

# Writers Voice



Summer Edition #254 DEC 2016

QUARTERLY BULLETIN OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS NSW INC.

## Short Story

### Wake me when it's over.

Stafford Ray  
Eurobodalla Branch

I guess it was obvious to some from the day I started school, but I did what I wanted, despite attempts from teachers to make me stay in the boys' playground. If anyone had asked me then, I would have said I didn't like the noise they make, the yelling, the mob-shrillness of their voices.

Mobs have always frightened me. Watching movies, I cringe at the manifestation of mindlessness in mobs, but that's nothing compared with real-life mobs. They seem to lose any sensible balance, morphing into a crazed animal that attacks, destroys and kills.

I have never seen a mob kill anyone in real life, but I have seen smashed windows, cans thrown over fences, at cars, off bridges, all human niceties abandoned to hysteria.

And I know that if I was in any way connected to a mob, it would be as a victim. I would be the one crushed against the rail, trampled underfoot, bashed with a fence paling, or maimed by bottles, broken to become face-tearing implements of sadism.

So I would rather keep away.

But as I became older, graduating to an all-male high school, I was forced to inhabit the same playground where moving away from that sound became impossible. And then there was Rugby.

My school offered only one winter sport. No alternative was offered for those not able to display that carelessness of body that puts fear of injury aside, risking everything to carry a ball a few metres up a paddock. And what was even sillier, in the second half, the dopey buggers fought even harder to carry the same ball the other way!

There is a laugh and I look around. But he is sitting as before, chin in hand, eyes closed.

I was strong, as farm kids are, and I was skinny, as some kids seem to stay,

far into their teens, and I was acutely aware of where my limbs were and how easily damaged they could be. They had been with thorns, bitten by dogs, stung by bees, tossed by cows and strapped by an angry man. But those pains were unavoidable in my world. This was not.

Most Friday afternoons, I ended up on the sideline with a bleeding nose from a collapsed scrum, nostrils plugged with cotton wool, ears burning with shame and those sarcastic instructions boring in; "Keep your head down, pansy. Down between your knees."

But every Friday, I lined up for my house team, a second row forward and tried to understand why I was required to risk my neck to get a bubble of pig skin to the other end of a long field of screaming, sweating, manic and clearly deranged youths, every one heavier, faster and for some reason, convinced that crunching my ribs or grinding my face into the dirt was not only what was required, but was fun.

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*Wishing all of our  
members and readers  
a Merry Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year*



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## WRITERS VOICE ISSN 0817-0746

The official Bulletin of the Fellowship of Australian Writers NSW Inc is published quarterly. Opinions expressed are those of the individual authors and not necessarily those of the FAW or the editor. The editor reserves the right to edit or delete submissions for length, content, or policy. All advertisements and items are accepted in good faith but the FAW NSW Inc cannot accept responsibility for misrepresentation by advertisers nor does inclusion of any item imply endorsement by FAW NSW Inc.

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## QUARTERLY COPY DEADLINES:

15 FEBRUARY, 15 MAY, 15 AUGUST, 15 NOVEMBER

## FAW NSW Inc. State Council: Biannual Delegates Meetings

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

Next meeting is the Annual General Meeting, Saturday 6 MAY 2017 at 10am at Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney.

## 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 Australian 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'.

## PAYMENTS VIA ONLINE BANKING:

BSB: 082-936 Account: 172389833 Account name: Fellowship of Australian Writers. Please include your name as identification for payment.

## Writing Fellows

FAW Writing Fellows are listed at <[fawnsww.org.au/membership/writing-fellows](http://fawnsww.org.au/membership/writing-fellows)>, the broad criteria being that the applicant should have had a substantial body of work published, and should normally have been an FAW member for least two years. Applications should be accompanied by:

1. \$50 cheque payable to Fellowship of Australian Writers to cover administration/ cost of certificate, excess funds to further aims of FAW.
2. Indicate the applicant's present branch and years of FAW membership,
3. Attach a list of published, performed or broadcast works with dates and details of publication. Also list any literary prizes awarded, although such work may be unpublished. Unpaid contributions to newspapers etc and self-published works (unless widely sold and acclaimed) should not be included.

Forward application to Writing Fellow Registrar, c/- FAW Hon Sec, 22 Promontory Way, North Arm Cove NSW 2324. A committee of the State Council adjudicates the application. If not successful cheque will be returned, possibly recommending to re-submit with a greater body of work.

## 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: successful candidates will be presented with certificates acknowledging their outstanding service at the Annual Awards Luncheon and in addition, a permanent Honour Roll in *Writers' Voice* lists the names of recipients, as well as on the website <[fawnsww.org.au/about-us/distinguished-service-awards/](http://fawnsww.org.au/about-us/distinguished-service-awards/)>. Guidelines for assessing recommendations for Distinguished Service Awards:

1. Recommendations must be as a result of a unanimous decision of a current Branch Committee.
2. Qualifications to include the following features:
  - (a) Length of service as a current financial member to be at least ten (10) years.
  - (b) Required to have a regular attendance record at Branch Meetings.
  - (c) 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.
3. 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.
4. 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 contact the FAW Secretary Maureen Kelly <[honsecretary@fawnsww.org.au](mailto:honsecretary@fawnsww.org.au)>.

## 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

HELLO to Members. As the year comes to a close I want to say thank you to all Branch members and to my terrific Committee who have all worked so hard over the year in their voluntary positions.

I really do appreciate the efforts they have put in to keep our illustrious Fellowship on the road.

Colleen, Maureen, Kay, Cate, Carolyn, Stefania, Vince, Ken, Wayne, Derek, Johan, and to our Patrons: Thank you all.

## Annual Awards Luncheon

Our annual Awards lunch was once again terrific and everyone enjoyed the address by Susannah Fullerton. What a lovely speaker she is and leads such an interesting life.

Extra thanks to Kay for her involvement in the Luncheon.

Welcome to Dr Rae Luckie as a member of the Trust Board. Dr Luckie replaces the late Alan Russell who recently passed away.

It was sad to hear of Alan's passing away after a long illness and keeping much of it to himself. It was also sad to hear of the death of Helen Luidens. Helen was my Vice President at one time and held various positions on the Committee as well as being active doing workshops at various city and country Branches. Helen and Alan were always dedicated to their tasks and we thank them.

Congratulations to all the winners of our Literary Competitions. It was great to have Richard Yaxley and his wife Carol fly down from Brisbane; Richard was the winner of the Walter Stone Life Writing Award.

It was also nice to meet Penny Lane from Nelson Bay, winner of the Jean Stone Poetry Award.

Congratulations to this year's Hilarie Lindsay Award winners: Isabella Vacaflores from North Sydney Girls High, Tessa Yu from Hobart, Arhan Basra from Victoria and Ava Rylance also from Hobart.

It was also nice to have the presence of FAW Patron Emeritus Professor Elizabeth Webby, MA and PhD of Australian Literature

at Sydney University, as well as Dr Hilarie Lindsay, MBE, OAM, PhD (Syd) at our official table.

I would like to say congratulations also to Linda Visman from Lake Macquarie on her Distinguished Service Award. Linda has been an active member of her branch for many years and has a blog as well as publications to her name. She has been the branch Newsletter Editor for some years to 2014, as well as the role of Secretary, Vice-President and President. A real all-rounder!

As usual the buffet lunch was so tasty and delicious so I send a big thank you to the staff at 99 on YORK for their good work, especially to Danielle.

It was good to see various branch members at the Luncheon all getting to know each other... from Port Macquarie, Macarthur, Bankstown, Shoalhaven, Central Coast, North Shore, Sydney City, Port Stephens and Eurobodalla (thank you Rosie Toth for coming such a long way).

I do wish however that more Members would come along and join in this once a year get together; it's the one time everyone can meet up with people they only ever read about in *Writers Voice*. Once a year!! Make it a date for the next one.

## Guest Author

Anny Mancy was a recent radio guest of mine and I had the chance to read her two books... Book 1, *In loving memory of my Sanity (that's if I had any to begin with)* and Book 2, *Blame it on the spiritual world*. In this issue I review her first book, about her battles over depression written in Prose and Poetry [see p15].

A huge thank you to Webmaster Wayne Jarman for his excellent work with our website... sorry to lose you Wayne but family and health first. Good work, well done. Ken Driver has now taken over that role.

I wish everyone a happy Christmas, happy holiday and Bright New Year.

**Trevar Langlands**  
State President

## ATTENTION ALL BRANCHES:



## A message from your Treasurer

HELLO again to all members. It is almost 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 finances, please include a return self-addressed envelope for the receipts.

### To pay via Online Banking:

BSB: 082-936 Account: 172389833  
Account name: Fellowship of Australian Writers. Please include your name as identification for payment.

All those who pay before 1st January, automatically go into our 'Early Bird' draw for \$50. Any who do not renew by 26 February 2017, will no longer receive their copy of *Writers Voice*.

### To all Branch Treasurers:

In January 2017, please send me the details of payments given to tutors and/or speakers engaged between January and December 2016. 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

# FAW Branch Reports

## BLUE MOUNTAINS FAW

**M**EMBER Pat Allen is recovering from surgery and has been missed from our meetings. We hope to welcome her back soon.

In August we devoted our entire meeting to a workshop conducted by memoirist and FAW NSW Patron, Patti Miller MA. Several of our members are writing life stories and memoirs so her expertise was very helpful and enjoyable. We were able to purchase some of Patti's books; *Writing Your Life* is a primer for her writing workshops.

In recent meetings we have been focusing on writing poetry with myself leading the mini-workshops.

**Kerry Healey-Binns, President**



*Patti Miller (left) and Kate Santleben at the Blue Mountains branch meeting. Photo: Rosemary Baldry.*

## EASTWOOD/HILLS FAW

We begin our branch report today with the sad news of the illness and passing of our long time treasurer and friend Alan Russell which has rocked our little group, both in its swiftness and its impact. One of Alan's first friends at the FAW Denise Aldridge has written a tribute to him which can be found on page 18. We will all miss Alan's smile and his quiet, reassuring presence in our monthly meetings.

