unfortunately our beautiful south coast weather didn't showcase its best. Members and executives enjoyed dinner

at the Moruya Golf Club and were ferried around the district on Saturday afternoon exploring the tourist attractions. We hope that the long drives to and fro were worth it and look forward to them all returning.

Our last day workshop for this year will be Memoir Writing by the talented Dr Rae Luckie. Rae is a well-known writer and former University lecturer, who has been conducting workshops for many years. This will be the second time that she has workshopped our group, having conducted her first many years ago, when we were a fledgling group. Some of our original members will be in attendance. Rae will be able to catch up with them and see how their love of writing, which she helped to ignite, has flourished.

The night group's last workshop, on November 9 with Gillian Polack, was 'World Building.' Gillian has PhDs in Creative Writing and Medieval History and has published books on various genres. We were encouraged to really interrogate ourselves as writers of novels. Examples included: understand the genre,

the date and place it is set in, know who the audience is and question the relevance/trustworthiness of sources, including the writer's own assumptions/prejudices.

With the year drawing to a close, like many groups across Australia we soon have our end of year meeting and Christmas party, after which we go into recession during the school holidays. Many of our members have grandparent duties during this time, enjoying family and our coastal climate.

A survey of members has not been held for two years, so we are in the midst of this. We wish to learn more about each other, to better plan our schedule of activities for 2016 that will meet most of their needs. We find surveys and gaining feedback a very useful tool, especially with large numbers, several meeting dates, times and a diverse range of ages, and interests. Why not consider conducting a survey amongst your group? You might be pleasantly surprised with the new information and the group insights that you gain.

Planned night group workshops for 2016: The first in February will be 'Synopsis' with Marisol Dunham, night group member; in April, 'Rocking the Edits' with Debbie Richardson, night group member; and in late 2016, Chris Andrews from the Canberra Speculative Fiction Guild.

November is National Novel Writing Month, or *NaNoWriMo*. The idea is to put aside perfection, and turn off your inner editor, and simply engage in the act of writing. Aiming to do as big a chunk of writing as is manageable for you. Something magical happens when we let the words flow without censorship and though we may never share them, we might also discover a masterpiece. The night group is conducting our second annual *NaNoWriMo* challenge, a group writing task. Last year we wrote a chapter each of an old Brothers Grimm fairytale—in our own unique styles and voices—'The Wolf and the Goatlings'. By the end of the month we had a book and it is available on Amazon for anyone interested. This year we are each playing the role of a creature in an alien zoo. It's a ton of fun, perhaps

you might consider what your groups can get out of *NaNoWriMo*.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy summer.

Eurobodalla FAW members

FOREST FAW

Members of the Forestville branch are delighted to be running our very first short story competition established as a tribute to the Bentleys. For further details check the 'Writing Competitions' section in this issue [p22]. The deadline is April 30 and we hope that this will give FAW members plenty of time to enter.

In recent months we have been working on a writing challenge set by author and creative writing teacher, Robyn McWilliam. We were asked to write 1000 words on 'Starting Your Memoir'. Robyn critiqued our manuscripts at our November meeting.

Pam Bayfield launched her novel, *For the Love of Grace—The Sequel* on November 18. We congratulate Pam on this her most recent writing achievement.

Our poets continue to enjoy publishing successes...

Emma Gaulton attended a weekend of workshops, 'GenreCon 2015,' held in Queensland on October 30. Attendees were given the chance to hone their craft with some of the most talented genre writers from around Australia and abroad. We looked forward to receiving Emma's feedback at our November meeting.

To all FAW members, we at the Forestville branch send wishes for a safe and fun-filled festive season spent with loved ones and friends, and successful and happy writing in 2016.

Mary Ann Napper

GREAT LAKES FAW

We have had a mixed few months, with myself again taking the chair for our meetings. This has been because our President, Hermione, has been caring for her ill husband. Max passed away on 9th November, and our hearts go out to Hermione at this time of sadness.

Our September meeting's assignment was to try our hands

at writing a script for a play, which was an interesting exercise. We had a bit of fun as well, with Treasurer Charmain bringing along a list of very unusual words taken from a dictionary, for which we had to guess the meanings. The results were in some cases quite hilarious!

In October we looked at Sci-fi and Fantasy writings, and also had a quick talk on poetry, especially Villanelle. We were given some examples by Dylan Thomas and Sylvia Plath. We were advised to practice writing a Villanelle, and this brought some very good poems to our group. Our assignment for November was to write the first 400 words of a short story or 32 lines of poetry—traditional, ballad, free, villanelle, or sonnet. These were read out at the November meeting, and proved to be some excellent examples, both stories and poetry.

After the stories and poems were read and discussed, we looked at writing children's' picture books and text. This was interesting, ending in an exercise to choose a random object from a bag, and to write a short piece on it as if we were the Curator of a museum on Mars, and had no idea what the object was, or what it was used for. This turned out to be quite amusing, of course, with objects like a nail brush, a fan, an egg separator and a grater to mention a few.

Our last meeting of the year will start with lunch at the Forster Club Bistro, followed by our meeting, and then afternoon tea with festive refreshments to enjoy. We will be reading and showing our children's picture stories, and the assignment for the holidays will be to edit and complete our children's book texts, and maybe see some illustrations if attempted.

Our first meeting for 2016, including our AGM, will be held on Friday, February 12.

In conclusion, all members of Great Lakes FAW would like to wish one and all a wonderful Christmas and a very happy New Year, with much fruitful writing!

Christine Hayes

Reports cont. next page...

FAW Branch Reports

HUNTER FAW

Our September meeting consisted of a mini-book launch for Jan Dean's new chap book, *Paint Peels Graffiti Sings*. Jan is a well-known local poet who is also a member of Hunter FAW.

The launch included readings from the book and a writing workshop explaining the genesis of some of the poems. As well Jan held a fun quiz with prizes connected to the spring picnic theme, which she generously donated. The launch was well attended and our special attendee was Beverly George, editor of the Tanka journal *Eucalypt*. Beverley kindly left copies of her publications for members to share.

Our October meeting consisted of readings. Louise Berry read a lovely poem called 'The Drover's Wife', Gail Hennessy read a touching poem she had written for her brother, Jenny Crozier read her colour mood piece about letting go of old habits.

We had a farewell ceremony for Eileen Dillon-Smith who is relocating at Moruya. Eileen is one of the earliest members of Hunter FAW and will be missed. We all wish her well.

At our November meeting we welcomed Vindu Maharaj, a visiting member originally from Liverpool, who has recently moved to our area. We discussed our planned anthology and read our written task on the Four Elements.

December will be our AGM and Christmas lunch.

We meet at 10:15 on the first Wednesday of the month at the refurbished Junction Hotel at Hamilton.

Luciana Croci

ISOLATED WRITERS BRANCH

The FAW Awards Luncheon was fantastic and guest speaker Jim Haynes was very entertaining as he had most of the audience in stitches, especially his take on Cinderella. I nearly split my sides laughing.

Many thanks to everyone who organised this year's Luncheon—it was a wonderful afternoon catching up with fellow FAW members.

We have about four or five contributions with the Electronic Round Robin. Once again, many

thanks to Brian Armour, for running and organising the submissions. It is a great way to get feedback on your writing, and others pick up mistakes which you may have missed during your own proofreading.

Many customers have said there is nothing like holding a "real book", rather than a digital one, during my time working in retail, so I don't think printed copies will be disappearing any time soon.

A new QBD store has just opened at Miranda, which is great news for booklovers in the Sutherland Shire.

I wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas and writing success in the New Year. If you're driving long distances, take care on the roads, especially during the holiday season.

Carolyn Cash

LAKE MACQUARIE FAW

It has been exciting for the group to move into the 'social media' era with the establishment (thanks to Alison Ferguson, our new publicity officer) of an LMFAW Facebook page <www.facebook.com/LakeMacFAW>. We now look forward to being able to keep members informed using this additional avenue.

Acting President Jan Mitchell's latest book, *Crossings in Realitas*, was launched successfully at the Toronto Library in September and copies are now available for purchase through Amazon. The book tells how Jan and her family were able to live their dream of cruising the oceans on their cruising yacht *Realitas*.

At the group's September meeting Pam Garfoot, LMFAW Secretary, presented an introduction to the popular *Story Engineering* by Larry Brooks. *Story Engineering* is a great guide for writers, and it focusses on six core competencies necessary for effective and successful story writing. The core competencies cover four basic story elements and two writing skill sets.

The October meeting was ably conducted by LMFAW Publicity Officer Alison Ferguson, who dealt with 'Pitching a Book', or more specifically with writing a pitch. This was extremely useful to Kristen Mair,

because she was to present a pitch for her TV show as an AFTRS course assignment the following weekend. As a writing exercise, we all chose a TV show we had watched or a book we had read recently and wrote a pitch for it.

Pam Garfoot

LAMBING FLAT FAW

On October 16 the residents of Young and surrounding districts were startled by strange noises. Many theories were postulated in the local newspaper, pubs, clubs, barbers shops etcetera as to the possible source of this phenomenon but all were wrong. Only we at the Lambing Flat FAW knew that the sound was the collective sigh of relief from our members as the closing date for our writing competition passed into history. Now the questions that had been turning grey hair greyer could be answered.

Had we received enough entries to make all the effort worthwhile? Yes we had; in fact this year has seen more entries received than any other year. This is undoubtedly the result of the marvels of the electronic age which allowed us to promote the competition to a larger audience.

Had we received support from the local schools? Yes!!

Last year, and for the first time, we decided that there would be no entry fee for school children but we were still a little disappointed with the lack of entries. However, this year all five local schools had participated ranging from year 2 to year 12. We thank the schools administration and teaching staff. Surprisingly we also received school entries from country NSW, Queensland, West Australia, South Australia and Tasmania.

Did we receive enough open entries to cover our costs? Yes again. Our club treasurer reports that we have passed our breakeven point. In pre competition planning we had decided to keep our entry fee at a modest \$5 but it is a bit scary knowing that our meagre club funds had to potentially cover all the prize-money we had committed to award.

The incoming entries arrived on the desk of our Event coordinator,

who, with help from other club members has logged them all in, sorted by categories and sent them off to the judges. Results will be in shortly and short listed authors contacted. The final results will be announced at the National Cherry Festival on December 5.

It has been a very long campaign starting with preplanning in May to launch in July to close in October and winners' presentations in December. To all of the FAW clubs and members who supported us thank you very much.

Meanwhile we have not let the competition dominate our usual club activities. Each month we set 'homework' to be presented at the next meeting. Homework is not compulsory and members can, and do, present any other project that they have in progress. This leads to some very interesting discussions from which we all gain a little more knowledge.

Our next meeting is to be a Christmas Morning Tea held at the Young Services Club on Saturday December 12 at 10 am. This will be a very informal meeting but one at which all of our members can put forward suggestions for next year's club program. If any FAW member happens to be nearby at that time we would be very pleased to welcome you.

E (Ted) Webber

LIVERPOOL FAW

By now our much-awaited Anthology has been printed and very well received at our Launch on 7th November. All the hard work of the Anthology Team has been brought to fruition and they can rest on their laurels. A very satisfying day for them and our members who were present on that day. Also for others like myself who were unable to attend due to health and other circumstances. Amongst the numerous guests, we were honoured to have members from the Blue Mountains and Wollondilly Branches.

Our meetings through the latter part of the year expanded to numerous mid-week ones to allow us to concentrate on preparation and practice of our work for the anthology and launch. Although it was much

more difficult than expected due to unforeseen problems with printing and publicity the demands brought the team closer together for a successful venture, appreciated by all who attended! The performers, Renee Watago sang beautifully and Shawin Maharaj performed a fabulous sequence of Indian dance. The food provided by our members was amazing. All in all an exceptional day. There was a lot of positive and encouraging feedback. Many books were sold, and our members will be more 'out there' now due to this exposure of themselves and their work.

Rick Vincenti and Len Coffey appeared on *Joy's World*, talking about FAW, the Liverpool branch and the launch of our Anthology. The segment was aired several times on Sydney TVS during the week commencing Monday November 9.

Next year we will once more, hold informative workshops and invite other FAW members to participate.

We will be closing a hectic and busy year with our Christmas party held on the regular 2nd Saturday Meeting in December.

We look forward to a 2016 filled with the usual enjoyable sharing of our industrious members. We also look forward to new members to swell our ranks.

Rhonda Rice

MACARTHUR FAW

Three more short stories sold... who else but Victoria Chie? Entitled 'Conversations with the Gnome', 'Double Trouble' and 'Holiday Hijack', they will appear in coming editions of *Yours Magazine*, to which Victoria is a regular contributor.

Apart from requiring their stories to have strong audience appeal, magazines such as *Yours* maintain strict criteria with regard to style etc. Victoria is obviously a master of this genre, among others. Congratulations, Victoria.

Congratulations also to Robert Bee, once again winner of our in-house writing competition with his short story 'The Hope Games'. The theme for the competition was 'Carnival'.

On another front, Bob has been chosen as a finalist in the 2015

Macarthur Playwriting 'Boldly-Go' Competition with a one-act play entitled *2001 A Space Idiocy*. He will have the satisfaction of seeing the play, by no means his first, performed on 18 November.

More good news. Barry Flanagan has announced the release of his fourth novel, this time with a story much closer to home. Set in the NSW Hunter Valley, *Brokeback* is the story of coalminers operating underground in the 1970s and is now published as an e-book on Smashwords and Amazon. A very fine writer, Barry prides himself on the authenticity of his work.

During a recent visit to Hawaii, I had the pleasure of attending a meeting of the Waikiki Writers Club (meeting in the Community Centre for one-and-one-half hours on the second Tuesday of the month, visitors welcome). For those who worry about numbers, there were seven people present, myself included. I was struck by the similarity to an FAW meeting; everyone very accepting and with a wide variety of styles. The meeting was based on a format called the Peter Elbow Method. The idea was to write for fifteen minutes; re-read, circling anything of importance; then continue writing for another ten minutes. The result was some very good work indeed. During the one and one-half-hours, everyone was able to receive positive feedback from the other six participants. A memorable experience.