In our monthly meetings this quarter we have once again explored a variety of topics. It never ceases to amaze me how many different styles and genres we writers can write in and how willingly our Eastwood/Hills members research, learn and teach them to each other. We are indeed a very lucky crew. While there was no workshop in September due to holding our AGM our group did split into smaller critique groups to work on poetry, adult prose and children's writing. This proved to be a lively and productive session both for those of us who brought pieces to critique and those who provided valuable feedback.

In October, Laura Davis presented 'Oh What A Feeling!' In this workshop on engaging readers emotionally, we attempted to make our stories emotionally satisfying. This was either vicariously i.e. evoking

reader's empathy with characters or viscerally i.e. evoking the reader's own emotions as they read. Stephen King is of course one of the masters of this second type of writing. While writing, our aim was to include both voluntary and involuntary responses of our characters to various situations.

November saw Frances Moon lead us in a fascinating journey of discovery into the lives of the ancestors of our members and the stories behind these in her workshop Family History Meets Memoir. We explored old artefacts and heirlooms and even discovered some family secrets and wondered about possible skeletons in various family cupboards, sometimes having fun making up the unknown story elements in the memoir part of the workshop. Frances noted the importance of Family History needing to be accurate, while memoir could be embellished somewhat for the sake of a good story.

At our AGM in September we were very pleased to welcome several new committee members as some of our long-standing members stood down to undertake other commitments. A huge thank you to our leaving committee members for all your efforts, work and commitment to our group. Welcome and thank you to our new committee: President Elizabeth Collins, Acting First Vice

President Frances Moon, Second Vice President Anne Howard, Secretary Sally Lewry, Treasurer Karen Lieversz, Publicity Officer Artelle Lenthall. We are now looking forward to our Christmas Party in lieu of a December meeting and an exciting year of guest speakers and E/H FAW member-run workshops ahead.

**Artelle Lenthall**

## EUROBODALLA FAW

Writing is supposed to be about letters on a page, but sometimes it's about numbers. The number of words needed for a story or an article. The number of days to make the deadline. The number of writing accomplishments.

As 2016 gears down and the bells toll for 2017, the Eurobodalla Writers will be able to look back on their achievements with happiness and pride. Cat Sheely and Marisol Dunham, committee members of the Canberra based speculative fiction convention *Conflux*, helped orchestrate an event that gets bigger and better each year. Anke Ziergiebel and Debbie Richardson were successful in their pitching sessions to Harper Collins at *Conflux 2016* and Cat Sheely successfully pitched to literary agent Alex Adsett. Suzanne Newnham will publish an article based on her family history

in the *BORAL News*, and she's being interviewed for a Masters in Investigative Journalism thesis based on her psychic reading ethics. She also writes a monthly health column on chronic pain in an international e-magazine.

Five of our writers—Cassandra Webb, Debbie Richardson, Stafford Ray, Rhonda Casey and Rosie Toth—held court at the Batemans Bay Writers Festival in September to a room of local and visiting readers. Stafford Ray toured libraries up and down the coast with his novels in tow and the conviction of Charles Dickens. The Moruya Library co-hosted two literary salons, in the fashion of an Oscar Wilde soiree complete with champagne and hors d'oeuvres, where our authors read from their published and unpublished works to a full capacity turnout of local literary lovers. We even had a successful fiction author from New York in the audience! We're definitely doing it again in 2017. The members of the night group wrote, edited, designed, and published a speculative fiction short story, 'Alien Zoo'.

Words churned, pages turned. Poets delighted, authors ignited. Literature ruled, authors schooled. Writers met, deadlines set. 2016 was a great year. And it won't be the last of its kind.

For more information see [eurobodallawriters.org](http://eurobodallawriters.org).

**Debbie Richardson**

## FOREST FAW

2016 has been a busy year for many of our members. Some have first manuscripts ready to go while others have had their works successfully published.

Christiana Star is well ahead on her journey with writing a self-help book aimed at rebuilding your life after a tragic experience and hopes to have her first draft completed by Christmas.

Emma Gaulton has completed the final draft of her novel about a relative in WWI and has had it critiqued by her book club.

Pam Bayfield has sent her manuscript to the editor, the third

book in her trilogy, *For the Love Of Grace—The Next Generation*. Pam plans to have it published in 2017.

In September our group enjoyed a 'Mountain Get-Away' at the Carrington Hotel in Katoomba. There were lots of laughs, Devonshire Teas and some time put aside for writing.

At our October meeting, we were fortunate to have Juliet Jordan from 'The Voice Business' present to us on how to improve our speaking skills. I would like to quote a testimonial about Juliet's presentation written by our president, Maureen Fries: "As writers we need to communicate clearly and with confidence to various audiences. Juliet explained the importance of correct breathing by an assortment of whacky and memorable exercises we all enjoyed but more importantly armed with this knowledge will be able to practice and improve our individual styles. This was not only a valuable experience for the group but a most entertaining one as well."

At our November meeting, Pam Bayfield talked about her writing journey. Pam has published eleven books to date and will be publishing number twelve in 2017. Her talk was inspirational and made us realise how fortunate we are as writers to have her in our group not only as a mentor but as a friend.

On behalf of the Forest FAW members I would like to wish fellow FAW members a joyful, safe and healthy festive season. May 2017 be another productive year of writing.

**Mary Ann Napper**

## HUNTER FAW

Hunter FAW has continued its inspirational workshops these past three months.

In September we invited Australian micro-fiction competition winner Karen Whitelaw to share her experiences of the 'writing life' with us. She has had to juggle the responsibilities of managing a family and children along with her studies and writing career. As far as writing, she does not follow a rigorous routine, but has adopted a philosophy of 'wearing loose pyjamas',

meaning that she writes any time she has a free moment or is in the mood. She wrote her first novel as part of her Master's thesis and has since produced short-stories, memoirs and micro-fiction which she particularly enjoys. She shared her knowledge of the publication industry and editors, giving us helpful advice on submitting manuscripts, setting out etc. Her workshop was spirited and interesting.

In October, one of our members, experimental poet Leonie Wellard presented on the topic 'Archetypes in Literary Criticism', introducing us to the concept of universal archetypes which according to Jung, make up the human psyche. We examined our reading experiences to identify possible archetypes we had encountered and experimented on how we could involve this concept in our writing.

In November, I led a discussion on modern and post-modern poetry, identifying some concepts and techniques which sign-post the ideas of post-modernism in literature. We then read the poem 'Glasshouse' (written in 2010) by the poet John Watson, who is the winner of this year's Newcastle Poetry Prize, and examined how this poem was an example of a post-modern approach to writing.

Hunter FAW now has its own Facebook page and all FAW members are invited to contact us and check out our doings and opinions.

New members are welcome and we meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 10am at the Junction Hotel in Hamilton.

**Luciana Croci**

## ISOLATED WRITERS BRANCH

Once again, we thank Brian Armour for all his hard work and wish him all the best with moving house.

As a result, the Electronic Round Robin will be on hold until January as it is also the Festive Season, with parties, last-minute Christmas shopping and holidays with family or friends.

*cont. next page...*

# FAW Branch Reports

## Isolated Writers

*cont. from previous page*

After January, we are opening up the Electronic Round Robin to other branches so we welcome contributions from anyone wishing to join in.

The Electronic Round Robin runs every month, and it is a fantastic way to receive some feedback on poems, short stories or even chapters of your novel.

If you wish to participate, please contact Brian early in the New Year with your submissions. Email Brian at <[isolatedwriters.err@gmail.com](mailto:isolatedwriters.err@gmail.com)>.

There have been a couple of enquiries about joining the Isolated Writers as well as your local branch. This was discussed at the recent State Council Meeting on Saturday, 5 November, so this is possible.

Those wishing to become 'dual members' are more than welcome. Just pay your membership fees plus the difference to your Branch Treasurer.

Have you heard of NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month)? It's a movement in which writers, whether hobbyists or professionals, aim to write 50,000 words in a month. It runs every year in November, so it will have concluded by the time this issue is delivered, but you might want to look out for it next year. If you're having trouble writing your novel, maybe this will help with any New Year's Resolutions to write or finish one? Visit <[nanowrimo.org](http://nanowrimo.org)> for more details.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and successful New Year.

**Carolyn Cash**

## LAKE MACQUARIE FAW

At our August meeting member Cate Plink led us through 'Submission slip ups and how to avoid them'. Cate, who also serves on the FAW NSW State Council and is its Competition Convenor, provided a clear and organised perspective on entering writing competitions. Several members went on to enter the Walter Stone Competition as a result of the

added knowledge and confidence they gained.

Many of us hope to eventually see our novels, memoirs or other writings as published works. The landscape of publishing has changed significantly in recent years. Writers might hope to produce traditionally published books, print-on-demand books, and/or e-books. At our group's September meeting member Jan Mitchell talked about the background and process of e-publishing. Jan has successfully negotiated the tricky world of e-publishing on several occasions. Her session was packed with information and members finished up with an exercise on blurb writing. Very useful!

Member and past President Linda Visman presented a session on the art of blogging at our October meeting. We looked at the why, when, what and how of blogging. Several members were encouraged to begin (or perhaps reinvigorate) their own blogs as a result of Linda's inspiring session. For several years Linda has produced *Wangiwriter's Blog* at <[wangiwriter.wordpress.com](http://wangiwriter.wordpress.com)>.

It was very exciting for our group to learn that Linda Visman had been honoured with a Distinguished Service Award following recommendation by the Executive Committee. Linda attended the FAW NSW annual luncheon where State Secretary Maureen Kelly presented the award. Having joined the Lake Macquarie Branch of FAW in 2006, Linda has held various positions on its Committee including Secretary, Vice President, President, and editor of the group's in-house newsletter *MacMuse*. Linda has also successfully published two books. Her first, *Now and then: my Thompson/Atkinson antecedents*, originally appeared in 2002 and was based on her family history. Her second book, *Ben's challenge*, was published in 2012. Linda's prize-winning poems, short stories and novellas have been published widely. In 2010 Linda began writing her *Wangiwriter's Blog*. Linda generously shares her writing knowledge with others and her active involvement in the group's activities

contributes greatly to its richness. Well done, Linda!

Another significant event for our Lake Macquarie group was the running of its biennial Alice Sinclair Memorial Writing Competition. This competition was first held in 2003 in honour of past President, Alice Sinclair. Although the competition was initially an in-house affair its coverage has widened, with a record number of entries being received this year. The results of the Alice Sinclair Competition were announced at our November meeting by our President Alison Ferguson [*see Competition Results p28*]. Congratulations all prize winners!

Also at this meeting members Christy Lutz and Margaret Leggatt led us through some aspects of writing for competition entry. Writing to picture and theme prompts was discussed, as well as the idea of drawing inspiration from a killer opening line. Our attention was drawn to the importance of brevity and focus, especially as many writing competitions are for 'flash fiction' with very limited word counts. This session was particularly timely and inspiring as there are some good local opportunities for competitions over the summer.

**Pam Garfoot**

## LIVERPOOL FAW

The end (almost) of another year and we will be looking forward to 2017 filled with writing opportunities. Our 'in house workshops' generously delivered by Toulia, Rick, Lydia and Peter have been much appreciated. They have encouraged us to sharpen our quills as well as our writing skills. It takes time and preparation to host these afternoons and we all appreciate the effort. We have actually added another half hour to our regular meetings. We now begin at 12.45 and close at 4.15. This gives us extra time to complete our workshops.

Another segment has been added to our meetings. It is a review by one member each month of a favourite book with a brief comment. This is to encourage us to look outside our

usual comfort zone and perhaps inspire us to undertake further writing.

After last year's mammoth undertaking with the anthology, we are looking forward to further achievements in the publishing area. We are discussing the idea of extra meetings in this regard. They would enable us to potentially become a 'Self Publishing' group. It would entail learning every aspect of putting a book together. A huge effort, but well worth it in the long run.

We are in the process of upgrading our website, so for the time being it is disabled. We hope to have the new one up and running in the New Year.

We take this opportunity to thank all our FAW fellow writers and the fellowships that have supported us so well over the years. We also appreciate and thank everyone at FAW who put in so much time and effort to keep our State Fellowship running so well.

A huge thank you, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year to all our fellow members.

**Rhonda Rice**

## MACARTHUR FAW

It will soon be time for our Christmas party. Many thanks to Pauline Twemlow for making the arrangements. We are looking forwards to a relaxing afternoon of Christmas fare, trivia and friendly conversation, spiced with a few seasonal readings. Also at the party, the winner of our current in-house competition, on the theme of 'Sugar

and Spice', will be announced. Held bi-monthly, the competition continues to attract a reasonable number of entries, with some members saying it is one of their main sources of inspiration.

A new novel from Barry Flanagan—his fifth! *In Search of Freedom* follows the journey of refugees fleeing their countries in Eastern Europe at the end of World War Two, not knowing where they are going, not knowing where they will end up. As one of our members commented, Barry—a very entertaining and polished writer—has just about earned the title 'prolific'. (For a sneak preview, visit the author's website at <[www.BarryFlanaganBooks.com](http://www.BarryFlanaganBooks.com)> and click on the direct links to Amazon and Smashwords.)

Bob Bee, who has been hard at work compiling trivia questions, has had copies printed of his latest children's book, *Moon Charlie* of which I am sure we shall hear more. Bob also has two plays entered in the Wingz Play-Writing Competition.

Another one of our very active members is Cathy Hobson who frequently contributes articles to *Airnews*, a magazine for women pilots. Her professionally written accounts are full of interesting biographical and historical detail; often gleaned from live interviews. They have given us a new appreciation for the contribution of women to Australian aviation, both here and overseas. Only for writers like Cathy, some of these remarkable lives would remain hidden.

We were saddened to hear from State President, Trevar Langlands, about the passing of two important and long-serving members of the Fellowship of Australian Writers, Alan Russell and Helen Luidens, who did so much work on our behalf. We extend our deepest sympathies to their families.

Finally, I must say a word of thanks to the enthusiastic committee members who have kept our branch running smoothly throughout the year: President Margot Shugg; Vice-President Victoria Chie; Treasurer Rodney Hunter; and Secretary Pauline Twemlow.

A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

**Bernard Smith**

## MUDGE VALLEY FAW

Mudgee Valley Writers enjoyed an unusual full day workshop in October with Heather Rushton M Ed, BA and Sam Paine BA Creative Arts solving the mysteries of *Making Photo Books*.

Heather explained the technical aspects of making these beautiful books and showed many examples of what can be achieved, dispelling the myth that picture books are only for children.

Sam demonstrated techniques for creating artistic elements into the books, teaching us effective ways to illustrate with paintings and drawings and advice on making the best use of colour.

Our members and visitors from the community who joined us for

*cont. next page...*



Guests Heather Rushton (left) and Sam Paine conduct a Photo Books workshop session for Mudgee Valley Writers.

# FAW Branch Reports

## Mudgee Valley

*cont. from previous page*

the workshop then tried their own skills with Heather and Sam advising and guiding the efforts. Popular themes worked on were Family History, Gardens, Children's Stories, Memorabilia and Travel Stories.

Everyone left feeling inspired and enthused to work on the books and it is going to be an exciting day when we have them ready to show off at a meeting later in the year, hopefully before Christmas.

**Jill Baggett**

## NORTH ARM COVE FAW

Members have enjoyed a busy few months leading up to the end of the 2016 writing year.

In August Garry Boyd's assignment was humour! Members were asked to write no more than 300 humorous words or 32 fun lines of poetry, main criteria: it must be funny! This work became the writer's entry for the group's 2016 'Golden Smartie' award inaugurated by Garry in 2014.

The hilarious entries were read out at the September meeting which was also attended by FAW State vice president/Port Macquarie FAW president Colleen Parker and fellow-Port Macquarie member, Beth Anderson.

A secret ballot was held to select the eventual winner of the award: Bob Bush, who was presented with the perpetual trophy by Garry Boyd. He also received a replica and, of course, boxes of Smarties were also handed out.

Members then continued their evening of writing with a workshop given by Colleen wearing her 'author/publisher' hat.

Colleen's workshop gave members information about work assessment, copyedit, structural edit, peer-editors always commending, recommending and lastly, commending.

A story was assessed with Colleen asking what made it a good story? What aspects may not have made the story good? The workshop concluded with a short tutorial on travel writing, after which Colleen was presented with a 'thank you' gift from members.

In October Jan Furness asked members to write about 'invisibility', using H G Well's *The Invisible Man* as inspiration either by creating their own scenario for him or creating an entirely new story regarding invisibility. This assignment produced some extremely imaginative writing.

Social events to end the year included a visit to Port Stephens Writers and the branch end-of-year gathering at North Arm Cove.

North Arm Cove members sincerely thank Ken Driver editor of the *Writers Voice* for his great work during 2016, retiring webmaster/North Arm Cove member Wayne Jarman, for his terrific work during his term of office and send Seasons Greetings to the entire FAW membership for a safe and happy Christmas and 2017.

**Maureen Kelly OAM**



**Bob Bush (left), winner of North Arm Cove FAW's Smartie Award, with Garry Boyd.**



**Colleen Parker concludes her workshop at North Arm Cove branch.**

## NORTH SHORE BRANCH [FAWNS]

Entry for the FAWNS Literary Awards closed on 30th September, 2016. The prize winners and award winners in the Mini Memoir Competition and the Poetry Theme Competition can be found in the Competition Results section of this *Writers Voice*, as well as on the FAWNS website <[sites.google.com/site/fawnorthshoreregional](http://sites.google.com/site/fawnorthshoreregional)>

On our website you can also read the Judges' reports, 1st and 2nd prize winning memoirs, and the 1st prize winning poem.

The FAWNS branch Christmas get-together was held at the Blue Gum Hotel, Waitara, on Wednesday 26th October. Perhaps we have the honour of having the earliest Christmas function in FAW!

**Richard Brookton**

## PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS

We celebrated our 38th Branch Anniversary at our August 2016 meeting with two long standing branch life members who cut the cake: Gwen Rees-Hopton proudly wears the title of being there for our very first meeting 38 years ago and Connie Jones who joined us in 1987.

Our guest presenter in August was our then FAW webmaster Wayne Jarman accompanied by State Hon. Secretary, Maureen Kelly. Wayne suggested we check out the resources on the FAW's new webpage and showed us in some detail how user friendly the site is and how even though we might think we may, 'we cannot break it.'

Guest speaker at our September meeting, Carrolanne Rhodes spoke on 'The Writing Life'. She reminded us about the importance of attending a writing group to achieve excellence in our writing and one of the ways we can do this is to learn how to edit, by practising it in our own writing.

We had a stand at the Seniors Expo at Laurieton to let the community know what happens at a writing group. I met so many lovely people who either told me they were interested in writing or they laughed



it off saying it wasn't for them. Sadly, some told me they didn't have the teaching for such things. I also met an inspirational man who was diagnosed with young onset dementia at the age of 54, who writes poetry and songs to keep his mind active. He is now 62.

We had a very interesting meeting in October where we read our stories and discussed things long gone and past, like Cracker Night.

Since this is the last report for this year I would like to wish all a Merry Christmas as well as a safe and prosperous new year with novel inspirational writing ideas in 2017.

*Debbie Bayliss*

## SHOALHAVEN FAW

We had six workshops this year: an interesting one from Juan Alvarez, who taught the crime writers a few tips about the forensic sciences; Geoffrey Grocott, who talked about his self-publishing experiences. Elaine Chin gave two workshops; her first on Poetry and her most recent on writing the introduction to a story, which was well received with members having the opportunity to critique each other's work. Guest speaker, Sue Finlayson, showed us some artistically designed book covers and spoke of the importance of the first impression. We were also lucky enough to have John Hockney run an inspiring 'Your Life, Your Story' workshop.

Our successful SLA this year was on Poetry and the judge was the very capable Sydney poet Brooke Emery. We had about 170 entries from all over Australia and one of the prize winners, Rod Milliken, has joined our group.

Juan Alvarez worked in the community with local schools in poetry and prose competitions. Jennie Linnane was amongst others who won awards in various competitions. Geoffrey Grocott worked to get his novel on to Amazon. Barbara Simmons took over the Treasurer position for a couple of months while Eve was away, and also ran our website busily all year. Berry Carter worked throughout the year

on our in-house magazine *Write On* while Liz Carter was secretary.

One of the most quietly hard working who deserves thanks is Chere le Page, always ready to fill in when needed, doing the publicity work this year and keeping our column in *Writers Voice* filled.