Sincere thanks to the executive team who have worked so hard on our behalf throughout the year: President, Margot Shugg; Vice-President, Victoria Chie; Secretary, Pauline Twemlow; and Treasurer Rodney Hunter, who has done a mighty job keeping our finances in order. One would only need to read my previous reports to get an idea of the ideas they have put into practice.

Earlier in the year we were sad to say goodbye to Michael Walter when he left the area. It was nice to see in the Winter edition of *Writers Voice* that our loss has been another branch's gain.

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FAW Branch Reports

Macarthur

cont. from previous page

One of the things that gives our club cohesion is our monthly bulletin, *Inkblot*, now in its thirteenth year of publication. Congratulations to editor, Margot Shugg, on this continuing achievement. Margot welcomes contributions from members, and these have been on the increase.

For the second time, our Christmas party will take place in our meeting-room at the Campbelltown RSL.

Members have been invited to bring along something to read, but will also be entertained with fun activities. We are hoping for a repeat of last year's excellent attendance. Many thanks to Club Secretary, Pauline Twemlow, for organising this enjoyable event.

Once again we have been lucky to have State President, Trevar Langlands, as a member. Trevar always finds time to keep us abreast of the latest news, as well as entertaining us with his lively writing.

With another year of productive writing behind us, the Macarthur Branch would like to wish all their friends throughout the FAW a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Bernard Russell Smith

MUDGE VALLEY WRITERS FAW

We wish our members Miriam Bates and Joan Taylor good health following their recent surgeries.

The first entries are coming in for our inaugural Norman McVicker Youth Award Competition and we are hoping to be flooded with many more.

Fr Tony Hennessy hosted a successful Poetry Reading, Wine and Cheese night to celebrate the 150th anniversary of St Mary's Parish Mudgee. Joy Hibberd and her grand daughter and friend provided the musical background. The night was a great success with a delicious array of food and wine being consumed while listening to the poetry readings.

We are hoping to receive funding from the CASP grants to enable us to host a workshop next year on the making of Photo Books. We all have our fingers crossed and are excited to be planning our projects. If we are

unsuccessful with CASP we'll have to look elsewhere for some help.

Jill Baggett

NORTH ARM COVE FAW

Plenty happening as the writing year winds down.

I conducted the September tutorial, 'Clichés—a lazy way to write', inspired by Rosemary Baldry's chapter in *Unlock the Writer Within*. The assignments produced were excellent.

What an innovative assignment Wayne Jarman set for October! Members chose three nouns and were given ten minutes to begin a novel using the three nouns; the homework to write the end of the novel (250 words or 32 lines of poetry) again using the three nouns. Thought-provoking and interesting stories were the result.

Slam writing continues as a great 'warm-up' at each meeting.

The In-House short story and poetry winners were announced at the November meeting. Congratulations to all winners—see *'Literary Achievements'* p28.

Members were thrilled at the outcome of this year's public school writing competition. Both Karuah and Tea Gardens schools have asked members to give advice and encourage the young students with their writing. Elizabeth Deane and myself have both attended Tea Gardens school recently, Bob Bush and Garry Boyd have been invited to give a talk on bush poetry at both schools in 2016. Fantastic to be involved in this way.

Looking back on 2015 we have welcomed three new members to our ranks, achieved success encouraging youngsters in their writing and enjoyed both meetings and socialising culminating with members gathering for their traditional Christmas party held at North Arm Cove Community Centre.

We take this opportunity to thank the State Committee for their continued hard work on our behalf, former webmaster Barbara Simmons, Ken Driver for his expertise as editor of *Writers Voice* and for setting up the new FAW NSW website, Wayne

Jarman for taking over as webmaster of the new site, Carolyn Cash for looking after the FAW Facebook page and, finally, we wish our fellow FAW members a safe and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Maureen Kelly

NORTH SHORE BRANCH [FAWNS]

We have had a change in office bearers for the remainder of this year. Secretary Vera Zegarac found she was unable to continue in the role, and a new Secretary, Kathy Lee, has been appointed by the committee. We thank Vera for all the work she put in to the running of FAWNS while in the position of Secretary.

No decision has been made about running our literary competition in 2016. Keep a look out for information on the FAWNS website <<http://sites.google.com/site/fawnorthshoreregional/>>.

FAWNS has contributed to the Hornsby Festival of the Arts this year. Members have collaborated in the production of a radio play *The Developers* which is to be broadcast by 2HHH 100.1 FM. Auditions to select the actors/readers have been held and the production will be recorded in front of a live audience on 28 November, 2015 at the Wallarobba Arts and Cultural Centre.

Richard Brookton

PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS

Firstly, thank you Colleen for your good wishes whilst I was unwell.

Un-wellness if there is such a word has been a bit of a bother to several of our members recently so we wish them all well now that they are recovering.

This month sadly we bade farewell to long standing member Ruth Calov who passed away 15 November. Rest in Peace dear friend.

Our Committee is and has been very busy in the past few months compiling our branch book *The Heartbeat of the Hastings* in which we feature ordinary people of the Hastings and their volunteer work for the benefit of others. It will feature

interesting everyday people who otherwise get little or no credit.

We have also been compiling a booklet of members' works that would be a feature of our Christmas Party on 28 November. Our celebration was booked at the Village Restaurant at Lighthouse Beach, Port Macquarie. Perhaps we would even brave the ocean with its local population of sharks and dip our tootsies in the briny, if of course any one was courageous enough. I—like a cat—do not like water so that's my excuse for abstaining. LOL. Yours truly became a great, great gran last month. Twin boys! How's that for an achievement? It is also a good excuse for not tempting fate in aquatic ventures 'cos I can't swim fast.

Our new members for this year are proving to be eager and productive. More about them when I return to the fold.

The Port Macquarie-Hastings branch hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and may we wish all our fellow FAW groups a Brilliant, Happy and Productive 2016.

Joie Black

PORT STEPHENS FAW

A few members were involved in the Port Stephens Council *COWS* Celebration of Words events to bring poetry throughout Port Stephens. On the Tomaree Peninsular we held a 'Coffee, Scones and Poetry' morning at Tomaree Art Centre in Nelson Bay. Our President Peter Golden MC and myself read poetry from our *Time and Tide* book and Janice Love and friends Janelle and Jenna 'The Three Jays' sang her poems accompanied by guitar and piano. We enjoyed it very much. Followed by Bob Bush who entertained us with his BUSH poems and delightful humour. The morning went well and I am sure we will have a repeat.

The *COWS* logo stands for 'Celebration of Words and Stories' and includes all of Port Stephens Shire Council. The logo with a picture of a cow puzzled a few Tomaree residents. "We don't have cows here, only dolphins and whales"... so I wrote a poem to clarify this.

November was our last meeting and we again travelled to Tea Gardens by ferry to meet the North Arm Cove writers at the Tea Gardens Pub.

We wish you all a Happy Christmas and successful writing New Year.

Christine Gregory

SHOALHAVEN FAW

Saturday, November 14 was our annual election day. Barbara Simmons has decided it's time for a well earned break and stepped down from the role of President.

Jenny Dickerson was elected President, Liz Carter Secretary, Eve Warren Treasurer and Chere Le Page Publicity Officer. Berry Carter will continue as the Editor of *Write On!*, our monthly e-magazine of homework stories and up-to-the minute news. Lots of exciting events are already being planned for the coming year!

Here is Barbara Simmons' President's Report for 2015...

As my term of office comes to a close, I thought I would look back on the last few years and hopefully feel that as a group we have made progress with our writing, but enjoyed things at the same time.

When I first became President I was determined we should start to look at our writing from a more formal standpoint. It must be the teacher in me that led to the idea of doing a course together. I think we all got something from the Gotham Writers Workshop book and it certainly helped me to think about things we do naturally as keen writers and where they fit into a writer's bag of techniques.

We lost some members along the way as we turned the corner and I am sad about that, but if you didn't sign up for this, then "learning" may not suit you. However, I hear so many other members of branches say "I wish we did more than just listen to each other read and say very nice things." In fact, Southern Highlands members all bought the book and followed our lead and I'm sure other groups took this approach on board. We gained new people and of course this year has been the year of the men. More have joined up and it has

turned our meeting into less of a 'CWA' and more into a real and vibrant writing group. Long may it last!

Of course not everything has worked. You couldn't expect it to. Just because I'm keen doesn't make it right for our group. Amongst my disappointments was the circular book. I thought that was such a good idea and it worked for Port Macquarie, but not here—hey ho!

Who knows what the future may bring? All groups seem to be struggling with getting people to make commitments and as I stagger off into the sunlight, ie. retirement, I can understand why. However, if we all pull together, who knows what we may achieve. Thank you for your support this year during what has been a very difficult period for me personally and I look forward to being just a writer from now on and actually doing some writing! Sunlight, retirement—call it what you will—means I won't have the excuse of 'no time'. I shall have to come up with something else.

Note from all members of Shoalhaven FAW...

Thanks for all your energy and great ideas over the years Barbara—we appreciate everything you've done for our group.

Chere Le Page

STROUD FAW

So many stories, so many discussions about writing: after all, we are a writers' group. Punctuation, grammar and 'show not tell' are continual results of friendly reviewing of each other's work. It is interesting to evaluate the divergent appraisals.

Is this a better word to use than that one?

Which preposition should come after that word?

Are you using too many adverbs?

Our members wish that they had taken more notice of the teacher of English at school, though perhaps it is too long ago for some.

"I just wish to write for myself: a legacy for my family." The age-old argument always results in a lively debate. For those who aspire to have

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FAW Branch Reports

Stroud

cont. from previous page

work read by a vaster audience, or, of the opinion “if a thing is worth doing it is worth doing well”, we try to avoid ambiguous clauses. Do we remember adjuncts, disjuncts or conjuncts? Listen to a news bulletin and you will soon discover that news writers have forgotten (never learnt?) the elements of a sentence.

On October 8 at Raymond Terrace Library, Peter Uren’s latest book *The Classic Bike Workshop* was launched. It was a fun affair. Each time the audience clapped, the show ponies from the Circus next door trotted to the end of their tethers and took a bow in honour of Peter. The fourth book in the series is proceeding at a great rate.

Plans for workshops and joint projects for 2016 are underway.

We have booked a mini-bus for February 8 to travel to Forster Library, to view the showing of the film of Elizabeth Bradhurst’s *Secret Mission*. Unfortunately our prize author has a prior engagement.

The Stroud Night Owls will be joining us at Karuah for a Christmas Get Together. In true festive mode members have been asked to compose a limerick to honour the day. Could be interesting—Robbie Burns’ ears may be ringing.

Wishing all writers and their families, a happy, peaceful, festive season. May you all be inspired to take some time-out to write.

Susan Filson

SUTHERLAND SHIRE FAW

Time certainly flies when you are busy. With the approach of Christmas, our Sutherland branch has had a busy year with our new format of having guest speakers every month, who have imparted their expertise to our members

and challenged us with meaningful writing exercises.

For our August meeting we were privileged to hear one of our new members, Jenny Mather who gave an in-depth and practical talk on characterisation and dialogue. Jenny is emphatic that we need to treat characters better.

In September we had a special guest, the writer and film-maker, Davo Hardy, who discussed the process of how he used a writing group as a resource for reactions and plot points to develop the story for his feature film, *The Lives We Lead*. He said that in writing screenplays you should allow one page of writing for one minute of action.

On a philosophical note, Davo talked about mentors and friends critiquing his work, and he was disappointed that the most savage criticisms came from his mentors in the film industry, who didn’t constructively discuss what aspects of the film were successful and realistic and what just didn’t work. Writing friends and friends should be mindful of this.

Many talented writers fail to get published, often because they go

about it in the wrong way. For our October meeting Stella Tarakson, an award-winning author of around 40 books—both non-fiction and fiction—joined us for a discussion on how to approach publishers. We examined the building blocks of successful book proposals: the importance of an eye-catching cover letter, plus CV, an outline or synopsis, a market analysis, and the all-important sample chapters. Stella stressed that “a synopsis is your major selling point. In a way, it’s harder than writing the novel, because you have to get your point across in a very brief space. If the editor doesn’t like your synopsis, they might not even read any of your novel!”

With the end of the year fast approaching, our AGM was held, where all positions were filled for 2016, with some new members nominated for the committee. We have been most fortunate to see new members join our branch, and the spirit of collaboration and contribution continues to flourish. A special thanks to our tireless committee and members who have given such positive ideas and encouragement to our group.

Particular mention must go to Joyce Noble, our newsletter and social media editor, who has produced such a comprehensive newsletter that they were flying off the table at our *Writers Unleashed Festival* recently. She has also set up a Facebook page for our group, and will be updating our website as well.

Special thanks to Julianne Miles-Brown for her leadership and innovation in organising our successful *Writers Unleashed Festival*, which was held at Gynea Trade Union Club on 14 November—[see report and pictures page 14]. Our event is now getting excellent media coverage thanks to Lynn Sutherland, our Publicity and PR Officer.



Sutherland Shire branch members at work.

Special thanks to Trevar Langlands for inviting Julianne as a guest on 100.3FM to talk to him about our festival.

Next year we are looking forward to a change in venue. We will be meeting on the last Saturday of the month from February 2016 at Gymea Community Hall, which is conveniently located opposite Gymea Railway Station, with plenty of parking on Gymea Bay Road. The venue is much larger than the Sutherland Library meeting room, so we will be able to break into critiquing groups, and have more room to accommodate visitors. Another plus are the great cafes nearby!

Wishing a speedy recovery to one of our most prolific competition winners and long-time member, Elaine Staples, who, while researching ways to eradicate bees from her home, had a nasty fall at Bunnings Warehouse and broke her hip. She is now convalescing at her daughter's home, and although out of action for a while, she is plotting her revenge on the "killer bees", in her next story.

Best wishes to everyone for a joyful festive season and abundant good health and happiness in the New Year.