Office-bearers for 2017 are: President Jenny Dickerson, Vice Pres. Bonnie Kennedy, Treasurer Eve Warren, Secretary Geoffrey Grocott.

During the year a number of our members have been through difficult times with family members being sick, or suffering illness themselves. We reach out to them and wish them a better year in 2017.

*Jenny Dickerson, President*

## SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS FAW

On Friday September 30 we launched the Grand Opening of the Margaret Cech short story and poetry competition in Bowral Public Library with champagne and snacks. May we thank the Bowral Library and staff for their generous co-operation and interest. The launch was hosted by Ken Challenor, was well attended and the eats were delicious. This year's Competition is open only to residents of Wingecarribee Shire, there is no limitation on subject matter and you do not need to be a Member of FAWSH although we would love it if you joined us. In the future we intend to expand it to a National Competition, and will specialize in Science Fiction writing, both poetry and short story. The Competition is open to Juniors, Students and Adults. Details can be found on our website <[www.fawsh.wordpress.com](http://www.fawsh.wordpress.com)>

We have already received some submissions for our new Anthology *FIGMENTS* which will be published 2017. This is strictly limited to our Membership so if you would like to get published, come and join us! Membership is at a discounted rate until June 30th, so why not take advantage?

The branch Christmas party takes place on 17 December, 1pm in the Henrietta Rose Room at Bowral Library so put it in the diary, bring a plate and a friend. We look forward

to welcoming all our Members on the day, and new Members too!

Several of our people are currently recovering from major surgery. These include Brian Haydon, Greg Tome and myself and all are wished a speedy recovery. Our long-standing and cherished members Margaret Symonds and Ron Jones continue on the sick list and our thoughts are always with you.

*STOP PRESS!* Greg Tome has just informed me that a book of his poetry is to be published early 2017 by Ginnindarra Press. Congratulations, Greg. Interested buyers can follow progress on the Ginnindarra Press web site.

*Dr Barb Angell, Secretary*

## STROUD FAW

Stroud Writers have had a busy few months with our fortnightly meetings well attended, giving rise to plenty of entertaining members' stories and poems which were read out and enjoyed by everyone present. Some of these will no doubt be suitable for inclusion in our second Anthology. This is in the throes of production and is keeping our diverse group of members all busily putting pen to paper and fingers to keyboard as we tap into our wealth of experience and creativity.

Earlier this year Elizabeth Bradhurst suggested that Stroud Writers approach three small local schools with a view to their participation in a writing competition. This suggestion was welcomed by us all. The project which took place over the past two months encompassed children from Kindergarten to Year 6 and we were delighted with the variety of works submitted. The children's writing underwent a 'blind' judging process locally before a short-list went before our guest judge, a retired primary school principal, who has just finished writing his own historical novel. We have decided to publish an Anthology showcasing the young writers of the Stroud district and featuring the competition entries, additional writings and artwork from

*cont. next page...*

# FAW Branch Reports

## Stroud

*cont. from previous page*

the three schools. As part of our preparation for this, many of the primary students took part in an editing conference with a member of Stroud Writers.

Peter Uren, our prolific author, has just completed another self-published book, his fourth in four years. Continuing in *The Old Mechanic* series, this novel departs from his previous three stories by concentrating more on the characters, rather than the classic motorcycles. Mr David Harris, MP, Member for Wyong and NSW State Shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs made the trip up the Pacific Highway to launch Peter's book in the Raymond Terrace Library on November 24.

Dianne Foster has been re-elected to the Board of the Stroud Community Lodge. Di continues to entertain at the Lodge on a weekly basis and has begun to interview residents, obtaining their life's reminiscences and anecdotes for inclusion in an oral history.

On 11 October Susan and Rex Filson attended Barry Maitland's book launch in the Maitland Regional Art Gallery. *Slaughter Park*, the third book in the Belltrees Trilogy has been eagerly awaited by our members who very much enjoyed an entertaining talk by Barry when he visited Stroud Writers earlier this year.

We wish all FAW members a safe and happy Christmas and a creative and rewarding New Year.

**Hilary Heanly**

## SUTHERLAND FAW

It's hard to believe another year is drawing to a close and already there is Christmas merchandise in every supermarket and shopping centre. Even though our last meeting for the year is in late November, we look forward to celebrating the festive season with the launch of our short story anthology, *DREAMS OF HOME* (more info below), sharing Christmas-themed writing, Kris



*SPARK creative writing award recipients with Dennis McHugh at Gymea Tradies Club.*

Kringle gift giving and a Christmas afternoon tea.

It has been an eventful and positive year for our dedicated group of writers. One of our goals this year was to forge links with our local community. We wanted to encourage and value our youth in their creative writing. In this regard we participated in a creative writing project with Gymea Technology High School, in which our members volunteered to give workshops on the skills needed to write a good story. The workshops were promoted in the school and were well attended by senior and junior students. Over the course of three months, six of our members including myself, Helen Armstrong, Leanne Bowie, Jenny Mathers, Julianne Miles-Brown and Antonia Sabbah gave workshops every fortnight for a two hour session.

From the workshops, the **SPARK creative writing competition** was born. There was overwhelming support for the writing competition, from financial sponsorship provided by Tradies Gymea and advertising support from *Shire Women* and *St George and Sutherland Shire Leader*. There were entries from over twelve high schools, a total of 60 entries, and our members judged the

entries. The prize-giving was held at a special evening at Gymea Tradies Club, in which the President of Gymea Tradies, Dennis McHugh handed out awards to all place getters and highly commended award recipients. We look forward to the continuation of our partnership with SPARK in 2017.

Our **Writers Unleashed Picture Book competition** was a resounding success with over 150 entries. The prizes were awarded to winners at our October meeting at Sutherland Library. I would like to thank Julianne Miles-Brown for coordination of the Picture Book Competition [*see Report and Results p23*].

Our other major project this year was the publication of an anthology of short stories, *DREAMS OF HOME*. Our members were inspired to write short stories from our regular writing exercises during our meetings. The genesis of these ideas culminated in the publication of our anthology. We also invited the winning students of the SPARK Creative writing competition to submit their stories for publication in our short story anthology. I particularly want to thank Helen Armstrong and Jenny Mathers for their professional editing and publishing skills. The anthology is available for advance orders.

We appreciate our members who volunteer to run workshops, in particular Frank Maguire and Donna Wallace. We have continued to invite guest authors to our meetings, where they have shared their expertise with us. The guest authors are promoted in the local newspaper and community radio stations, which have attracted many visitors to our meetings. I would like to thank Lynn Sutherland for her PR expertise in this regard. It is in the pipeline that Sutherland Council Library will promote our events including our *Writers Unleashed* Writing Festival in 2017. On this note, we are already in the planning stages for our writing festival which will be held on Saturday, 19th August.

With the growth of our membership, we have a very talented committee for 2017, and already Jenny Mathers has updated our website and Facebook pages. I must thank our committee for their tireless work in promoting our group, and in particular to Joyce Noble, who every month publishes our newsletter, keeping us up-to-date on latest competitions, news in the writing world and writing tips. Also we welcome new members to our *Writers Unleashed* Committee, and office-bearers for our group in 2017.

Thank you to all our members who contributed so much to our projects this year. Your enthusiasm, professionalism and commitment has certainly revitalised our group. As I have said before in our newsletters, our achievements in our group are only possible with everyone's contributions. We look forward to the celebration of inspiring stories from our members in 2017.

*Sylvia Vago*

## WOLLONDILLY FAW

The Children's Writing Competition closed 23rd September 2016 and we were delighted to receive sixty two entries from children attending schools all over the Wollondilly Shire area. Our group was successful in obtaining a grant from the council to assist with the running costs of the competition (see photo).

The judges were delighted with the calibre of the stories written by the children. The judging has now been completed and the Awards Presentation was held at Picton Library on Saturday 26th November.

Letters were sent to all participants inviting them to attend the Presentation with a family member and the response was overwhelming with over one

hundred attending. This number does not include our own members or our specially invited guests which included the Mayor.

The numbers led to concerns that we may not have enough room in the library. The branch has had a number of visitors at meetings in the last few months and it is envisaged our number of members will increase next year.

We wish all our groups best wishes for the season as we look forward to our own Christmas celebrations.

*Sandra Reynolds*

## WYONG FAW

Wyong Writers have been exploring the possibility of working collaboratively with the Tuggerah Lakes Arts Society. We have had a few joint meetings and brainstormed much. Ideas have varied from mounting a joint exhibition to publishing work with many other ideas in between. We are still in the process of throwing ideas into the melting pot.

We were fortunate to have Beryl Stirling, a former member, come and talk to us about bush poetry with a view to honing it to a standard which will give it a chance of being placed in a competition. Beryl explained that while many people can get the hang of rhyming, just as many people seem to fall down on metre. Using 'Mary had a little lamb...' as a standard metre we all partook of exercises to ensure we had nailed the basic principle.

We have spent some time discussing a sense of place and our last in-house competition was a short story set in our own shire. After initially thinking that this would be too difficult and boring, we brought in photos and talked about the varied locations, from whacky cafes to bleak hillsides and of course the ever-wonderful railway station that cannot fail to inspire any writer.

Best wishes to all FAW members for the Christmas season and we hope 2017 will keep the creative writing juices flowing for you.

*Mei-Ling Venning*



*Wollondilly Community Grants Presentation. (l to r): Jean Mills, Narelle Noppert, Simon Landlow (then Mayor of Wollondilly) and Luke Johnson, General Manager of Wollondilly Council.*

□

## Wake me when it's over

cont. from page 1

Afterwards in the dressing room, they took off most of their clothes and relived, with forced laughter and swaggering personas, the whole stupid process, from kick-off to full time whistle.

I always stood near the door, clothes on, listening for the signal to board the bus that would take me away from the smell, the bragging, but mostly the noise.

Over those years, I never questioned their right to do what they did. Rugby was just done. The school seemed to have the right to risk permanent disability to we lesser mortals. The nonsense of it, the humiliation of those who were too slow, light, or just too scared to be able to cross the line carrying a ball was never discussed. Nobody intervened to offer an alternative, so none of us dared to think there might be one. So I fronted up, week after week, not really afraid, but never understanding how it worked, or why so many of my peers seemed to not only understand it, but to revel in it.

I could drive a tractor, milk a cow, build a fence, plant a crop and make it flourish, shoot straight, chop wood, dress a chook, cook a meal, fix machines, watch my brother and sisters in the creek and pull them out if necessary, all before I left high school.

But most people in my world were gentle with each other. It was nature and its whims we battled with. So, when humans bunch up and begin

to merge their emotions and their voices, I am even more afraid than of being hurt at Rugby, so I hide from anything that makes me feel that way.

In adulthood, that revulsion has not diminished, even though I have witnessed numerous occasions of mass hysteria that were joyful, as when the Beetles landed at Mascot, or when a hundred thousand in a grandstand cheered on the Bulldogs. But even that joyous abandon, I fear, can change in an instant to become a destructive, mindless force that builds within itself, a power that kills people.

So I watch footie on television, where I am safe in my own home. But even then, I am uneasy when the crowd abandons itself to exultation. It is then that I need a cup of tea or a glass of wine and leave for the kitchen, returning only after sound from the other room tells me it is safe.

I sit forward staring at the recorder. *It is my voice, but that's not who I am!*

"That's bullshit. I love being in the footy crowd, I love concerts and I yell and stomp like the rest of them!" I shout at him. But he smiles that goofy smile that he knows will shut me up and shakes his head.

"I'm Sorry, Michael, I know you were sceptical of hypnosis. And you thought you were being a smart arse when you lay back and said: 'wake me when it's over, Doc'. But that's who you really are."

I'm shaking my head. "That's one hundred percent unadulterated crap.

That is not me!" I stand and glare. My hands are twitching with the need for something to hit him with. But he just sits there and smiles, waiting until I have no more to say, then points again at the recorder.

"You were sent here by the court because I gave evidence that you have a serious personality disorder, caused by suppression of your real self. Michael," he continues, "This anger you project, this aggression is a persona that will put you in gaol or even kill you."

He lounges back, apparently relaxed and nods to the recorder.

"That's the sensitive, intelligent person you have been shielding all these years." He leans forward, and must know he is in range of a kick. "That is the real you. You are repelled by mob mentality. You are afraid of what human beings do when they lose individual conscience. But you couldn't show that; not to your mates, not to anyone. Not even your girlfriends... and there have been a few that came and went."

That's when he comes closest to making me lose it. I cannot believe he is saying this. I hate guys that let their girlfriends tell them what to do. I despise guys that walk away from a fight, the guys who won't man up. I take a step toward him. "You are so wrong, Doc!"

I am shaking with indignation while he sits there, just looking over his glasses, a hint of a smile twitching his lips and I know I am getting nowhere.

He says nothing until my breathing slows and I sit back down, staring at the recorder. I feel empty, as if who I know myself to be has left my body. He sits just looking at me for what seems like ten minutes. Then he smiles and I find myself smiling back.

It is then that he stands slowly, walks over, and offers his hand. I think he means to shake it, but he pulls me to my feet and hugs me. Nobody has ever hugged me like that. Not my mother, not my father, not any girlfriend, ever. I feel the strength.

Then I know I am home and the tears come.

□



Image: iStock

# Workshop

## COMPUTER QUERIES

Colleen Parker

**Y**OUR Committee is experimenting with ideas to make your *Writers Voice* more relevant as an exciting publication to look forward to and read every quarter. We offered a \$20 award for short stories we hope you enjoyed reading... just the right length to read with your morning coffee. We are disappointed however, that we were not inundated with submissions from possibly Highly Commended stories and prizewinning ones that you would like to share with all members, so we offered that platform. As we don't have enough to keep going this year we will stockpile them and use the space to try something else, but if you want more stories or want your story published submit them for possible publication in the Autumn 2017 edition and beyond.

Meanwhile we heard that the Isolated Writers send in 'computer queries' to the Convenor but the branches use their own membership obviously. To further develop members' knowledge, we invite you to ask us for assistance and share some of your experiences with computer queries. They then may be used as 'discussion topics' because no one has all the answers. Each of us knows what works for us while not every suggestion will work for every writer but it is by sharing that we all develop and produce improved writings.

Many answers are in the *UNLOCK THE WRITER WITHIN*, @ \$30 and I continue to hear from 'surprised' writers who had only 'browsed' it, but when encouraged have found many helpful topics in it.

### The Craft of Writing

Writing is one of the 'arts' but a finished product is actually a 'craft?'

The first Draft is the creative work but it needs to be polished which is where the craft comes in. Draft after draft needs to be moulded; proofread for grammar, punctuation and spelling even after the computer spellcheck is complete.

The structure is to be massaged so there's no repetition in separate chapters or Proper Nouns and words not listed in the computer dictionary are 'added to the dictionary' so you keep the consistency of spelling. When I edited a manuscript with a character of 'Cherryl' as the 'family name was Cherry' it was spelt thus. The spellcheck automatically corrected it to 'Cheryl'... so read every word carefully.

### Label Drafts

In the Footer include the document name eg: Version 1, Version 2 etc so when sharing for editing there is no confusion with which Version is being returned to you.

### Commend-Recommend-Commend

When asked for support, it is not an opportunity to be 'critical' but to 'support'. Never turn the work into your voice but find something done well and remark on that, make suggestions to help and then offer another positive comment.

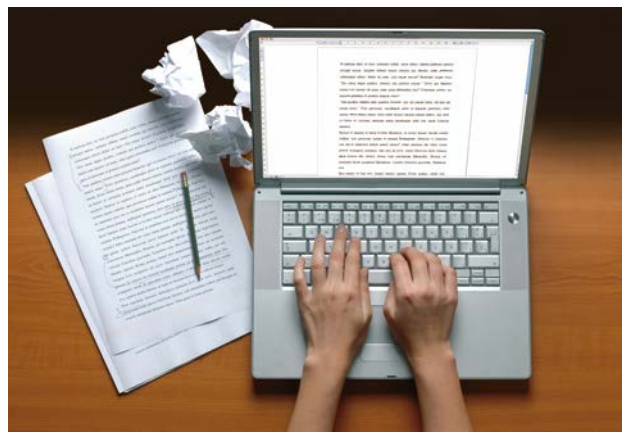


Image: iStock

### The Importance of a Computer Folder

It is natural to create in 'small chunks', resulting in documents containing single chapters, or parts of chapters, or even just good ideas. Create a FOLDER on your computer designated for each project and place everything you write on that topic into its folder. After combining your work into the First Draft keep it as one piece of writing and label it... don't keep completed chapters in separate documents. You MUST stay organised on your computer to be efficient.

### Archive

The importance of archiving your work, so if there is a computer glitch, power surge or any other reason which might mean you lose your work—you can recover it. Keep a copy OFF YOUR COMPUTER. You can use a separated backup system, a DVD, a USB... but the best system I use is DROPBOX.

**Dropbox** is a system where you can pass documents back and forth to another who you 'invite' to use your Dropbox without the necessity to email 'attachments' which is slow if images are included.

Once set up, (*ask your computer Help for instructions for it, it is very easy*) and your First Draft is labelled (Version 1) just drag it into the Dropbox icon that will appear on your desktop Menu. I share mine with my daughter so she can go into Dropbox and retrieve my document and get me out of my predicament. **Note:** I delete the older Version each time it is amended.

- We look forward to your responses on how we can improve the ways to help you with your writing and your computer use. Share your enquiries, your tips which helped you. Discuss this new column idea in your branches and brainstorm the information here and send us information that we can publish for our fellow writers to consider.
- There are many of you who are beyond this level in your publishing successes so we would appreciate hearing from you too, so we can assist those who are 'just about there' but need that little bit of extra guidance once their manuscript is ready for a commercial publisher or literary agent.

Our Fellowship is the unique opportunity we have to become the most relevant writing organisation available through our bulletin and we will put some of your tips on the website with your branch name, so you can have the claim to the idea, if that is your wish.

□



## Helen Luidens

2.4.1934 – 20.10.2016

IT was with great sadness that friends and family of Helen Luidens, bade her farewell in the beautiful chapel at Green Point on October 27th. Husband, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren along with many friends, packed the chapel. Children and grandchildren presented the congregation with snapshots of Helen's full and varied life.

Helen was involved with FAW for many years. She was president of the Central Coast branch of FAW for twelve years—from 2004 until 2016. During that time, she arranged for many workshops to be run by outside speakers as well as doing much 'behind the scenes' work that went unnoticed. Overlapping these duties, Helen was also vice-president of FAWNSW from May 2007 until July 2015. In this role, she supported the president with advice and handled many matters for him.

Helen was the driving person behind the re-writing of the FAW NSW constitution, which had become out of date. Over a period of two years, many meetings and phone calls her work in this area finally was crowned with the 'new constitution' as passed at a special general meeting in August 2011.

She assisted branches in difficulties and visited many FAW groups conducting mini workshops. She facilitated two full day workshops, one for a Sydney Council and one for Marrickville library. Much unsung work went on in those years.

Finally, as we farewell Helen, we remember an artistic person, whose bold and striking pottery caught the eye, a well organised person, who co-ordinated many meetings and ventures, but most importantly a compassionate person who helped those in need.

**Mei-Ling Venning**  
Wyang FAW



*The late Alan Russell on the occasion of receiving his FAW Distinguished Service Award.*

## Alan Russell

FOR twenty two years at the Eastwood/Hills FAW, Alan kept our books. And that is a long stint, probably even a record. Each month he would start his balance report with the words: "There is good news and there is bad news."

Alan was a quiet man and a sweet one. He never spoke ill of anyone and he was an utter gentleman.

When I first met Alan, he was a teacher of English and History and gave our FAW meeting a workshop on writing biographies. It was so enlightening that I asked him if I could have a copy of his notes. He replied that he hadn't used any notes, the information was all in his head.

Then Alan had a stroke and workshops were beyond him. He found difficulty in reading and quoting figures and so he had to leave his profession as a teacher. But he soldiered on and never complained. He was also on the State Council of the Fellowship of Australian Writers.

I have memories of Alan coming to our house as he wouldn't be at the next meeting and bringing the green billy can (in which members put their meeting fee). My husband, Alan and I would sit on the verandah with a cuppa and discuss world affairs, which would always end in laughter, as Alan had firm views about things and we never ever agreed.

We are all so thankful that Alan was a recipient of a Distinguished Service Award for his years of service to the Fellowship.