Sylvia Vago

WOLLONDILLY FAW

Our Branch welcomes Susan Wales as a valuable new member.

Richard Bell's *The Gospel of Schizophrenia* was officially launched at Campbelltown Art Gallery on 22 August, with Christopher Zin as MC. The well-attended launch was followed up with an article on Richard and his book in *The Macarthur Chronicle* on 1 September.

Our President, Narelle Noppert and member Jeane Mills had an enjoyable day on 7 November attending Liverpool FAW's Anthology launch. The launch was received with much enthusiasm by members and guests and was held at a lovely venue. There is much to be gained by meeting with and supporting fellow writers and exchanging ideas between the Fellowship of Australian Writers groups.

At our November meeting Margot Shugg from Macarthur FAW presented an excellent writing workshop which was very informative and much appreciated. We learned a lot and enjoyed the workshop. Although most of us were a bit nervous to start with, we found that we could come up with reasonable writing ideas fairly quickly under Margot's wonderful, kind and gentle tutorage.

Sandra Reynolds

WYONG WRITERS FAW

Due to the number of apologies received in October we did not hold our AGM as a quorum was not present. The Annual General Meeting was rescheduled for November.

Sincere congratulations to our Secretary, Mavis Gunter who was awarded the Distinguished Service Award for services to the Fellowship of Australian Writers. Mavis has been a member of FAW since the mid nineteen seventies and during that time has held many positions in an executive capacity. Mavis first joined FAW at Parramatta and has had continuous service up until she, with a former member Margot Cooper, instigated the formation of the Tuggerah FAW, the forerunner to Wyong Writers FAW.

Mavis is really big news this month for not only has she received the DSA she has published her book *One plus One Makes Five* online. Books are available in hard copy for \$25.00 plus p&h—see 'Bookshelf' p32 for further information.

We continue on with our *Scribblers Club* venture critiquing work as well as making it the main focus at our meetings. People do not have to be members of Wyong Writers to take advantage of Scribblers and it is beneficial to those people who are carers or who work on our meeting day.

Congratulations also go to Shirley Goodbar on being appointed Poetry Editor of *Writers Voice* as well as for holding a book launch for her book *Kaleidoscope* at The Entrance Library on Friday 13 November.

Our meetings continue to be held on the fourth Saturday of the month at the Wyong RSL Club, corner Anzac and Margaret Streets, Wyong, commencing at 1.30pm. Visitors are welcome and I suggest contact be made with our President Mei-Ling Venning should you be visiting from another FAW Branch.

Margaret Young



Margot Shugg conducts a workshop with Wollondilly branch members.

The Writers Unleashed their Talents!

WHAT AN enjoyable time we all had at our **Writers' Unleashed Festival** on Saturday 14 November.

Organised by the Sutherland Shire Branch, three rooms ran consecutive presentations, throughout the day, by well-known, emerging and local authors. The talks reflected topics that were both enjoyable and stimulating for our writing in different genres, readerships and styles.

Belinda Murrell kicked off the day with her historical time slip novels and *Lulu Bell* series for children's writing, Pamela Cook showed us how to become published and stay published and Karina Machado encouraged us to follow our passion in what style of writing to take.

At morning tea the winners of the Picture Book Writing Competition were awarded their prizes, by Heather Curdie of Penguin Random House and Jodie Wells-Slowgrove, Children's author. With over 150 entries this year, from all over Australia, it again proved quite successful.

Jacqueline Harvey enthralled the audience with her knowledge of writing for middle grade and Nadia Wheately instilled in us the journey she went on in making *My Place*. First time novelist Trinity Doyle dealt with the emotions and Wanda Wiltshire dazzled us with her YA fantasy. In the Elouera room, Emily Maguire outlined the best methods in how to structure our novels and Ber Carroll provided ideas in making our characters unique.

At lunch we enjoyed the cake for the book launch of Sulari Gentill's latest novel *Give the Devil His Due*, the seventh in the Rowland Sinclair Historical Crime Series.

Andrew Cranna encouraged the participants to put pencil to paper into becoming a graphic novelist.

In the final session the Indi Panel showed the way to go for those interested in publishing and promoting their own work while Sarah Morton gave lots of information for consolidating your digital platform. The editors' panel gave numerous tips and insight into how they view a manuscript and what makes one publishable.

Throughout the day those participants who pre-booked with the editors for consultations were given sound advice, with some offered a chance to submit more material from their manuscripts. The editors included Heather Curdie and Zoe Walton from Penguin Random House for children's writing and James Read, Pantera Press and Beverley Cousins, Penguin Random House, for adult and YA writing.

A huge thank you to the Committee members, Sylvia Vago, Lynn Sutherland, Pat Strong, Helen Armstrong and Donna Wallace in bringing this day to the Sydney region and beyond. We look forward to next year's festival with an array of experienced and talented authors.

www.shirewritersfestival.weebly.com

Julianne Miles-Brown, Sutherland Shire FAW,
Writers' Unleashed Co-ordinator

Below, clockwise from left:

Belinda Murrell, Children's Author, 'Lulu Bell' series.

Heather Curdie, Jodie Wells-Slowgrove and Julianne Miles-Brown announcing winners of Picture Book competition.

Author Sulari Gentill cutting the cake for her book launch.

Ber Carroll on making characters unique.

Indi panel, from left Dionne Lister, Elisabeth Storrs and Helen Armstrong.



Poets Voice

The New-found 'Friend'

(A few years ago my family lived in suburban Melbourne. It was a friendly area and people held many parties. An incident led me to write this poem. I'll just add that my wife was no great beauty, she was just nice, I guess most people thought that.)

We lived quite happily in a suburban way,
And fraternised with all who came our way,
And once a month we held sway
Someone held a party to allow us to play.

My wife came home from work one day and told me quite a story,
On the freeway coming home, a crash had spoilt her glory,
She stopped her car, with all the rest and waited in a queue,
Then as the traffic dribbled, she followed as she was due.

A car pulled up next to hers and in it...no one knows,
A little red-haired chap was there with glasses on his nose,
He wound his window down and tossed a greeting up her way,
She said 'hello' to him and wondered what else she could say.

'This traffic's boring' said the man 'I think I'll go for a drink.'
'Would you like to join me?' he added. I s'pose hoping my wife would think.
She held up her hand, the left, of course, and pointed to her ring.
The man, so disappointed, looked on and continued on his fling.

It happened that that very night I was invited to a Barbie,
A neighbour with a birthday decided to have a party,
I went along but not my wife for she was very tired,
The usual rowdy crowd were there and many drinks were plied.

Then one of my mates, a friendly chap, introduced me to a new guy,
He'd just moved in across the road with his wife and family, nearby
'David is my name' he said 'and my wife's an island girl.
She's very shy and quiet, so she's stayed at home to avoid the whirl!

Some weeks later the bloke next door passed away in the throes of cancer,
It was sad and at the funeral David approached me for an answer
My mind at the time was in a spin, and straight away I introduced him,
'Meet my wife,' I said, and he went white, and she said 'That is him.'

She looked aghast, took me aside and whispered 'The little chap on the freeway,'
I looked up as he disappeared, quickly, out of the nearest doorway.
Well the removal van that next drew up took us by surprise,
The family with the island touch was off to another guise.

We never saw the family from that day on to this.
I've often wondered, was he used to spoiling people's bliss?
It goes to show that if you chance to 'play' away from home
You've gotta know the place you're at, 'cos it can trick you to the bone.

Mike Robinson, Eurobodalla FAW

SHIFTING SANDS

Goal posts change and moved around.
Why DOES life play these tricks?
Where to now – so lost.

Sad winds wail and swirled about
And roughly toss the mind.
Where to now – muddled.

Alone from its cloud, a raindrop
Falls like a tear on cheek.
Where to now – a plop

On shifting sands.

Glorya Gray, Wollondilly FAW

THE POEM

No flow, no verse – curse!
Tangled threads,
Just jumbled, knotted words –
Juggle, delete, arrange!
Tease again
For a hidden poem –
Play again
Amongst this heap.

Spring is free from winter's clasp
And paints around the garden
Azaleas bright, Camellias too!
Behold lime green splashes
Bedeck the barren Oak.
Fragrant Jonquils and Freesias

Almost past – the heralds!
So short, so beautiful their stay.

Tangled threads untwined,
The poem.

Glorya Gray, Wollondilly FAW

NEW POETRY EDITOR

We welcome **Shirley Goodbar** as our new honorary Poetry Editor, starting next issue. Thanks to incumbent David Berger for his part in this role to date. If you would like to contribute to this page of Writers Voice, please send your poem to Shirley for consideration. Send by email in the form of a typed attachment to: <sgoodbar@theorchards.com.au>

Shirley needs to receive copy by the beginning of February, May, August or November, for inclusion in the March, June, September or December edition respectively.

Please provide your name and FAW branch for publication. Poems accepted for publication under the 'Poet's Voice' banner will be deemed to have been published and therefore are not eligible for entry in FAW competitions.

The 2015 FAW Awards Luncheon

THE INSPIRATIONAL and confident words spoken by the senior winners of this year's **Hilarie Lindsay Young Writers Short Story Competition** certainly left no doubt in the minds of guests at the Fellowship of Australian Writers NSW Awards Lunch that the future of Australian writing is 'safe and well' in these youngsters' hands.

Hosted by FAW president Trevar Langlands, the lunch was held at *99 on York* on Saturday, November 14, 2015. This year's very popular guest speaker was author/entertainer Jim Haynes.

Competition convenor Cate Plink was thrilled all four winners of the Hilarie Lindsay awards were able to attend.

Section 1 Senior Secondary winner Lindsay Morrison from Kempsey gave a confident acceptance speech; Section 2 Junior Secondary winner Hazel Law from Maroochydore, Queensland told guests she had been writing since the age of four and wants to be a writer. Chinmai Saha won the Section 3 Senior Primary award with his fantasy story, 'The beginning of the rest of the world' and an exciting story written by Georgia Cleverly gained its author the Section 4 Junior Primary prize. Dr Hilarie Lindsay praised all winners for their efforts.



M. Trevar Langlands starts proceedings at the Annual Awards Luncheon.

Below: Special Guest Jim Haynes reads from one of his books to an attentive audience.

Irish-born Dorothy Simmons, from Albury was the well-deserved winner of the **Marjorie Barnard 2015 Short Story award**, judged the best from 75 entries. The winning entry, titled 'Count Down', was read by the competition judge Pippa Kay, who said she was immediately grabbed by the first sentence of Dorothy's dramatic story. Winning this award follows hot on the heels of the launch of Dorothy's book, *Living like a Kelly*.

Distinguished Service Awards were presented by Trevar Langlands to Wyong FAW's Mavis Gunter who joined the FAW in 1969 and has worked tirelessly in the organisation since that time; Maureen Kelly, OAM, a life member of North Arm Cove FAW and the Fellowship's current State Secretary was also honoured with a DSA. Unfortunately, other awardees Rina Robinson (Lake Macquarie) and Lyn Leerson (Parramatta) were unable to attend the function, however, their certificates were forwarded to their branches enabling them to celebrate with their fellow members.

The lunch concluded with **Jim Haynes**, a former Head of English at Gunnedah High School, who gave up teaching to become a broadcaster, entertainer and humorist talking about his life. He told guests he was proud of his publishing career; his latest book about horse racing will be available in December, making this his 24th book. He has also written over 200 songs, and toured with Slim Dusty, Adam Brand and Melinda Schnieder. Jim urged the prize-winning young writers to follow their dream to write and at the close of his talk, the students took the opportunity to chat with him. Jim proved to be a true entertainer in every way!

Maureen Kelly, OAM





Clockwise from top left:
 Cate Plink announces the Hilarie Lindsay Young Writers Competition winners.
 Section 1 Senior Secondary winner Lindsay Morrison.
 Section 2 Junior Secondary winner Hazel Law.
 Hazel thrills the audience with her confidence.
 Section 3 Senior Primary winner Chinmai Saha.
 Section 4 Junior Primary winner Georgia Cleverly.
 Marjorie Barnard Award winner Dorothy Simmons.
 State Treasurer Kay Bakon calls the raffle.
 Distinguished Service Award recipient Mavis Gunter.
 Maureen Kelly reacts to her surprise DSA announcement.
 Jim Haynes strums out a song; and shares his life story and his love of writing.
Below: Some of Jim's many books on display for sale.
 Author Anya Nielsen with Dr Hilarie Lindsay, who spoke about the history of the FAW.
 State FAW Vice President Colleen Parker poses with an obliging Jim Haynes.



Roundup

Mudgee Readers' Festival



THE MUDGEE Readers' Festival (August 2015) was a jam packed two days worth of literary indulgence with 14 authors of recent works.

The program was divided between two rooms with hour long interviews with a single author or a panel discussion with several authors. Plus there was a Saturday Night dinner with hilarious entertainment by authors each having a 'rant' about a topic that gets their goat; and a long lunch on Sunday at a local winery with the former host of ABC Radio National's Book Show, Ramona Koval. There were all day book signings and sales of author titles, as well as a second hand book fair.

As two avid book readers from North Arm Cove FAW Elizabeth Deane (also our community librarian) and myself Shawna Hartley (co-author Best Seller *Unsung Heroes Cambodia*) we found the entire weekend most enjoyable. Sessions were well attended holding a max of approximately 150 in each room -- with exceptional interviewers drawing out each author in intelligent and insightful ways. The variety of subject matter was also well selected and inclusive of readers of every genre and age. We came home with stacks of books and full of inspiration for new writing projects.

Our personal highlights included Don Watson, Anna George, Debra Oswald, Bernard Keane, Wayne Macauley, Luke Carmen, Claire Wright, David Henley and the lovely Robyn Cadwallader who we got to sit next to at the dinner. Only misgivings is that it was impossible to hear all the authors and between us had to miss out on Emily Rodda, Peter Watt, and Seven Carroll.

Now in its fourth year, this Reader's Festival is a first class event, congratulations to the organisers and their sponsors!

Shawna Hartley, North Arm Cove FAW

Feedback Resource for Short Story Writers

Jonathan Gibbard, founder of new US-based website <Taylz.com> sends this invitation to FAW members...