It will be strange to come to future meetings and not see Alan sitting in his usual place. We at Eastwood Hills will sorely miss him. He was a one of a kind.

**Denise Aldridge**  
Eastwood/Hills FAW

# New FAW Member Card

**Y**OUR Committee had an exceptionally busy day on Saturday 5th November with the General November meeting held at 9.30am at the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, in Pitt Street before we headed off to 99 York to attend the Annual Luncheon and Presentation of Awards. A busy day yes, but what a rewarding day for everybody concerned.

We are always looking for ways to encourage more social contact with our membership and to embrace and include new writers to join in with us. I am often told that there is a special feeling belonging to a strong incorporated organisation but at the same time many members don't avail themselves of the opportunities available.

We hope you will continue to send in your ideas and new concepts to make our Fellowship great in so many ways that your membership is always paid up early each year to ensure your belonging never lapses accidentally. Putting us on your list of things to do if you move residency is an important one: Change your address with us as soon as you can.

You can visit the 'Contact Us' page on the FAW website at [fawnsw.org.au/contact-us/](http://fawnsw.org.au/contact-us/) to communicate with any member of the FAW committee.

## ***Among the many important decisions made was the introduction of MEMBERSHIP CARDS for all members.***

The background for this concept began over a year ago when it came to our notice that a member had permission to hold a book stall on public premises but had to show our GIO Certificate of Public Liability which the member produced. Before approval would be given the Manager said after studying the Certificate 'this doesn't have your name on it, how do I know it is yours?' Our committee began considering this predicament and thought then that we need to have identification that we are members of the Fellowship.

Hence the seed was sown. Since that time we have come to realise how many uses such a card could have... among them are:

- Your Landlords where you pay your hiring fees for your meetings who want to see your GIO Certificate and like the member mentioned if you want a book stall for your branch or your own book you have your identification to prove you are a Member.
- When you write to the FAW through the website 'Contact Us' link we want you to include your Member No. with your name. (That will assist us in sorting out some SPAM which we have been getting a bit of lately.)
- If you apply for an ISBN we will now ask you for your Member No. These are expensive to purchase but we are happy to be in a position to offer them free to Members.
- Often handwriting is difficult to decipher so our Treasurer will be able to match up your Member No. to ensure accuracy.

- Any entrepreneurs amongst you might be able to arrange with local bookshops, stationery outlets, eg OfficeWorks, Page 5 Girls, those sorts of places (you are only limited by your imagination), even coffee shops where a couple of you or groups of you meet regularly, to have a system set up that if your FAW members use these businesses that they might give you a discount, even 5% is worthwhile when you frequent these places. You will be able to negotiate a deal that if your Members show their cards, the discounts could apply.
- I am sure there will be lots more opportunities so we want you to write and tell us your suggestions to share with the rest of us.

The Member Cards will be renewed annually and will be issued by the FAW state treasurer upon receipt of your yearly membership fee.

The card will be the size of a business card, so will fit into your wallet or purse easily. It will have our FAW Logo on it, the year date, your name and your Member No. That's all.

It will NOT be laminated so if you want to add your personal phone number, email etc you can do that on the reverse side.



*Example of a completed Membership card, shown at actual size.*

If you renew your subscriptions through your Branch Treasurer, your card will be returned to your Treasurer so make sure you collect it from your committee.

If you renew as an individual, your card will be returned to you direct.

But MOST IMPORTANTLY we need a Stamped Return Addressed envelope from either your Branch Treasurer or the member for the receipt and card to be sent to you.

Please keep these instructions near you so you can refer to them as often as you need to, until such time as it becomes routine for us all.

**Colleen Parker, VP**

# The 2016 FAW Literary Awards

'WRITING of an extremely high standard' was the assessment of judges at this year's Awards lunch held at 99 on York November 5, 2016.

Introduced to the smaller than usual number of guests attending the function by MC Trevar Langlands, president of the Fellowship of Australian Writers NSW, competition convenor Cate Plink said that Dr Rae Luckie had judged 36 entries in the Walter Stone Life Writing Award and was thrilled with the extremely high standard of at least 20 of those entries, while Chris Mansell, the Jean Stone Poetry Award judge had read 68 poems, again of a high standard. Entries in the Hilarie Lindsay Young Writers Poetry competition had doubled from last time the event was held.

The lunch was preceded by the biannual State meeting held at the *Sydney Mechanics School of Arts* where, again sadly, a small number of members were in attendance; in fact, only the State committee and Isolated Writers convenor, Carolyn Cash.

I, personally, find it sad that the committee, who all live outside Sydney, received very little support from members living in the Sydney region at both the meeting and lunch.

However, on the bright side it was gratifying that one of the FAW Patrons Elizabeth Webby AM FAHA, as well as Shoalhaven, Port Macquarie, Lake Macquarie, Macarthur, Central Coast, North Arm Cove, Port Stephens, Bankstown and Sydney City branches were represented at the lunch, with *Writers Voice* editor, Ken Driver busy with his camera.

Hilarie Lindsay Young Writers Poetry winners Ava Rylance (Junior Primary), Tessa Yu (Senior Primary) and Arhan Basra (Junior Secondary) were interstate winners of their categories, being from Tasmania and Victoria. The Senior Secondary winner North Sydney Girls high school's Isabella Vacaflores attended the lunch and impressed guests with her articulate speech of acceptance.

Linda Visman from Lake Macquarie branch received a Distinguished Service Award in recognition of her many years of service to the FAW.

*Guest Speaker Susannah Fullerton and some of her attentive audience at the FAW Literary Awards Luncheon.*

Jean Stone Poetry Award winner Penny Lane, a member of Port Stephens FAW, told guests it was the first time she had entered a poetry competition.

'I would like to thank the Fellowship of Australian Writers for the opportunity to enter my poem 'Breath' in this competition,' she said.

Winner of the Walter Stone Life Writing Award, Brisbane's Richard Yaxley OAM, was accompanied by his wife Carol at the lunch.

Judge Rae Luckie praised Richard for his exceptional story 'Homecoming' about his grandfather Tom who was killed at Gallipoli on April 25, 1915.

Richard thanked the FAW NSW for conducting this form of award.

'It is a unique award,' he said, 'finding an avenue where this kind of work can be read by other people is great.'

President of the Jane Austen Society of Australia and Patron of the Kipling Society of Australia Canadian-born Susannah Fullerton, was this year's Awards Lunch guest speaker.

She spoke extensively about her book *Brief Encounters: Literary Travellers in Australia 1836-1939*, relating to fascinating characters such as Charles Darwin, Rudyard Kipling, and Agatha Christie.

The function concluded with Vince Hatton, FAW committee member/public officer paying tribute to Trevar Langlands and Maureen Kelly for their support which enabled 96-year old Helen Boris, a former member of Parramatta FAW, to launch her collection of verse *Shards of Life* so successfully in July.

It was left to long-time member Hilarie Lindsay MBE OAM to sum up the day saying it had been a lovely event full of friendship.

**Maureen Kelly OAM  
Hon Sec**







*FAW Patron Prof Elizabeth Webby (left) with MC Trevar Langlands and Dr Hilarie Lindsay*



*Guest Speaker Susannah Fullerton at the official table*



*Trevar with author Anya Nielsen*



*From Bankstown branch, Shirley Galloway (left) and Nerida Tyler (right) and their guest.*



*Isolated Writers Convenor Carolyn Cash*



*Competition Convenor Cate Plink presents the Senior Secondary Hilarie Lindsay Young Writers Poetry Award to Isabella Vacaflores (above right)*



*Jean Stone Award winner Penny Lane and her husband Greg*



*Linda Visman with her DSA certificate*



*Rae Luckie of Luckie Consulting Services announces the FAW Walter Stone Award*



*Walter Stone Award winner Richard Yaxley with his wife Carol*



*Right: Susannah Fullerton talks about famous literary travellers who have visited Australia; FAW Public Officer Vince Hatton; FAW VP Colleen Parker at Susannah's book table.*



# Meet the Editor

FOR the last ten years Ken Driver has been the man working quietly behind the scenes as editor of the Fellowship of Australian Writers NSW Inc's *Writers Voice* which arrives quarterly in your mailbox.

Ken will tell you he loves computers, the internet, technology, in fact, all things Apple and Macintosh!

The State Committee know Ken well, and we feel the general membership should get to know this highly-qualified graphics and print specialist 'with a passion for print' who took over the editorship of *Writers Voice* from Jeanette Doyle-Gilligan in 2006.

Ken has been married to wife Bev since 1968, and they live in Seven Hills, a suburb of Sydney.

The couple have one son, two daughters and five grandchildren. Daughter Cathryn and her family live in Sydney, Michelle and her family call Newcastle home while son Adam, his wife and two children live in Chicago, USA, giving the Drivers the opportunity to travel—which they have done extensively, both in Australia and overseas.

From 1995 until his retirement Ken operated *Dri-Print Electronic Publishing*, providing graphic design services to companies in the engineering, medical, education and finance industries. With the burgeoning growth of the World Wide Web and his background in typography, he added website design to his skill set.



Ken Driver

FAW State Secretary Maureen Kelly interviewed *Writers Voice* editor Ken Driver and discovered an interesting background in typesetting, advertising and print production.

For four years from 1985 Ken was Advertising Services Manager for St. George Building Society—as it was known then—where he implemented mainstream TV, radio and press advertising programs to promote the Society's products at a vital time when the building society was to grow to become Australia's fifth largest bank.

Still with St. George, Ken created a new department in 1989—called Production Services, servicing all the print requirements as well as forms management for the entire organisation—which he managed for another six years. During this time a member of his production team was Colleen Parker, now vice president of the FAW. Colleen started working with Ken in 1992 as his Personal Assistant. This friendship continues to the present time.

Colleen describes Ken as a man driven for perfection in his job, adding 'We worked well together, he was a good boss, who was fun to work with.'

His immense expertise in graphic design, typesetting, digital publishing and web page design is very obvious when you read *Writers Voice*.

Ken designed the first FAW website in 2004, managing it until 2007 when Shoalhaven FAW member and then State Committee member Barbara Simmons became webmaster, building a different website and managing this until April 2015.

He then developed the current *WordPress* based website last year, handing over ongoing updates to FAW North Arm Cove member, Wayne Jarman in September 2015. Wayne continued working closely with Ken in the webmaster role until October this year. Following Wayne's recent resignation as webmaster, Ken has taken the role back again.

Also on Ken's CV are two other claims to fame: While working in the merchandising department of Streets Ice Cream he once appeared in public as *Paddle Pop Lion*, to the delight of youngsters. Later he 'turned green', occasionally representing St. George in TV ads as their mascot, *Happy Dragon*, working alongside legendary entertainer Julie Anthony AM OBE.

Ken is a volunteer committee member, editor and webmaster for Sydney Apple Mac Users Group, president of the local Seniors' group at Lalor Park, he plays social tennis, is a great family man and also loves cats.

Ken's print expertise results in the *Writers Voice* projecting the FAW's image in a very professional way, and for this we thank him.

**Maureen Kelly OAM**  
Hon Sec FAW

## Vale

### Gwyn Gulliver

PORT Macquarie again writes to advise our members and ex-members of our branch and others that another much-loved writer/member who spent many years in our midst has passed away recently.

Gwyn and I had a closer relationship than just writing colleagues because in 2007 she came to me for help with her first book idea which she titled *ABC of what mothers should REALLY tell their daughters*. Gwyn had a tip for every letter of the 'ABC' but though the topics were serious her sense of humour always showed through;

for example she wrote in her Introduction... 'It's now 'old fashioned' for a young girl to take advice from wrinklies'. One that rings true is under the letter 'C' for Childbirth—Gwyn wrote: 'With birth of a new life, we forget any pain. Just as well, so we'll do it again.'

Gwyn's sequel was *ABC of what mothers should REALLY tell their sons*. In this book she wrote under the letter 'R' for Recreation... 'To relax we must, work is essential. But too much of both, is detrimental.'

We all offer our condolences to Gwyn's husband George and her niece, Maggie Wilson, who was our wonderful Branch Treasurer for many years.

Rest in Peace Gwyn.

**Colleen Parker VP**  
President, Port Macquarie branch

# Writing Competitions

## NORMAL COMPETITION CONDITIONS

*Unless stated otherwise, these conditions apply to ALL WRITING COMPETITIONS*

- 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 (if required), contact the relevant competition organisers.

**Closing date 6 February 2017:**

### NEWCASTLE SHORT STORY AWARD

The 2017 Newcastle Short Story Award is a national writing competition coordinated by Hunter Writers Centre\* (a not-for profit organisation since 1995). Winners announced Friday 7 April, 2017, in Newcastle, NSW. Over \$6000 prize pool. A short list of 35 works will feature in a published anthology. Details and entry form: [www.hunterwriterscentre.org](http://www.hunterwriterscentre.org).

*[\*This is not to be confused with Hunter FAW—Ed]*

**Closing date 13 February 2017:**

### THE TASMANIAN WRITERS' PRIZE 2017

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 is run by Forty South Publishing, the largest book publisher in Tasmania and publisher of *Tasmania 40° South* magazine.

The winner will receive a cash prize of \$500 and publication in *Tasmania 40°South*. A selection of the best entries will be published in *Forty South Short Story Anthology 2017*.

Entry forms and terms can be downloaded from [www.fortysouth.com.au](http://www.fortysouth.com.au).

**Closing date 28th February 2017:**

### MUDGEE VALLEY FAW 2017 YOUTH LITERARY AWARD The Norman McVicker Award

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

People up to and including the age of 18 are invited to submit their original literary work.

Total prize value: \$2000. Theme: OPEN.

**SHORT STORY** (2000 words maximum):

1st Prize \$700, 2nd Prize \$200, 3rd Prize \$100

**POETRY** (100 lines maximum):

1st Prize \$700, 2nd Prize \$200, 3rd Prize \$100

Plus Highly Commended and Commended Certificates.

Entry forms with full details can be obtained by sending a stamped, self addressed envelope to Mudgee Valley Writers FAW, PO Box 356, Mudgee 2850, or by emailing [mvw.nsw@gmail.com](mailto:mvw.nsw@gmail.com) or from the website [mudgeevalleywriters.wordpress.com](http://mudgeevalleywriters.wordpress.com).

## The Society of Women Writers NSW Inc. Literary Luncheon Meetings

*Avid readers and fans, welcome.*

SWW hold the Luncheon Meetings from 12.00 noon to 2.00pm on the second Wednesday of every month (excluding January) in the Dixon Room of the State Library of New South Wales, at which event there is always a renowned guest speaker on a topic of writing interest. These meetings are informative, inspirational and convivial occasions.

Members and visitors are required to make their Luncheon Reservations no later than 10.00am on the Monday preceding each meeting.

Morning Tea Costs: Members: \$42. Non-members: \$47

EMAIL (preferred): [swwlunchbooking@gmail.com](mailto:swwlunchbooking@gmail.com)

PHONE: 0403 177 208

Preferably send a text or SMS (short messaging system) stating your full name. If you're not a member, please state your email address and phone number as well for confirmation.

For details of current events visit:

[www.womenwritersnsw.org/events/](http://www.womenwritersnsw.org/events/)

# Literary Achievements

## BLUE MOUNTAINS FAW

### John Smith:

Memoir piece 'Gremlins in the Works' published in *Best of British* magazine's August 2016 issue.

### Loris Hawkins:

Second place in a story competition run by ABC Radio Tamworth. The scenario was an abandoned car in a lane, doors open, a scarf on the passenger seat, a wallet and a boot on the ground.

## EASTWOOD/HILLS FAW

### Anne Benjamin:

Second Place and Best Poem in ZineWest 16 competition for poem, 'the morning after'.

### Karen Lieversz:

Poem published in *Eucalypt* 21.

### Elizabeth Collins:

1st Place Eastwood/Hills FAW 'Writing Horror' Monthly Competition.

### Laura Davis:

1 tanka in *Moonbathing*, 12

1 haiku in *Presence*, 55

2 haiku in *Kokako*, 25

2 haiku in *Paper Wasp*, Winter 2016

### Carolyn Eldridge-Alfonzetti:

Commended, FAW North Shore Nature Poem competition

2nd Place FAW North Shore Mini Memoir competition

Sold story to *The School Magazine*.

### Beverley George:

Article on haibun renga translated into Japanese and published in a collection that marks the 150 year celebration of poet Masaoka Shiki

Haiku in Blue Giraffe Poetry Journal #15 edited by Peter Macrow. Final issue.

2 tanka, 2 haiku published in *Kokako* 25 2016 NZ

An Imachi renku written with Frank Williams [UK] Patricia Prime [NZ] and Shrikaanth Krishnamurthy [UK] (sabaki) published in *Kokako* 25 2016 [NZ]

Tanka in *Gusts* 24 [Canada]

Haiku and tanka in 'Poems to Wear: from Japan and Australia'

Tanka sequence 'Corners of the Day' *The Tanka Journal* 49 2016 p. 23 [Japan]

Haiku sequence with Simon Hanson and a haibun in *Presence* #56 2016 [UK]

Haiku in *naan anunaad* an anthology of contemporary world haiku. [India]

Haiku in Season's Greetings Letter (SGL) [US].

### Marilyn Humbert:

Free Verse Poem 'Mars' published in Award Winning Australian Writers 2016

Free Verse Poem 'Wildfire' published in ZineWest Anthology 2016

Free Verse Poem 'Left of the Sun' published in 2016 Poetry d'Amour Anthology *Summer of Love*

Free Verse Poem 'The Dancers' Commended in FAWNS Nature poetry competition 2016

### Margaret Longhurst:

Highly Commended Eastwood/Hills FAW for Short Story 'Colliding Worlds'

Highly Commended Eastwood/Hills FAW for Free Verse 'Thoughts'

### Julie Thorndyke:

Haibun in *Presence* #56 2016 [UK]

Tanka in *Gusts* 24 Fall/winter 2016 [Can]

Short story finalist *Pen2Paper* [USA]

Tanka in *Red Lights* [USA]

Tanka sequence (with Jan Dean) in *Kokako* 25 [NZ].

## EUROBODALLA FAW

### Cat Sheely and Marisol Dunham:

Committee members of the Canberra-based speculative fiction convention Conflux 2016.

Cat successfully pitched her story to literary agent Alex Adsett.

### Anke Ziergiebel and Debbie Richardson:

Both authors were successful in their pitching sessions to Harper Collins at Conflux 2016.

### Suzanne Newnham:

Suzanne will publish an article based on her family history in the *BORAL News*, and is being interviewed for a Masters in Investigative Journalism thesis based on her psychic reading ethics. She also writes a monthly health column on chronic pain in an international e-magazine.

*Batemans Bay Writers Festival:*

**Cassandra Webb, Debbie Richardson, Stafford Ray** and **Rhonda Casey** discussed, and read from their latest novels in a session at the Festival in September.

### Stafford Ray:

Toured his newly-published novel, *Australian Gulag*, the sequel to *Cull*.

### Eurobodalla Tuesday night group:

The members of the night group wrote, edited, designed, and published a speculative fiction short story, 'Alien Zoo'.

## FOREST FAW

### Beatrice Yell:

Two tanka poems published in the latest edition of *Ribbons* (Spring, Summer edition 2016).

### Emma Gaulton:

Short story selected for publication in an anthology, *A Fearsome Engine*, published by the Northern Beaches Writers Group. The theme was 'people's interaction with technology.'

### Catherine Smith:

Two tanka poems published in the latest edition of *Ribbons* (Spring, Summer edition 2016).

## HUNTER FAW

### Gail Hennessy:

The winning poet in the Philip Bacon Ekphrasis Award 2016, with her poem 'The Dichotomy of Paper Flowers' written as a response to the painting *Drying wildflowers* by Emily Knngwarreye

Long-listed for the Adrien Abbott poetry prize.