"We are writing to writers' groups and workshops around the English speaking world to publicise a new, not-for-profit website that we have designed to give short-story writers of all levels free, high-quality peer feedback.

Our website is called Taylz, and unlike many other peer-review sites, all reviews on Taylz are assigned at random to other writers, and all feedback is given anonymously to encourage reviewers to give honest, constructive feedback.

Registration is free, and there is no commitment involved. Taylz is simply aimed at helping writers to improve their writing, and providing the chance of some global exposure for their work."



Valerie Parv honoured

In the 2015 Queen's Birthday Honours List, Valerie Parv was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM). The citation reads, "For significant service to the arts, as a prolific author and as a role model and mentor to young emerging writers."

Vale

Beryl Dundas

3 February 1931–7 September 2015

I first met this quietly charming lady in 1993 when she was treasurer of our FAW and she remained treasurer for much more than just 10 years. Her record keeping was faultless. She always shared graciously as a Fellowship member and as a committee member.

Beryl worked hard and long for our Blue Mountains Branch. She is remembered as being humble, compassionate and most intelligent, always supportive of new writers to gently and wisely encourage their efforts. We were proud and pleased to nominate her for the FAW Distinguished Service Award.

Her special interest was poetry; haiku and such, and she was published in Japan. When she won some Yen in a Japanese Haiku competition, I recall that she decided to frame the cheque rather than cash it!

I particularly benefited from her being there during the years I was President ... always so ready to meet for a discussion of ideas and new initiatives, and her experience over some years at the Australia Council was invaluable. We drove many miles together, and hosted many special events during her time, e.g several weekend writing workshops for primary school children, Open Writing competitions, poetry workshops, short-story workshops, and a number of anthologies. Beryl was a 'picky' proof-reader who knew her English language, spelling, and importantly ... grammar, so what she returned was usually 100% correct and in modern Style.

Beryl had had a lot of disappointments in her life, and physical pain and disability, yet she was a loving lady with a strong Christian faith, who never sought glory for herself. The Life Membership we granted her was well deserved.

This life is all too short. I believe Beryl is now with the Lord Jesus she loved.

I miss her input ... I miss her very much.

Pat Allen, Blue Mountains FAW



Olly Griffin and Garry Boyd

A smart winner

Awarded for the first time last year, North Arm Cove FAW members competed for the annual 'smartie' award sponsored by author/member **Garry Boyd** at their September meeting.

And the winner was... **Olly Griffin** for

her quirky, innovative and humorous story based on the theme offered by Garry, 'You are an alien and just landed on earth—what happens next?'

The award was established by Garry in 2014 to be given annually for the best, funniest piece of writing produced from an assignment set by him.

Olly was thrilled to win, receiving not only a trophy but, of course, boxes of Smarties!

2015 Yvonne Jenkins Memorial Award

Colleen Parker of Port Macquarie was announced as the winner of the Yvonne Jenkins Memorial Award for 2015 by Lithgow & District Family History Society President, Eleanor Martin, at a function held in Yvonne's honour on Saturday 29 August 2015. Unfortunately, Colleen was not able to be present to receive her certificate and the accolade of submitting the winning entry.

The essay title for 2015 was 'What my ancestor did in World War I' and Colleen's essay, sub-titled 'Not Just a Name', paid tribute to her great Uncle Christopher Madden. Christopher, aged 23 and a bachelor, enlisted at Dubbo and served with the 19th Battalion. He was killed in action on 31 August 1918 at Mont St Quentin. Since 1892 the name Christopher had appeared in every generation of the Madden family and Colleen writes that this tradition is being continued in both the maternal and paternal branches of Christopher's family, as he had no descendants to carry on his name.

Colleen's essay was awarded the most points by an independent panel of three judges and was published in the October 2015 issue of the Society's journal.

The announcement of the winner was made following an informative talk by the Community History Librarian at Hawkesbury Library, Michelle Nichols, whose subject was Researching your World War I soldier. Michelle outlined some of the new Internet sites which have been developed because of the centenary of World War I and provided helpful hints on how to use some of the more well known sites. Advice was given not to ignore the many books written about war especially the ones written in the past twenty years or so, as they differ somewhat to those written 50 years ago. Look for them in the 940 section of the local library.



The late Ellis Campbell.
Image source: ABPA website

Vale Ellis Campbell

The rhythm of life left Ellis Campbell after 88 years on 22 October 2015. Nurtured in Lawson Country, Ellis lived the life of the bush, from the bush school to the shearing shed and all the jobs of the bush worker. He knew the Australian Bush Poets by heart and performed them with gusto. He worked in four states and lived the life he wrote about: country, drought, mateship, toil and humour.

At 50 Ellis and his family moved to Dubbo where he became a gardener at the Base Hospital. This was a change, digging away with his little trowel to the, rhymes, rhythms and ideas that were forever with him, but his confidence was shaky because he left school at 13 to help his father. Ellis felt he lacked the education to write and he did want to write. In 1981, he found the confidence to enter competitions. Encouraged by commendations, he continued a remarkable rise to become, according to Hal Pritchard and Brenda Joy ABPA President and Secretary, 'one of the greatest bush poetry writers of our time'.

Ellis was proud of the fact that he worked with his hands; hands that swallowed mine in a handshake; hands that took to the pen, pencil and biro before he tackled a computer. I first felt those hands in 1986 when Ellis appeared with a sheaf of poems and stories. That was his first book: *Nostalgia at the Boundary Gate: poems and stories*. He went on to publish more, often saying this was his last, like *Autumn Collection* but he slipped in *The Final Muster* in 2013.

In 1988 Ellis went on a DC3 trip to the opening of The Stockman's Hall of Fame. The highlight was his reciting from Bourke to Byrock – something few poets can claim. He took performance poetry in his stride, featuring on 'Macca's Australia All Over' and has his classic 'Beach House Honeymoon' on 'Macca's Sunday Best' CD. His CD *Ellis* has eight humorous and six serious poems.

Ellis was proud of his success, gaining over 700 awards for written and performance poetry, but generous in helping others. He wrote a series of articles for the *ABPA Magazine* (check website) and reprinted in *Writers Voice* and *FreeXpresSion*. He received the Judith Hosier Heritage Award at the Australian Bush Laureate Awards in 2012 for his accomplishments and efforts to encourage others. Ellis Campbell has left a lasting legacy.

Peter Dargin, *Outback Writers' Centre*

Competition Results

RESULT: FAW NSW MARJORIE BARNARD

SHORT STORY AWARD 2015

Winner: Dorothy Simmons, Albury NSW

Story Title: 'Count Down'

Marjorie Barnard Award 2015:

Judge's Report

IT is always a pleasure to read the stories submitted for this award, and this year's 75 entries were all interesting, amusing or dramatic. The difficulty is deciding a winner!

This year I was fussier than usual: stories with poor openings, unresolved plots or stereotyped characters were rejected, although many of these rejected stories demonstrated the writer's skill in other ways, and I always enjoy being taken into a world created by a writer's imagination.

I eventually drew up a short list of six stories:

No. 54: 'Count Down' No. 59: 'The Escape Artists'
No. 67: 'Those Left Behind' No. 66: 'Promise'
No. 69: 'The Cakemaker' No. 76: 'Fences'.

All the stories on the short list demonstrated skilled use of language, imagery and symbolism. One had a surprise ending that shocked and moved me; another introduced me to a very alternative family and had a powerful and moving ending, and yet another very suspenseful story was set in a small country town during the war, and I was impressed with the heroism of the characters in extreme hardship.

All the stories on this short list are very good and I hope their authors enter them in other competitions.

The first sentence of the winning story 'Count Down' grabbed my attention: a hangman waking up on the morning he is due to execute three people for the Mansfield Murders in 1868. One of them is a pretty woman.

The narration moves from the third person to the first person, and most of the story is told through Elizabeth Scott's point of view. She is counting down the time before she is hanged (with two others) for the murder of her husband.

Although the reader knows how this story will end, the build up to the climax (counting down and braiding her hair to keep it off her neck) is very dramatic and suspenseful. This counting down is interrupted by flashes of memory and some striking imagery. (For example: "Like a row of empty bottles, that jury" and, she reflects that she is "Like a sum somebody got wrong and rubbed out".)

The conclusion is chilling—the more so as it is a direct quote from the real event, which I discovered after I had consulted *Mr Google*. The author has not only told a story of a real event, but imaginatively and creatively entered the narrator's mind, allowing the reader to think, feel and experience the terror and betrayal Elizabeth Scott must have felt in 1863, and to question the jury's verdict.

Thank you again for asking me to judge this competition.

Pippa Kay.

RESULTS: FAW NSW HILARIE LINDSAY

YOUNG WRITERS SHORT STORY COMPETITION 2015

GROUP 1: YEARS 10–12

1st: 'The Lost Girl', Lindsay Morrison, St Pauls College Kempsey

2nd: 'The Actress, The Spy and The P.I.', Keighley Bradford, Narrabri High School

3rd: 'Ana', Rosie Watts, Eltham High School

Highly Comm: 'Story', Praney S Thapa, Macquarie Fields High

Commended: 'Welcome Home', Freya Cox, The Friends School

GROUP 2: YEARS 7–9

1st: 'Survivor's Revenge', Hazel Law, Maroochydale State School

2nd: 'The Woes of Sir Clankyteapot and the dragon of Raven Mountain', Jemma Tainsh, Home School

3rd: 'Starry Night', Charlene Jee, Cherrybrook Technology High School

Highly Comm: 'Pink Flowers', Chelsea Hindle, Home School

GROUP 3: YEARS 5 & 6

1st: 'The Beginning of the End of the World', Chinmai Saha, Empire Bay Public School

2nd: 'Hold On, Pain Ends', Anelise Burgess, Alphington Primary

3rd: 'Once Upon a Time', Bodhi McNally, Wideview Public

3rd: 'It's Much More Than a Picture', Willow Ross, Alexandria Park Community School

Highly Comm: 'The Dance Championships', Zoe Gallagher, Scone Grammar School

Commended: 'Arthur's Eagle', Mikayla Browne, St Michael's Collegiate

GROUP 4: YEARS 4 AND UNDER

1st: 'The Secret Document', Georgia Cleverly, St Ives North Public School

2nd: 'All Alone', Alexandra Belbin, St Michael's Collegiate

3rd: 'Homework Robot', Sophie Roussos, Middle Harbour Public School

Highly Comm: 'Mopsy and the Cheeky Foxy', Siena Russ, Home School

Commended: 'The Pick Pocket and the Jar', Nicole Picterson, St Michael's Collegiate.

RESULTS: CENTRAL COAST FAW

2015 MONA BRAND BIENNIAL

SHORT STORY COMPETITION

First:	Beverley Lello	'Precipice'
Second:	Carmel Lillis	'Talking About It'
Third:	Vashti Farrer	'Strays'
Highly Comm:	Carmel Lillis	'Summer of Stories'
Highly Comm:	Jessica Clements	'Blackberries'
Commended:	Carmel Lillis	'Obligations'
Commended:	David Campbell	'Justice'
Commended:	Pat Lindsay	'After the Ball'
Commended:	Jim Briggingshay	'The Bush Saviour'
Commended:	Jackie Moore	'Negu'.

The winning story 'Precipice' will be published in the next edition of Writers Voice (space permitting).



l to r: Maureen Kelly, Bella McQualter, Bonnie Jarman, Joan Williams.



l to r: Jade Johnson, Maureen, Taylor Simmons, Bob Bush, Lily-Arum Laws.

North Arm Cove FAW awards young writers

Students from Karuah and Tea Gardens Public Schools recently received their prizes in the North Arm Cove Fellowship of Australian Writers NSW Inc 2015 writing competition.

Joan Williams and Maureen Kelly presented certificates to Karuah's first prize winner Bonnie Jarman and highly commended winner Bella McQualter.

Performance poet Bob Bush accompanied Maureen to Tea Gardens Public School a week later to present Lily-Arum Laws and Jade Johnson with first and highly commended prizes respectively; Taylor Simmons won the poetry prize.

"The writing standard of all the winning entries was exceptionally high this year," Maureen said.

First prize winners received \$50 Big W vouchers, highly commended and poetry winner \$25 vouchers.

Letters

Entries to Writing Competitions

READING VICTORIA Chie's letter (Insufficient Merit) and Cate Plink's (Response from the FAW Competition Convenor) clear response has prompted me to send a letter to the Editor concerning entries to writing competitions.

As Coordinator of the Young Cherry Festival Writing Competition I would like to report that the number of entries in our competition is increasing.

However, I do have the dispiriting task of rejecting entries when writers have not read and adhered to the entry requirements or fully completed their entry forms. It is the Coordinator's job to remove these entries from those that are sent to the judges, regardless of the standard of the writing. The Coordinator is not responsible for administrative errors made by writers. Administrative requirements are the responsibility of the writer... complete the entry form correctly and adhere to the rules of the competition.

Here is a checklist as an aide mémoire for writers entering competitions...

- Read ALL sections of the entry form
- Note the word count limit and include the word count at the end of your entry. It demonstrates that you understand the rules of the competition
- Tick ALL boxes relating to your chosen section
- Note payment method; if you make a direct deposit enclose a signed receipt or a copy of the receipt
- "No names on manuscript" means exactly that, but make sure that your name is on your entry form, along with all of your contact details
- Note number of copies of entry required.
- If it is stated that entries will not be returned, keep a copy of your submitted work. If you would like a Result Sheet send a SSAE
- Before you send off your work, READ IT OUT ALOUD and learn to EDIT, EDIT, EDIT.

It is a delight to receive an entry that has a completed cover sheet with all details present and correct, well presented and money details correct. You can tell these authors are serious about winning!

Joan Dwyer

*Competition Coordinator,
Lambing Flat FAW. 16 Nov. 2015*

More about Helen Luidens

I was saddened to read in the September 2015 issue of *Writers Voice*, as if it an afterthought, of the resignation of Helen Luidens. Surely she deserved something better than "she has been a huge part of FAW... undertaken various roles... as well as conducting workshops"?

When I was a delegate to the Council I found Helen warm and supporting and I also know how hard she worked in putting together the present Constitution, as well as carrying out her elected position of that time. Yes, she conducted workshops however, she also attended workshops by FAW Branches within the Central Coast, thereby showing practical support as well as learning to and from that branch.

At the time I was a delegate, Helen and another committee member, I think her name was Hazel Humphreys, were endeavouring to formulate a resource of workshop presenters to be passed on to the then Regionals. It was hoped that by doing that branches could help each other as well as keep the cost of workshop fees down, considering the high fees that professional writers demand.

I sincerely wish Helen and Johan all the best for the future.

Margaret Young, *Wyong Writers*
23 October, 2015

Writing Competitions

Closing date 29 January 2016:

WILLIAM SAROYAN INTERNATIONAL WRITING PRIZE BIENNIAL COMPETITION FOR NEWLY PUBLISHED BOOKS.

This award, given by Stanford University Libraries in partnership with the William Saroyan Foundation, recognizes newly published works of **fiction and non-fiction** with a **\$5,000** award for the winner in each category. The prize is designed to encourage new or emerging writers and honour the Saroyan literary legacy of originality, vitality and stylistic innovation.

Only works published in book form between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2015, available for individual purchase by the general public, and primarily in English are eligible for the Saroyan Prize in 2016.

For **Entry Forms, Conditions of Entry** and more information on the prize, visit the Saroyan Prize website: <<http://library.stanford.edu/saroyan>>.

NORMAL COMPETITION CONDITIONS

Unless stated otherwise, these conditions apply to ALL WRITING COMPETITIONS (except 'Writers World')

- Entries should be submitted in English, using one side of A4 paper, typed double-spaced (except poetry) in a standard typeface (12 pt min.), using generous margins. No fancy fonts, clip art or decorations of any kind.
- NO names or addresses to appear on manuscripts. A separate COVER SHEET must be attached, containing the title of the entry, competition name, section category if applicable, word or line count, author's name, address, telephone number and email address (if available). Title and page number (ONLY) of the entry should appear on each page of the manuscript.
- Entries must be original work and must not have won a cash prize in any other competition nor been published in any form, as at the closing date of the competition.
- Entries may be entered in more than one competition at the time of entry HOWEVER the entry must be withdrawn from any subsequent competitions if the writer is advised prior to the closing dates that the entry was successful elsewhere with a cash prize.
- Cheques and/or money orders should be made payable to the organisers, unless otherwise stipulated. Multiple entries may be paid with one cheque or money order – do not send coins or stamps.
- Copyright remains with the author. Entries will not be returned and will be destroyed after the announcement of results.
- The judges' decisions will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- If you require a copy of the results mailed to you, please send a standard DL-sized stamped, self-addressed envelope (SSAE) with your entry.

These are general guidelines. For complete conditions relating to individual competitions, and to obtain entry forms (where required), contact the relevant competition organisers.

Closing date 31 January 2016:

HUNTER WRITERS CENTRE PRESENTS THE NEWCASTLE SHORT STORY AWARD

Open to all Australian residents and citizens.

Max. 2000 words.

First Prize \$2,000. Second Prize \$1,000.

2 x Highly Commended awards \$500 each.

2 x Commended awards \$200 each.

For more information, **Conditions of Entry** and online **Entry Form**, visit

<www.hunterwriterscentre.org/short-story-award.html>.

Closing date 31 January 2016:

THE TASMANIAN WRITERS' PRIZE 2016

Open to residents of Australia and New Zealand, the prize is for short stories up to 3,000 words having an island, or island-resonant, theme.

The competition, now entering its seventh year, is run by Forty South Publishing, the largest book publisher in Tasmania and publisher of the prestigious *Tasmania 40°South* magazine.

The winner will receive a cash prize of \$500, and the winning entry will be published in *Tasmania 40°South*. A selection of the best entries will be published in *Forty South Short Story Anthology 2016*.

Entry forms and Terms of Entry can be downloaded from <www.fortysouth.com.au>.

Closing date 29 February 2016:

MUDGE VALLEY WRITERS 2016 YOUTH LITERARY AWARD

The Norman McVicker Award

The award is sponsored by Norman McVicker estate with the aim of promoting literature to young people.

Young people up to 22 years old, are invited to submit their original literary work. Theme: OPEN.

- **Short story** (2,000 words max.):

1st Prize \$800, 2nd Prize \$200, 3rd Prize \$100.

- **Poetry** (100 lines max.):

1st Prize \$800, 2nd Prize \$200, 3rd Prize \$100.

Highly Commended and Commended Certificates awarded.

The scope of the work may contribute toward Australian literature or have Australiana content—i.e. all aspects about Australia, for example, life, aspirations, vision, current affairs, the bush, etc, but this is not a prerequisite. The work of Henry Lawson and others may provide guidelines but not limited to the style. Invention of new style, creativity or breaking the old boundaries are also key aspects of the award.

For more information, full conditions of entry, and to download the Entry Form, visit

<mudgevalleywriters.wordpress.com/competition/>

Call for submissions:

'Writers' World' column for Writers Voice

This concept has come about because there is interest in having a 'Five Minute Fiction' style page. The popular new TV series *800 Words* also shone a light on the concept so your Management Committee took the idea to the State Council in November which approved of the Presentation and agreed to trial it for 2016 and then revisit it before 2017.

The concept as suggested is:

- 500 words maximum.
- Send your submission via email attachment using the 'Contact Us' form on the FAW NSW website <fawnsw.org.au>. Tick the 'Hon. Secretary' box for forwarding.
- If your story is selected you will be rewarded with \$20 for its publication in *Writers Voice*.

NB: Once the publication fee is paid, that story cannot enter into a competition. However if it has already been in a competition then that is acceptable.

Stories may come from essays, articles or memoir extracts but must have a beginning, a middle and an end—in other words, a complete story.

Selection will take into account: Grammar, punctuation, suitability for WV readership, word count and presentation (so that our Editor can drop it into the allowed space in *Writers Voice*).

If your submission is accepted it will be stockpiled and only one published in each edition, with the others held over. If we deplete our stock, we will ask for more.

There is no 'Closing date' as such because if the stories are good and our readers enjoy them we will encourage submissions as an ongoing process.

So here is a wonderful opportunity to become a Published Writer and assist in enhancing the variety of topics to be found in our regular bulletin. [See page 25 for the first *SAMPLE story in this series—Ed*].

Colleen Parker, Vice President

Closing date 30 April 2016:

FOREST FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS SHORT STORY COMPETITION

Established as a Tribute to the Bentleys

Maximum 2,000 words. Theme: Open.

First Prize \$200, Second Prize \$100.

Highly Commended certificates awarded at judges' discretion.

Entry fee \$5.00. Entries must be post marked prior to the above closing date.

Entries should be original, unpublished and not under consideration elsewhere. All entries MUST be accompanied by a cover sheet with Name, address, phone and email contact details. No name or address is to appear on the manuscript. Title and page number only. Print one side only A4, typed double spaced in a standard typeface—12pt minimum. Only hard copies, NO handwritten submissions will be accepted.

Send to:

The Receiving Officer,
Forest FAW
6/7 Wilga Street
ELANORA HEIGHTS NSW 2101.

Enclose Cheque or Money Order payable to: 'Forest FAW NSW Inc'; or... Direct Deposit to:

Acct. Name: C. M. Retford, BSB 082294,
A/C No: 863076035, Description: Storycomp.

Winners will be notified by phone/email and published in *Writers Voice*. Enquiries to Catherine: 02 9913 1534.

Closing date 31 May 2016:

EASTWOOD/HILLS FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS LITERARY COMPETITION 2016

All Categories Open Theme.

- **Category 1: Short Story.** Max 3,000 words.
First Prize \$200, Second Prize \$100.
- **Category 2: Poetry.** Includes all forms of poetry except Bush Poetry [see separate *BOREE LOG competition*].
Max 80 lines per poem.
First Prize \$150, Second Prize \$50.
- **Category 3: Memoir.** Max 1,500 words.
First Prize \$150, Second Prize \$50.
- **Category 4: Pauline Walsh Award for Short Short Story.** Max 800 words.
First Prize \$100, Second Prize \$50.

Entries to be post marked on or before above closing date.

Entry Fee: \$5 per entry or \$20 for 5 entries. Cheques or money orders in AUS\$ payable to: Eastwood/Hills FAW. Fees can also be sent electronically this year.

Enquiries: Marilyn Humbert <mah53@tpg.com.au> or phone 9456 1307.

Each entry must be accompanied by a separate signed **entry form**. Conditions of entry and entry forms can be found on the Eastwood-Hills FAW website <<http://hillsfaw.webs.com>>

Closing date 31 May, 2016:

EASTWOOD/HILLS FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS BOREE LOG AWARD FOR BUSH VERSE 2016

Writing under the pseudonym John O'Brien, Father Patrick Hartigan (1872-1952) published two volumes of poetry: 'Around the Boree Log' in 1921, and, posthumously, 'The Church at St Mel's'. He is fondly remembered for poems such as 'Said Hanrahan' and 'The Old Bush School'.

First Prize: \$100 plus a trophy and certificate.

Highly Commended and Commended Certificates awarded. Ballads to be in perfect rhyme and metre, with maximum 80 lines and an Australian bush theme.

Entries to be post marked on or before above closing date.

Entry Fee: \$5 per entry; maximum 4 entries per entrant. Cheques or money orders in AUS\$ payable to: Eastwood/Hills FAW. Fees can also be sent electronically this year.

Enquiries: Marilyn Humbert <mah53@tpg.com.au> or phone 9456 1307.

Each entry must be accompanied by a separate signed **entry form**. Conditions of entry and entry forms can be found on the Eastwood-Hills FAW website <<http://hillsfaw.webs.com>>.

FAW website gets a makeover

HELLO. MY name is Wayne Jarman and I am your new WebMaster (Dr Who fans will be worried by the name) for the new FAWNSW Website. For anyone who hasn't seen the newly updated site, it is the same address as before: <www.fawnsw.org.au>.

Don't be concerned by the photo or by the Dr Who reference. I promise that I will take the role seriously! (The photo wasn't my fault, by the way. My Grandson put that wig on me!)

I would like to thank the members and the Committee for the opportunity to assist with the FAWNSW Internet presence. My appreciation goes, also, to Ken Driver (Editor of the *Writers Voice*) who has presented a new look (very logical and functional) website for us all to work with.

My goal is to provide a valuable information service to prospective members and to existing members. If the FAWNSW can be easily found on the Internet and can give a professional first impression, then a large proportion of the goal is achieved. Beyond that first impression, I will give my highest priority to responding promptly and professionally to enquiries from prospective members. I haven't been to any Committee meetings but I suspect that the FAWNSW (as with most Australian organisations) would be concerned with sourcing new members and lowering the average age of the membership base.

In that vein, I urge members to bring visitors along to their meetings—particularly the younger generation writers who can propel the organisation into the future.

I consider topical posts to the website (eg competitions and events) to be important so that members see value in 'checking in' with the website on a regular basis and I am already, at this early stage of my 'WebMastering', impressed by the constant flow of information into my email In-tray, regarding Events and Competitions.

Please check on the website regularly and please contact me (through the 'Contact Us' form on the website) if you have any queries or suggestions.

Wishing you all, success with your writing.

Wayne



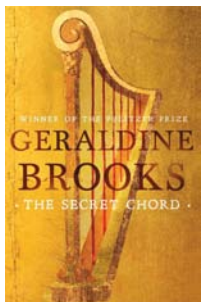
Wayne Jarman and his assistant

Send copy for the WEBSITE to Wayne Jarman at:
<webmaster@fawnsw.org.au>

Send copy for WRITERS VOICE to Ken Driver at:
<wveditor@fawnsw.org.au>



Book Reviews



The Secret Chord

Geraldine Brooks

As I head towards my 70th birthday I am happy to say that this is the book I've been waiting all my life to read. It is the story of King David, 3000 years ago, as he brought together the Israelite tribes into a single unified nation with Jerusalem as its capital.

Brooks does not spare us from the flaws and cruelties in David's character and so the resulting narrative is, on the one hand, sad and frustratingly selfish and, on the other, a character study of amazing depth producing a generous but hard-working warrior-king with a grand vision.

Nor does she pander to the reader's ignorance—right from the beginning she uses (transliterated) Hebrew spelling, e.g. Shmuel is Samuel, Shlomo is Solomon, Yonatan is Jonathon etc. and she does not explain Judaic law. She takes it for granted that the average educated reader would be able to follow her. So don't expect footnotes!

A very interesting literary technique that Brooks uses is *telling* and not always *showing*. She is a story *teller* because the 'show, don't tell' mantra can become onerous and burdensome. What she does is tell us what other people said or saw. Of course, I support what all our workshops say and believe that 'show, don't tell' makes better writing, but for millennia people have said, 'I want to tell you a story...'

This is not a religious book by any means but a character analysis of a man condemned to live in treacherous and violent times; the story is actually the earliest *complete* biography of a person recorded in history. It's all there for anyone to read in the Tanach, but Brooks has successfully teased out a real living human being, using the Prophet Natan as narrator, to give us a story of anger, tears, sweat, rivalry, love, music, singing and semen.

Reviewed by David Berger, Blue Mountains FAW

The Eye of the Sheep

Sofie Laguna

Winner of the Miles Franklin Award for an Australian novel.

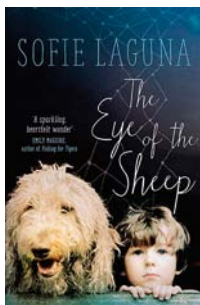
Not often does a reader find a book that propels them along to the end, intrigued, marvelling at the deception of the unfolding storyline.

The author has cleverly written characterisations (show don't tell) of each player inhabiting the world of a small mentally damaged boy who sees life as threads joining the world while people around him are all damaged in their own way.

I found this book exhausting but the story will stay with me long after this confronting book is finished. I marvel at the insightfulness of the author.

A winner in every way.

Reviewed by Elaine Staples



WRITERS' WORLD

Here is the first story for this new section, a 500-word SAMPLE by Colleen Parker to get you motivated [see page 23 for Guidelines].

Confessions of a Soup Van Volunteer

Colleen Parker

I READ somewhere that volunteering on the city soup van is an education of the finest degree!

Doing the soup van is about trust, faith, friendship, food, time, courage, effort and so much more. It's about the homeless and sleeping rough.

It's about hungry people who provide you with the desire and enthusiasm to work another night of volunteering.

It's about volunteers who have their own story and motive for being there.

My confession is that my motive did not begin with any of those things, I am a story lover and share the stories I hear by writing them for others to read.

My interest in volunteering on the soup van was to learn more about the intrigue that I heard about while living in Sydney. It was the early 1960s, in Martin Place in the busy CBD remembered for the GPO; nowadays the memories are the sadness of the terrorist killings in the Lindt Café.

I recall the flower-seller who lived and ran her business at the bottom of the GPO steps. Without Centrelink, in those days everyone did whatever it took to survive. She began by selling a couple of bunches of flowers to workers as they left their places of employ and who felt a certain obligation to help her. Her small profit was not spent on her comforts but on more flowers. I noticed one day, a generous flower purchaser offered her his cup of coffee as well as paying her. She gratefully accepted it and also half of another's sandwich at lunch time. A couple of years later, that situation had turned into a thriving business with flowers of many varieties sold from her barrow. I was thrilled to see what that small act of kindness did to that lady's self-esteem when she realised that there were people who supported her personal effort.

I wondered how many other stories I could uncover by observing these sometimes down-trodden, sometimes eccentric, sometimes both, people? There was the little man who was cared for by a Chaplain, Arthur Stace, who could not read or write but who took some yellow chalk, bent down and wrote one word on the footpath. Throughout the night for forty years, while Sydney slept, Arthur wrote in immaculate copperplate handwriting the word *Eternity* on footpaths, entrances to the train station and anywhere else he thought it would catch people's attention. Who was he?

And, Bea Miles, the lady in the navy blue overcoat which she wore both winter and summer and who jumped into taxi cabs as they slowed in the traffic snarls. Bea was always eager to quote any passage from Shakespeare for six pence or a couple of shillings. She appeared to know all the plays and famous speeches.

I headed to the Wayside Chapel to see Ted Noffs and conjured the most forlorn look on my face as he opened the door. With not an ounce of guilt, I announced, "I am here to volunteer on your soup van." □

Literary Achievements

EASTWOOD/HILLS FAW

Carolyn Alfonzetti:

Poem published in *The School Magazine* and illustrated by Matt Ottley;

shortlisted in Poetry Section of *Society of Women's Writers NSW*;
shortlisted in *Sisters of Crime* 'Scarlet Stiletto' Awards;
Children's Story 'Last Place Luca Finds His Feet' sold to *The School Magazine*.

Anne Benjamin:

Published in *Zinewest* 2015, for poem 'Leaving The Island'.

Adeline Burton:

Poem put up in Reception of Coe-ee Motel, Gilgandra.

Beverley George:

tanka sequence with David Terelinck 'Cornerstone' published *Red Lights* 11 (2) June 2015 p. 49;

tanka and a tanka sequence with David Terelinck 'Whisky and Smoke' published *Ribbons* 11 (2) Spring/Summer 2015 pp. 25, 64;

edited *Prospect* #5 for haiku and tanka for Blue Giraffe Press;

edited *Windfall* 4 for Blue Giraffe Press;

rengay 'Just Enough Breeze' with Simon Hanson published *Kokako* 23 2015 p. 25 [NZ];

renku by 7 poets 'Singing in Whispers' published *Blithe Spirit* 25 (3) 2015 p. 52 [UK];

haiga with Mariko Kitakubo and Ron Moss published in *Ardea* 5 [UK];

tanka sequence 'from a blank page... rising' published in *The Tanka Journal* [Japan] No. 47 p. 20;

3rd prize haiku The 11th Pumpkin Festival, Ivanić-Grad, Croatia, October 18-19, 2015;

haiku in New Zealand Poetry Society anthology 'scattered feathers' 2015.

Richard Hagerty:

Commended for poem 'On Anzac Bridge, 2015' in Eastwood/Hills Literary Awards, 2015;

three poems published in St Joseph's Centre Newsletter at Kensington, 'An Anzac in the Shadows of the Warrumbungles', 'Massacre at Mistake Creek' and 'On Anzac Bridge, 2015'.

Philippa Holland:

Second place Eastwood/Hills FAW July Assignment ('Writing from the Heart');

winner of 2015 Eastwood/Hills FAW Annual John Kelly Award for Myth or Fairy Tale ('There's Always a Catch');
commended certificate, Scribes Writers 'Short Takes' open prose Lit. Comp., Memoir Category for 'Why Worry?'

Anne Howard:

Highly Commended in Eastwood/Hills FAW July monthly competition ('Writing from the Heart')—memoir;

second place in Eastwood/Hills FAW annual John Kelly Award (August): An original Myth, Folk or Fairy Tale;

first in Eastwood/Hills FAW September monthly competition: short story involving criticism, positive or negative.

Artelle Lenthall:

Published in *Zinewest* 2015 for short story 'Being Different'.

Margaret Longhurst:

Highly Commended for the Blacktown City Mayoral Writing Competition for poem, 'War Letters'.

David Terelinck:

attended Tanka Sunday in Albany, NY, USA on 18 October.
Gave Australian tanka reading, participated in journal and group readings, and was a guest panellist for the *Why We Write Tanka* interactive session;

two tanka in *Eucalypt* 19;

one haiku in *Windfall* 4;

the following all appear in *Skylark* Vol. No 2, Winter 2015...

Winner of the Skylark's Nest tanka competition;

one tankart;

responsive tanka sequence, 'Whispered Vows', with Claire Everett;

responsive tanka sequence, 'Harmonies', with Beverley George;

rengay, 'Noel', with Beverley George;

one tanka prose, 'Strange Terrain';

three tanka in *GUSTS* 21;

three tanka in the 2015 Tanka Society of America Anthology;

'Whispered Vows', responsive tanka sequence with Claire Everett, featured in the video journal *Frameless Sky*. The sequence is read by Beverley George and her husband David.

EUROBODALLA FAW

Suzanne Newnham's short story 'A Total Void' won 1st prize P & P competition and published in anthology.

Judy Turner received Commended Certificate for story 'The Funeral' in Eastwood/Hills FAW competition.

HUNTER FAW

Jan Dean:

Pocketbook *Paint Peels, Graffiti Sings* from Flying Island Books, Macau, published in December 2014, was launched by Judy Johnson at the Newcastle Writers Festival. Judy's perceptive speech was echoed in reviews by Val Maudson author of *10,000 Years* and Steven Schroeder, a poet and visual artist who teaches in Asian Classics and the Basic Program of Liberal Education for Adults at the University of Chicago <<http://vacpoetry.org/journal/stevenschroeder>>.

A poem, 'Flight' accepted for *Novascapes* 2;

two poems, 'Star Invaders' (a cento) and 'Two Clowns' accepted for *Indelible*, the 2015 Newcastle Poetry at the Pub Members' Anthology;

Jan's biography featured in Lambton Public School's 150th anniversary publication 2015, edited by Robert Watson;
poem reprinted in *Guide to Sydney Rivers*, a free e-book with superb writing and visuals edited by Susan Adams and Les Wicks <<http://meusepress.tripod.com/sydneyrivers.pdf>>;

poems published in *The Land: Poems from Australia and India* edited by Jaydeep Sarangi and Rob Harle <www.cyberwit.net>;

tanka in each of volumes 18 and 19, *Eucalypt: a tanka journal*;
poem 'Seraphine Speaks' shortlisted in the 2015 Newcastle Poetry Prize anthology *Connective Tissue*, awarded the HWC Members' Prize.

Leonie Wellard:

Poem, 'Sewing Class', published in the collection called 'Toil', by the e-book publishers of *Cordite Magazine*.

Gail Hennessy:

Two tanka published in the collection 'All You Need Is Love', Ginninderra Press, 2015;

one tanka and two haiku published in *Prospect five*, Blue Giraffe Press, 2015; two tanka published in *Eucalypt 19: A Tanka Journal* edited by Beverley George, 2015;

poem, 'For My Mother', published in the collection 'Grieve Stories and Poems' for *Grief Awareness Month 2015* by the Hunter Writers Centre;

poem, 'Ghosts Along The Georges River', published in *Guide to Sydney Rivers* by Muesse Press, 2015 (PDF eBook);

poem, 'Finding the Words', shortlisted for Society of Women's Writers poetry award, 2015.

ISOLATED WRITERS BRANCH**Cynthia Rowe:**

'fertility symbol haiku' translated into Chinese by Chen-ou Liu and published in *Neverending Story* August 2015;

'au crépuscule' haiku Honourable Mention Mainichi 18th Haiku Contest 2014;

tanka published in *A Hundred Gourds* 4:4 September 2015;

2 tanka and 2 haiku published in *Prospect* #5;

haiku, tanka and 'On Monet's Return' haibun published in *Kokako* #23 2015;

3 haiku published in *Creatrix* #30 September 2015;

'the magpie season' haiku published in *The Heron's Nest* 15th Anniversary anthology '*Nest Feathers*';

haiku published in *The Heron's Nest* September 2015;

2 haiku and 3 senryu published in *cattails* UHTS September 2015 - 'grape harvest' senryu selected for Editor's Commentary;

2 haiga 'life's lottery' and 'way to your heart' published in *cattails* UHTS September 2015;

haiku published, together with a translation in German, in *Chrysanthemum* 18;

haiku and 2 tanka published in *Presence* #53;

3 haiku published in 2015 NZ Poetry Society anthology '*scattered feathers*';

2 tanka published in *Eucalypt* #19;

led haibun workshop at Hurstville Discovery Writers Group;

'old railway track' haiku Honorable Mention 2015 World Haiku Contest;

'bare branch' haiku Grand Prize: First Place 2015 World Haiku Contest;

poem awarded First Prize, The Society of Women Writers NSW, Dame Mary Gilmore Poetry Award 2015.

Carolyn Cash:

Article, 'The Monarchy In Australia', posted 7 September 2015 on *Royal Central* <<http://royalcentral.co.uk/featured/the-monarchy-in-australia-53050>>;

Carolyn is still writing, presenting and producing her weekly online radio show, *Right Royal Roundup* at <<http://rightroyalroundup.com.au>>;

two brief articles on Prince Charles and Camilla's visit to Sydney in November.

Vickie Walker:

Highly commended for 'Jettisoned' in Morrison Mentoring short story competition;

'In the Morning' shortlisted for the Toowoomba Writers Festival short story competition and anthology;

1st place, Over 50s category, for 'Place across the water', in Rockingham short fiction awards.

LAKE MACQUARIE FAW**Pam Garfoot:**

Written, illustrated and privately published (limited availability): children's picture book *The Real Story*.

Elizabeth Horwitz:

Published in *HPA Magazine*, issue 4 Sep-Oct 2015: editorial.

Jan Mitchell:

Launched at Toronto Library, September 2015:

memoir *Crossings in Realitas*;

published in *HPA Magazine*, issue 4 Sep-Oct 2015:

film review of *Madam Bovary*;

published in *HPA Magazine*, issue 4 Sep-Oct 2015:

short story 'Is this a TV drama?'

Rina Robinson:

Published in *HPA Magazine*, issue 4 Sep-Oct 2015:

poems 'Red and gold' and 'Tanka'.

LIVERPOOL FAW

Rick Vincenti and **Len Coffey** appeared on *Joy's World*, talking about FAW, the Liverpool branch and the launch of the branch's Anthology.

Peter F Pike:

Poem, 'St.George', *FreeXpresSion* September 2015;

poem 'Jewel', *FXP* October 2015;

article and photos, *FXP* October 2015.

Eric Esber:

Poem 'In the World', *FreeXpresSion* Sept. and poem

'Computers' in *FXP* October 2015.

Rhonda W Rice:

Poem, 'Bushfire Victims', *FreeXpresSion* Aug and Sept 2015;

poems 'Ring-Barked Tree' and 'Bird Bath', *Positive Words* Sept;

poem 'Lonely Funeral', *Positive Words* Oct;

article 'At the Legacy Luncheon', *Police Legacy* Newsletter Sept;

poems 'Release' and 'When Blokes Get Sick' in *FXP* Oct;

poem 'Who Cares For The Carer?', *FXP* Nov.

MACARTHUR FAW**Victoria Chie:**

Three short stories sold: 'Conversations with the Gnome',

'Double Trouble', and 'Holiday Hijack'.

Robert Bee:

Winner of in-house competition with a short story entitled 'The Hope Games';

cont. next page...

Literary Achievements

Macarthur

cont. from previous page

finalist in 2015 Macarthur Playwriting 'Boldly-Go' Competition with a play entitled *2001, A Space Idiocy*.

Barry Flanagan:

A new novel, *Brokeback* published and available on Smashwords and Amazon.

MOOCOOROOOLA FAW

Mary Bramston:

Short story, 'Saved by Abel—a tale of daring, adventure and romance' in *FreeXpresSion* Vol xxii, Issue 10, October 2015; Poem, 'Confessions of a Luddite or Make and Make-Do' in *FreeXpresSion* Vol xxii, Issue 9, September 2015.

Robert Dickins:

Short story, 'Mend and Make Do: A Tale of Arcady' in *FreeXpresSion* Vol xxii, Issue 9, September 2015.

John Egan:

Poems, 'The Mist' and 'Nirvana' in *The Mozzie*, July 2015; Poems, 'Commonwealth Street' and 'Summit Top Temple' in *The Mozzie*, August 2015; Poems, 'White' and 'Birdsong' in *The Mozzie*, September 2015; Poems, 'Sunset', 'Unveiled' and 'Change Of Seasons' in *Beyond The Rainbow* #81; Poems, 'Night Thoughts At East Forest Monastery', 'The Mirror', 'Now', 'Well- Done Mate', 'Iron Cove', 'Summit Top Temple', 'Long Black Hair' and 'The Imp' in *FreeXpresSion* Vol xxii, Issue 10, October 2015; Poems, '20th April, 1770', 'Hard Not To Be Influenced', 'The Coming Storm', 'Like Losing Skin' and 'Plus Ça Change' in *Valley Micropress*, September 2015; Poem, 'Landing In Wollongong', Third Place in the *All Roads Lead To Wollongong* Competition; Poems, 'Landing In Wollongong' and 'Coastwise', read at the *All Roads Lead To Wollongong* Competition prize giving at Wollongong Art Gallery; Poem, 'Journey To The Renal Ward', Commended in The FAW Tasmania 2015 Poetry Prize; Poetry Collection, *Lines Continue Forever* reviewed online in *Voice*, 2015; Poem, 'The Mirror' appeared on the *Writers Playgroup* website, 2015.

MUDGEY VALLEY WRITERS FAW

Bob Campbell:

Featured on YouTube: *Killer Black Coal, Running on the Great Divide*, a radio programme about Jimmy Governor, and soon a new item on refugees titled *When It All Boils Down*.

Joy Hibberd:

Musical accompaniment to St Mary's Mudgee 'Poetry, Wine and Cheese Night'.

Kevin Pye:

Poem, 'Who Would Sit in Henry's Seat?', read at St Mary's Mudgee 'Poetry, Wine and Cheese Night'.

Jill Baggett:

Short Story, 'Walking with Judy', published in *ABC Open*.

Pamela Meredith:

Currently interviewing senior local residents to record their life stories for the Mudgee Museum Records; short stories published in *ABC Open*.

NORTH ARM COVE FAW

Garry Boyd:

Poem 'On Sunrises' published *Myall Coast Messenger*; highly commended, In-house Short Story Writing Competition 2015, for 'Blue Ribbons and Pumpkins'.

Bob Bush:

Admitted to the Fellowship of Australian Writers NSW Inc., Degree of Writing Fellow 2015; winner, In-house poetry competition 2015 for a poem with the theme 'The Blue Ribbon'; poem 'Poppa Joe' published in *Myall Coast Messenger*; shared many of his poems with audiences at Youth Encouragement Sport Support initiative Aussie bush lunch held at North Arm Cove, Hunter Valley National Seniors Australia, Port Stephens Busy Bees, Church of Christ, Rotary Club of Maitland Sunrise and FAW Port Stephens.

Lee Clayton:

Teamed up with a fellow musician to perform her own songs at Arches Cafe, Karuah.

Jan Furness:

Completed her book *Boring Stories for Children at Bedtime* containing 14 short stories; 'Community spotlight' editorials published *Myall Coast Messenger*, most recently featuring FAW State secretary and North Arm Cove secretary/treasurer Maureen Kelly OAM.

Olly Griffin:

Winner, North Arm Cove Smartie Award 2015.

Wayne Jarman:

Appointed the FAW NSW website manager.

Maureen Kelly OAM:

Fellowship of Australian Writers NSW Inc., Distinguished Service Award 2015; guest speaker, Rotary Club Tea Gardens.

Kate Milford OAM:

Travel story published in the North Arm Cove news magazine, *Cove News*.

Gail Rust:

Winner, In-house Short Story Writing Competition 2015, theme 'The Blue Ribbon'.

NORTH SHORE BRANCH [FAWNS]

Richard Brookton's short story 'Hope' has been accepted by the NSW Department of Education and Communities for publication in *The School Magazine*. Another of Richard's short stories, 'A Different Sister', has been published by the Boniuk Foundation in Texas, USA. It appears in their book *Be the Best You Can Be*.

Marilyn Humbert's poem 'Counting Stars' has been published in *Award Winning Australian Writing*, 2015, and her poem 'Mars' received First Place in the Scribes Competition. Marilyn has also had tanka accepted for publication in *Eucalypt*, *Ribbons*, and *AHG*. She has had a haiku published in *Cattails*.

PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS FAW

Colleen Parker:

Winner of the Lithgow & District Family History Society Inc., Yvonne Jenkins Memorial Award essay competition 2015. Title and theme, 'What my ancestor did in WWI'. Colleen's essay sub-titled 'Not Just a Name'. [*Story next edition—Ed*].

Debbie Bayliss:

Two articles accepted for inclusion in the Wingham RSL book *100 Years of Anzac. Memories of the Past, Visions of the Future*.

SHOALHAVEN FAW

Geoffrey Grocott:

Winner, Shoalhaven Encouragement Prize for a local writer in the Shoalhaven FAW Literary Award, 2015, for short story, 'At Bellingen'.

Bill Bean:

Second place, Peter Cowan 2015 Anniversary Award. The theme of the competition (for both poetry and short story) was 'landscape and environment'. Bill's story, 'Figures on a Canvas' was about a coastal landscape in winter, drawn from personal experience.

Juan Alvarez:

Juan is currently teaching Forensic Science at the U3A (University of the 3rd Age) in Nowra. So far he has presented two lectures of two hours each and is planning to provide another eight lectures in 2016. As a result, Juan has been requested to provide a short version to the Bay and Basin Writers Group as there are some members writing Crime Fiction.

Irene Wilkie:

A multi-award winning poet, Irene's works have been widely published in many anthologies and journals; her poem, 'Undersong', was accepted in the *Poetry & Place* Anthology for 2016.

Jennifer Dickerson, Jen Mors, Irene Wilkie, Elaine Chin and Chere Le Page appeared at the Wollongong Writers' Festival in November. They are also members of the Kitchen Table Poets and with the other KTP poets, (Colleen Duncan, Alison Thompson, Lyn Kluewer and Kate Broadhurst) they showcased a film of their poetry matched with images from around the Shoalhaven. Following that, each of the poets read a poem to the audience.

STROUD FAW

Dee Wardrop is kept busy with the Great Lakes Better Reading Better Communities Project at Stroud Library.

Di Foster remains an elected member of the Board of Stroud Community Lodge. She is the Stroud Writer's delegate to the community group.

Elizabeth Bradhurst compiled and produced the *Friends of Saint Johns* newsletter.

Maudie Rutherford is participating in a mock radio play, to be performed at a Christmas function, organised by the Stroud Lions Club, for senior citizens.

Peter Uren launched the third book in his series about 'the old mechanic', *The Classic Bike Workshop*; presented a workshop to Catchfire Press on the topic of e-Publishing.

SUTHERLAND FAW

Helen Armstrong:

Published a client's book *Kris-Growing Up Disabled*, July 2015; speaker/reader/featured books on three days of *Freecon*, Sydney sci-fi convention (1st weekend in November, 2015).

Julianne Miles-Brown:

Radio interview about Writers Unleashed Festival with Trevar Langlands on 100.3 FM; director and MC of *Writers Unleashed Festival* at Tradies Gynea, 14 November, 2015.

Elaine Staples:

1st Prize, Hurstville Discovery Writers group, for Short Story 'Hunger Games'; commended, Hurstville Discovery Writers Group, for Short Story, 'Bunny's Nightmare'; equal 2nd Prize, 'Blank Canvas - An Elegy'.

Lynn Sutherland:

Press releases for Lioness Club and Sutherland FAW.

Sylvia Vago:

Top 10 travel reviewers for *Trip Advisor*.

Kurt Ulmer:

Novel listed on Amazon.

SYDNEY CITY FAW

Pip Griffin:

Poem 'Atget's Paris' in *Live Poets @ Don Bank's 25th Anniversary Anthology*; *Can I Tell You a Secret?*, Ginninderra Press, launched 14 November 2015 at Don Bank Museum, North Sydney.

WYONG WRITERS FAW

Results of the Internal Prose Competition for Memoir were: 1st **Rose Fox**; 2nd **Mei-Ling Venning**; 3rd **Margaret Young**.

Shirley Goodbar:

Book Launch at The Entrance Library 13 November; ABC Radio interview Wednesday 28 October; Shirley has accepted the appointment as Poetry Editor for *Writers Voice*.

Mei-Ling Venning:

Performance of her play *Grey Skies* took place at Woy Woy Little Theatre over the weekend of 25/26/27 September.

Margaret Young:

Has been accepted to interview a returned service member and create a poem from the memories of that person for Art Studios Cooperative for its magazine *Spirit of Anzac*. □

Branch Meetings and Contacts

BANKSTOWN WRITERS

1st Saturday – 1.00 to 4.00 pm
Banksia Room,
Revesby Workers Club
Enquiries:
Carney Vaughan 4268 5383

BLUE MOUNTAINS WRITERS FAW

1st Sunday – 1.45 to 4.45 pm
Springwood Court Function Room,
133 Macquarie Rd, Springwood.
Enquiries: Kerry Healey-Binns (Pres.)
02 4782 5294. *Email:*
<beebackbarkbooks@gmail.com>
Facebook page:
Blue Mountains Writers FAW

CENTRAL COAST FAW

3rd Sunday – 10.00 am
Gosford Hotel, 179 Mann St, Gosford.
Enquiries:
Helen Luidens (Pres.) 4363 2627
Branch: <centralcoastfaw@live.com>

EASTWOOD/HILLS FAW

1st Saturday – 1.00 pm
Senior Citizens' Room, Cnr Farnell &
North Rocks Rds, North Rocks.
Enquiries: Carolyn Alfonzetti
(Pres.) 9869 2715
Email: <carolyn.alfonzetti@me.com>
or one of two Secretaries:
Laura Davis <lauracedee@
yahoo.com.au> or Frances Moon
<mria55@yahoo.com.au>
Web: <http://hillsfaw.webs.com>

EUROBODALLA FAW

**1st & 3rd Wednesdays–
10.30am to 2.30pm and
1st Tuesday 6.30–8.30 pm**
McKay Centre, Page St, Moruya.
Enquiries: Rosie Toth 0437 627 756
Email: <rosietoth102@gmail.com>
Web: <www.eurobodallawriters.org>

FOREST FAW

3rd Saturday – 2.00 pm
Forest Community Arts Centre
Darley Street, Forestville.
Enquiries:
Maggie Gowanlock 9948 3882
PO Box 248, Balgowlah NSW 2093

GREAT LAKES FAW

2nd Friday – 1.00 to 4.00 pm
Forster/Tuncurry Memorial
Services Club, Strand Street, Forster.
Enquiries:
Christine Hayes 6555 9904
or post, Mrs Hermione Browning,
15 Eden Place, Tuncurry 2428

HUNTER FAW

1st Wednesday – 10.15am
Dining Room of Sydney Junction
Hotel, Beaumont St., Hamilton
Enquiries: Luciana Croci (Pres.)
0439 601 351 or Christine
Brotherson (Sec.) 4969 7794

ISOLATED WRITERS FAW

*This group of writers do not meet in
person but keep in contact through
Carolyn Cash, their Convenor, either
through the state FAW website
<fawns.org.au> or email
<cmcash@tpg.com.au>
See inside back page for full details
and guidelines.*

LAKE MACQUARIE FAW

2nd Saturday – 1.30 to 4.00pm
Multi-purpose Centre
9 Thorn Street, Toronto.
Email: <lakemacfaw2@gmail.com>
Facebook: www.facebook.com/
LakeMacFAW

LAMBING FLAT (YOUNG)

2nd Monday – 5.30 pm
Catherine McAuley Hall, Young.
(Retirement Village, off
Demondrille Street.)
Enquiries: Ted Webber (Pres.)
0459 707 728 or *Email:*
<juneted@yahoo.com>
Branch email:
<lambingflatbranchfaw@
hotmail.com>

LIVERPOOL FAW

2nd Saturday – 1.00 to 4.00pm
Dr Pirie Community Centre
Cnr Bigge & Moore Sts, Liverpool.
PO Box 4, West Hoxton 2171
Enquiries: Rick Vincenti (Pres.)
0404 496 776. *Email:*
<president@faw-liverpool.org.au>
or Rhonda Rice (Publicity)
<secretary@faw-liverpool.org.au>
Web: <www.faw-liverpool.org.au>

MACARTHUR FAW

3rd Sunday – 1.00 pm
Campbelltown RSL Club
(Jade Room), Carberry Lane.
Enquiries: Pauline Twemlow (Sec.)
Email: <macarthur@fawns.org.au>

MOOCOBOOLA FAW

3rd Thursday – 1.30 pm
Gladesville Library
Pittwater Road, Gladesville.
Enquiries: Brian Rutter 9817 5508 or
John Egan 9799 3077 / 4464 1719
Email: <jeganjr@hotmail.com>

MUDGEY VALLEY FAW

2nd Tuesday – 12 Noon
Club Mudgee, Mortimer Street.
Enquiries:
Colleen O'Sullivan 6379 6902
PO BOX 356, Mudgee 2850

NORTH ARM COVE FAW

3rd Thursday – 6.30 pm
Community Centre, The Ridgeway,
North Arm Cove.
Enquiries: Maureen Kelly 4997 3237
22 Promontory Way,
North Arm Cove NSW 2324
<thecovenews@exemail.com.au>

NORTH SHORE [FAWNS]

3rd Sunday – 1.00 pm
Wallerobba Arts & Cultural Centre,
25 Edgeworth David Ave, Hornsby.
Enquiries:
Len Hume (Pres.) 9477 3723 or
Richard Brookton (VP) 9744 1567
Email: <fawnorthshore@gmail.com>
Web: <sites.google.com/site/
fawnorthshoreregional/>

PARRAMATTA FAW

2nd Saturday – 12.30 pm
Rita Tebay room, grnd floor, Civic
Building, Civic Place, Parramatta.
Enquiries:
Esther Bartulovich 0407 076 699

PORT MACQUARIE- HASTINGS FAW

Last Saturday – 1.00 to 4.00 pm
The Mac Adams Music Centre
33 Lord Street, Port Macquarie
[behind the Players Theatre]
Enquiries: Colleen Parker (Sec.)
6583 3997 or Joie Black 6585 3520
PO Box 67 Port Macquarie NSW 2444
<parkerpattinson2@bigpond.com>

PORT STEPHENS FAW

3rd Thursday – 10.00 am
Tomaree Library, Salamander Bay
Enquiries:
Christine Gregory (Pres.) 4982 2004
Email: <gregorywrite@bigpond.com>
Web: <portstephensfaw.snappages.
com>

SHOALHAVEN FAW

2nd Saturday – 10.00 am
Meeting Room, Arts Centre
Berry St, Nowra (next to Library).
Enquiries: Barbara Simmons (Pres.)
Email: <info@fawnswoalhaven.
org.au>
Web: <www.fawnswoalhaven.
org.au>

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

3rd Saturday – 1.00 pm
The Henrietta Rose Room,
Library, Bowral.
Enquiries: Ken Challenor (Pres.)
Email: <kch34564@bigpond.net.au>
Web: <fawsh.wordpress.com>

STROUD WRITERS Fortnightly Thursdays

9.00 am to noon
Stroud Library,
Church Lane, Stroud.
Enquiries:
Dianne Foster 4994 5727
PO Box 16, Stroud NSW 2425
Email: <stroudwriters@gmail.com>

SUTHERLAND SHIRE FAW

Last Saturday – 12.30 pm
Gymea Community Hall
39 Gymea Bay Road, Gymea.
Enquiries:
Sylvia Vago (Pres) 9501 2348
PO Box 602, Sutherland 1499
Email: <sutherlandshirefaw@
gmail.com>
Web: <sutherlandshirefaw.weebly.com>

SYDNEY CITY FAW

3rd Friday – 4.00 pm
Sydney Mechanics School of Arts,
1st Floor, 280 Pitt Street.
Enquiries: John Clarke 8920 8690

WOLLONDILLY FAW

2nd Sunday – 1.00 pm
Tahmoor Community Centre,
6 Harper Close, Tahmoor.
Enquiries: Sandra Reynolds (Sec.)
4684 2142 or 0409 066 770
Email: <wollondillybranch.faw@
gmail.com>

WYONG WRITERS

4th Saturday – 1.30pm
Wyong RSL Club,
Cnr. Margaret St and Anzac Ave.
Wyong.
Enquiries:
Mei-Ling Venning (Pres.) 4333 7489
85 Oaks Road, Shelly Beach 2261
Email: <meilingvenning@
hotmail.com>
Web: <www.wyongwriters.org>

Fellowship of Australian Writers NSW Inc.



ABN 59 557 152 715

General correspondence: Hon. Secretary, FAW NSW Inc.
22 Promontory Way, NORTH ARM COVE NSW 2324

Internet: <www.fawnsw.org.au>

Facebook: <www.facebook.com/FAWNSW>

ABOUT THE FAW

The aims of the FAW are:

- to foster and endorse the growth of Australian writing
- to promote excellence in writing
- to encourage writers, and those interested in writing, to join the Fellowship and enjoy the support, help and knowledge of members
- to expand the Fellowship across the State
- to provide an organisation to assist writers unable to attend Branch meetings
- to take the Fellowship into the 21st century and take advantage of technology and its new role in writing and publishing.

Branch Meetings

The branch fellowships hold regular meetings; conduct workshops and tutorials; hold writing competitions and publish anthologies of members' work. Visitors are most welcome to attend meetings or to contact the Fellowship through their respective branch (*listed here*) or by contacting the FAW NSW State body (*as above*).

The Fellowship of Australian Writers INTERSTATE BRANCHES

Victoria:

Fellowship of Australian Writers (VIC) Inc.
6-8 Davies Street, Brunswick Vic 3056
VENUE: The Hive Creative Centre,
710 Station Street, Box Hill.
Phone: (03) 9898 8717
(Pres. Philip Rainford 0413 736 723)
Web: <www.writers.asn.au>

Tasmania:

Fellowship of Australian Writers (TAS) Inc.
PO Box 234, North Hobart TAS 7002
Phone: 03 6234 4418
Web: <www.fawtas.org.au>

Western Australia:

Fellowship of Australian Writers (WA) Inc.
PO Box 6180, Swanbourne WA 6010
Phone: 08 9384 4771
Email: <admin@fawwa.org.au>
Web: <www.fawwa.org.au>

Queensland:

Fellowship of Australian Writers (QLD) Inc.
Web: <www.fawq.net>

FAW ISOLATED WRITERS BRANCH

MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES:

Carolyn Cash, Isolated Writers Convenor
Fellowship of Australian Writers NSW
PO Box 429, Caringbah NSW 1495

MEMBERS' ACHIEVEMENTS:

The Editor, *Writers Voice*
65 Barbara Boulevard, Seven Hills NSW 2147
Email: <wveditor@fawnsw.org.au>

AFFILIATION FEES:

FAW NSW Affiliation Fees are due **31 December** each year.

Isolated Writers: \$46.00 pa
Under 21/Youth Rate: \$23.00 pa
Overseas Members: \$51.00 pa

Mail subscriptions to the FAW State Treasurer Kay Bakon (see page 2 for address). Please make cheques/money orders payable to **Fellowship Aust Writers** (*exactly as written*) and enclose SSAE for receipt if required.

ROUND ROBIN:

This consists of manuscripts submitted by members for reading and comments by other members. They are collated and at least two parcels of the manuscripts are sent to members as listed, who in turn read, comment and send them on. The last person on each list sends the parcel back, at which time the items are reviewed with comments and each manuscript returned to its author. Poems, articles, short stories, plays and chapters of books are acceptable.

Please limit your submissions to:

- 1 short story, maximum 5,000 words, or
- 2 short stories, total maximum 5,000 words, or
- 1 article of similar length, or
- 3 poems (or 1 poem, maximum about 80 lines), or
- 1 chapter of a book in progress (of reasonable length).

These guidelines are flexible. A combination of several of the above can be offered if the items are only short. Attach a blank sheet behind the manuscript for comments, remembering that five or six people need to be included. Include a self-addressed envelope of suitable size and postage value for the workshopped items to be returned.

Apart from your comments, your contribution to the scheme is no more than the postage required to send the parcel of manuscripts on to the next person on the list—a small price to pay for the value that can be derived from others' constructive remarks on your work.

Round Robin Closing Dates

- AUTUMN: 28 February • WINTER: 31 May
- SPRING: 31 August • SUMMER: 30 November

Round Robin Submissions

POSTAL:

Margot Shugg, Round Robin Convenor
91 Coachwood Cres, Bradbury NSW 2560

ELECTRONIC ROUND ROBIN (ERR):

Similar to the postal Round Robin, except that manuscripts are sent as email attachments. Contact:

Brian Armour, ERR coordinator. **Note new email address:**
Email: <isolatedwriters.err@gmail.com>

FAW Members' Bookshelf

MAVIS GRANT

One and One Make Five

Mavis Grant Gunter was born in 1930 in Canley Vale, Sydney. She has had poetry and short stories published and plays produced. This memoir is a collection of stories and anecdotes from a childhood living in a wattle and daub house on a small farm in the bush, with no water or electricity between the years of 1932-1942. The hardships encountered by ten years of drought and the depression. The small one roomed school and church. Many animals were born, loved and died. The book shows the love and devotion of the family unit and is told with compassion and humour. Available from online booksellers.

PETER J. UREN

The Classic Bike Workshop

Following on from the success of his first two novels, Peter J. Uren has continued with the story of the *old mechanic*, who quickly realises that retirement is not all it is cracked up to be. In this, his third novel, the main character returns to help out his son-in-law, while one of the mechanics' plans come to a crashing halt. In this story, the author deals with a number of difficult subjects, not the least being the death of one of the main characters in a motorcycle accident. As the creator of the character, even though he was merely a figment of the author's imagination, he had to deal with some very real emotions, like grief, when he died. It took him more than a fortnight to deal with the issues raised. Available from the author for \$17.00 plus \$5.00 postage within Australia, email <theoldmechanic1@yahoo.com.au>, or as an ebook from Amazon. Peter's two previous books are also still available, POA.

JOHAN LUIDENS

Friends and Foes

"At least you'll be far away from war-torn Europe" These are the famous last words from his mother as Kees is preparing himself to fly to the Dutch East Indies to join his first ship. Little do they know that both will be facing difficult times dealing with friends and foes. Kees will be maturing as he faces combat but not only with the Japanese. His mother will be battling with loneliness, hunger and the Germans. She even makes life difficult by hiding a young Jewish man.

Available from the author (\$30) – email <helen.johan3@bigpond.com> – or from the publisher <www.TatePublishing.com>

SHIRLEY GOODBAR

Kaleidoscope

Illustrated by Yvonne Sorensen. A selection of one hundred and ten poems on life. Written in many different forms, the poetry reflects the ordinary experiences of everyday life and offers both laughter and reflection. The poems are taken from Shirley's lifetime collection. The title "Kaleidoscope" was chosen to describe the variety of subject and form. Yvonne has practised and taught art for many years and has a Fine Arts Degree and a Grad. Dip. Ed at Charles Darwin University where she tutored in the School of Art. The book is available from the *mybook* self-publisher's website <shirleygoodbar.mybook.net.au>. Or, for autographed copies, email <sgoodbar@theorchards.com.au>. \$25 plus p&h.

EUROBODALLA FAW

Flights of fancy

This is the group's latest anthology, which contains 49 stories and poems by 21 Eurobodalla authors. Available as ebook from Amazon et al, and hard cover from <rosietoth102@gmail.com>. ISBN 9781310529771.

CLARE BELL

My Australia

My Australia is a nostalgic collection of short stories, poems and photographs with an Australian theme and focuses on the old days of the Wollondilly Shire, where author Clare Bell was brought up on a farm from the age of seven. One fictional piece tells of the trials and small joys that people experienced during The Great Depression. Another is about life in a railway camp in the 1950s. Black and white snapshots show life during World War II and beyond with petrol and food rationing. This book is about the Australia Clare knew when she was young. \$12 plus \$2 postage. Available from the author <clare.a.bell.1930@gmail.com>

MARGOT SHUGG

Chuck the Train Dog

Margot's third collection of short stories follows up on her previous books with eight more stories telling tales of ordinary characters in intriguing situations. There's Chuck, a stray dog that adopts a rural family; a strange tale of a meeting with an old friend; a Pools winner's growing circle of friends; romance through the eyes of a teen; an unlikely marine encounter; a neighbour's dogs raises some questions; street racing; and a disappearing husband. Cost: \$15 + \$2 postage. Contact the author (02) 4626 2424 or email <margotshugg@aapt.net.au>.

RECENTLY PUBLISHED BOOKS FOR SALE

Please send updates and details for inclusion – or deletion – in this section of *Writers Voice* to:

<wveditor@fawns.org.au>

or mail to: The Editor, *Writers' Voice*,

65 Barbara Boulevard, Seven Hills NSW 2147

For the FAW NSW *website*, members should also send a cover image and blurb to the webmaster:

<webmaster@faw.nsw.org.au>

The FAW Bookshelf web page address is:

<http://fawns.org.au/bookshelf/>

MIKE ROBINSON & TONY MAYNARD

Absorbing Yarns

This book contains a collection of over 90 Short Stories and Poems for Adults on a multitude of topics. These are easy, readable items for quiet moments, with topics such as:

• How do you handle a mouse plague in inclement weather? • Why did a Wallaby get a French polish? • What surprised the chicken? • How do you control a camel and fix a telephone fault? • Who was Terry, the Giant? • What's the secret of Number Nine? • What's the truth about the Tooth Fairy?

Available from the authors at Eurobodalla FAW, or at local festivals.

220 pages, RRP \$20.00. All profits (50% of RRP) from sales of the book are donated to Cancer Research.

ANTOINETTE CONOLLY

Alien Wizardry

A fantasy novel for Primary School readers, this book is the sequel to the *Cauchemar Trilogy*. Zachary travels again to the magical world of Cauchemar at the request of his friend Mactavish, who is now a wizard. The boy has made three previous journeys there but on the last occasion the ginger cat did not return with him to Earth. Cauchemar is threatened with extinction if an ancient prophecy is not satisfied. Alien assistance is required to complete the task and many difficulties have to be overcome. Zachary and his new companion, Taffy, have many friends who help: Magenta the witch, Bijou the dragon and Ulysses the unicorn (to name a few). Can they succeed in defeating the black magic of Malfactorius and save Cauchemar? 195 pages, appeals equally to girls and boys, requiring only that the reader has an active imagination. Available from the author for \$25 incl. p&p. <a.conolly@optusnet.com.au> or phone 02 9545 4553. See website <antoinetteconolly.weebly.com>.

JEREMY GADD

Under Centauri

Contains fifteen short stories about life in contemporary rural Australia. The stories are about local people encountered during extensive overland travel through remote regions. They include a story about a Greek migrant with a speech impediment who found acceptance in Darwin during the devastation of Cyclone Tracey; how a fishing boat crew encouraged a crocodile to follow their vessel in order to get rid of the refuse thrown overboard—and the consequence; how a dead child saved his mother during a major flood. They are humorous or poignant, universal in their themes, socially aware and have emotional impact. \$17 plus postage. Available from the publisher Anaphora Literary Press, USA, email <director@anaphoraliterary.com>.

FAW NSW

Unlock the Writer Within

Unlock the Writer Within is a resource guide book developed by the Fellowship of Australian Writers NSW Inc, members, who share their successful writing techniques. This guide book is suitable for amateur and professional writers and covers over 100 genres. Short story, crime and romance as well as poetry, articles, memoir and family history. Ebook help and guidance, editing, punctuation and grammar explanations and exercises through to the publishing minefield which includes literary agents, query letter sample, copyright, ISBN and CiP and barcode requirements. It helps the writer deal with rejection and turn that negative into a positive. Over 400 pages for just \$30 plus postage \$12. Order from the FAW Hon. Sec. Maureen Kelly, 22 Promontory Way, North Arm Cove 2324 <honsecretary@fawns.org.au>.



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