### Jan Dean:

An ekphrastic poem titled 'Fish Magic' published in the October issue of *Meanjin*

Wrote the back-cover comments for a poetry collection by Magdalena Ball called *Unmaking Atoms* (Ginninderra Press)

One tanka accepted for *Eucalypt* 21

Two tanka included in *Poems to Wear (Poems from Japan and Australia)* (Ginninderra Press)

Five poems included in *Searching for the Sublime*, a joint Australian-Indian anthology edited by Jaydeep Sarangi and Rob Harle (Cyberwit)

An ekphrastic poem selected for reading at *Spirit of the Collection*, Manly Art Gallery and Museum, Sunday 25 September

Judge of this year's FAW NSW Hilarie Lindsay Young Writers' Poetry Competition

Involved in reading in a Newcastle fundraiser called 'Women of Words' which raised money for the Women's Centre and White Ribbon Appeal. She was invited to read at the launch as well as at one of the sessions

Collaborated with Julie Anne Thorndyke in a poem called 'Softly, Lightly' which was published in *Kokako*, edited by Patricia Prime (New Zealand).

### Leonie Wellard:

Two poems published in the anthology *Home is the Hunter* (Catchfire Press 2016). They were 'Sandgate Cemetery', which was highly commended and 'Streets of Beresfield'.

### Jo Tregellis:

Was published in the anthology *Home is the Hunter* (Catchfire Press 2016)

Two tanka included in *Eucalypt* 20

Two tanka published in *Poems to Wear (Poems from Japan and Australia)* (Ginninderra Press).

## ISOLATED WRITERS BRANCH

### Carolyn Cash:

In her ongoing weekly online radio show, *Right Royal Roundup*—written, presented and produced by Carolyn—a recent item covered King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima of the Netherlands' State Visit, coinciding with the 400th Anniversary of Dirk Hartog's landing on the Western Australian coast in 1616. Visit [rightroyalroundup.com.au](http://rightroyalroundup.com.au).

Carolyn published an article on her blog commemorating the 950th Anniversary of the Battle of Hastings which was fought on 14 October 1066. This can be read at [carolynmcash.wordpress.com/2016/10/14/the-battle-of-hastings-14-october-1066/](http://carolynmcash.wordpress.com/2016/10/14/the-battle-of-hastings-14-october-1066/).

### Cynthia Rowe:

2 haiku published in *The Lincoln Underground Magazine* 2016

Haiku published in *Creatrix* #34

Haiku published in *The Heron's Nest* Volume XVIII, Number 3 September 2016

Haiku, tanka and 'Walking Track' haiku sequence published in *Kokako* #25

'border crossing' haiku 2nd Place European Quarterly *Kukai* #15 Autumn 2016 Edition (topic: sounds)

Two tanka published in *Poems to Wear* anthology First Prize, 'Floating Nest', The Society of Women Writers (NSW) 2016 Book Awards—Poetry

Three haiku published in *naad anunaad*: an anthology of contemporary haiku 2016

Two haiku published in *Presence* #56

Two tanka published in *Presence* #56

Haiku and 'writing home' haiga published in *Failed Haiku* issue 11 November 2016

Haiku published in *Kabocha – Buča/Gourd* 2016.

## LAKE MACQUARIE FAW

### Glenys Buselli:

Published in *Home is the Hunter: Hunter Valley Writing* (Catchfire Press), prose piece 'Perspective of trees'.

### Pam Garfoot:

Published in *Hunter Professional Arts Magazine*, issue 4 Sept–Oct 2016, book review 'This house of grief: the story

cont. next page...

# Literary Achievements

## Lake Macquarie

*cont. from previous page*

of a murder by Helen Garner'; also a short story 'Who is Harry Hartog' and a short memoir 'Telltale hands'.

### Elizabeth Horwitz:

Published in *Hunter Professional Arts Magazine*, issue 4 Sept-Oct 2016, editorial 'A musical dream emerges'.

### Tony Lang:

Published in *Hunter Professional Arts Magazine*, issue 4 Sept-Oct 2016, story 'Refrain on a train'

Published on ABC Open's *500 Words Project: What happens in Vegas*, story 'Flying high: briefly' <[open.abc.net.au/explore/146652](http://open.abc.net.au/explore/146652)>.

### Margaret Leggatt:

Shortlisted in the Flash 500 Competition (UK), story 'One more'.

### Kristen Mair:

Awarded second prize in the Alice Sinclair Memorial Writing Competition, short story 'The slow process of decay'.

### Jan Mitchell:

Published in *Hunter Professional Arts Magazine*, issue 4 Sept-Oct 2016, review 'An overview of my recent reading'

Published in August 2016, children's book *Shiver My Ears*  
Commended in the Alice Sinclair Memorial Writing Competition, short story 'Clown face'.

### Rina Robinson:

Published in *Hunter Professional Arts Magazine*, issue 4 Sept-Oct 2016, poems 'Tanka' and 'Echoes'.

### Linda Visman:

Awarded FAW NSW Distinguished Service Award, November 2016.

## LIVERPOOL FAW

### Rhonda W Rice:

Poems 'The ACT War Memorial' in *FreeXpresSion*

Poem 'Friend' in *Positive Words*

Poem 'Tribute to Anzacs' in *YOURS* magazine

Poem 'Dorothy' 1st Place in *Positive Words* Short Story and Poetry Competition 2016

Poem 'The Cross Beside the Road' in *NRMA magazine Open Road*.

## MACARTHUR FAW

### Barry Flanagan:

E-book published: *In Search of Freedom*.

## MUDGE VALLEY FAW

### Pamela Meredith:

Short Stories published in ABC Open.

### Joy Hibberd:

Poems published in The Ink Spot in *The Mudgee Guardian*.

### Kevin Pye:

Poems published in The Ink Spot in *The Mudgee Guardian*  
Play short listed in *Mudgee Shorts 2016*.

## NORTH ARM COVE FAW

### Bob Bush (August-November 2016):

Shared poetry from his book, *From a bush poet's pen* at: Maitland Computer Pals, Baptist Day Care, Lions Club Convention, Port Stephens Busy Bees, Probus Club of Newcastle, Tea Gardens Manor Nursing Home, North Arm Cove bush lunch

Winner of the 2016 North Arm Cove FAW Golden Smartie award for humorous writing.

### Gail Rust:

Completed and published her illustrated story book, *The Shape of Things* for children aged 4–8.

## NORTH SHORE BRANCH [FAWNS]

### Richard Brookton:

Was invited to attend the Creator's Soiree held on 16 September, 2016 in the William Wilkins Gallery in the old NSW Department of Education building in Bridge Street, Sydney. The function was to celebrate 100 years of continuous production of *The School Magazine*.

### Carmel Morris:

Story 'The Ticket' published in *Grieve Anthology*, a 2016 paperback, under the pseudonym Vanessa Ives.

### K.A.Last:

Self published two titles:

*Die for Me*—the third book in her vampire hunter series published via Amazon on 29 August 2016 in eBook and paperback; and

*A Novel Idea! Colouring Journal for Writers*—this is a workbook for writers which helps in idea development, character, and world building, as well as therapeutic colouring. Published via Amazon Create Space on 29 April 2016 in paperback.

## PARRAMATTA FAW

### Elizabeth Sheppard:

Poem 'Preparing the Gifts' published in Aug/Sept *Parish Connections*, the Journal of St James of King Street Anglican Church, Sydney.

**Lisel Herrmann:**

Short Story published in the *ZineWest* anthology published by New Writers in October 2016.

**Peter Cartwright:**

Poem published in the *ZineWest* anthology published by New Writers in October 2016.

**Helen Boris** (Life Member of FAW):

Published a collection of poems *Shades of Life* edited by Dr Sonia Mycak. Helen's book was published in March 2016.

**PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS FAW**

**Connie Jones:**

In 2011 Connie wrote an article for the Laurieton School of Arts. That information is now handed to people prior to embarking on the Historical Walk in Laurieton.

**Colleen Parker:**

Wrote the foreword for the book titled *Quest for Green Gables* by Valerie Pybus, launched at Mitchell Library on 14 September 2016  
Conducted a Writing Workshop on 15 September 2016 for North Arm Cove FAW, topic 'Assessments'.

**STROUD FAW**

**Peter Uren:**

Publication of his book *Classic Bike Dreaming*, launched by Mr David Harris MP, Member for Wyong and NSW State Shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs in the Raymond Terrace Library on 24 November.

**Elizabeth Bradhurst:**

Writer/Editor *Friends of St Johns* Newsletter  
Published in *The Dungog Chronicle*, an article about Dr Jonathan King's Film *Last Anzacs*.

**Sharon Burke:**

Historical contribution to *The Pioneer* Newsletter 47/2016, 'The Masonite House'.



**WRITERS' UNLEASHED PICTURE BOOK WRITING COMPETITION AWARDS 2016**

Organised By The Sutherland Shire FAW

(L-R): Carly Taylor (shortlisted finalist), Julianne Miles-Brown (Writers' Unleashed Director), Carol Ann Martin (3rd prize winner) and Sylvia Vago (Sutherland FAW President).

**O**UR Picture Book Writing Competition was once again quite successful for the writing community and for our FAW group, as it is a great competition where **authors who write picture books for children** can gain recognition and encouragement.

This year we had 148 entries, sent to us via email and post, from across Australia. The prizes given out were: 1st prize \$200, 2nd prize \$150 and 3rd prize \$75. All shortlisted entrants received a certificate.

A big thank to our first round judges, especially those from FAW Sutherland: Sylvia Vago, Helen Armstrong, Donna Wallace, Pat Strong and Lynn Sutherland.

Thank you also to Jodie Wells-Slowgrove, one of our local published children's writers and Jess Owen, editor at Penguin Publishing, for judging the final places. Our awards were presented at our October meeting.

**The prize winners included:**

- First Prize:** Angela Costigan with her entry *Angus and Isobel*.
- Second Prize:** Stephanie Ward with her entry *Best. Gift. Ever*.
- Third Prize:** Carol Ann Martin with her entry *Where Do You Go To, Julia?*

**The shortlisted entrants included:**

- Carly Taylor with her entry *Bunyip in the Bathtub*.
- Philomena Essex with her entry *Mo's Holiday*.
- Jade Raykovski with her entry *Roo and Dingo's Switcheroo*.
- Marianne Hamilton with her entry *Felipe and His Sunflowers*.

We look forward to running the competition again for 2017, in conjunction with our popular Writers' Unleashed Festival.

*Julianne Miles-Brown, Coordinator*

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD HONOUR ROLL**



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

\*Deceased

# Poets Voice

## Reflections On the Death of a Fly

A fly lay on our window sill,  
Very silent, very still.  
It had no pulse, its brow was chill,  
For it was dead.  
As it lay there, legs upturned,  
This creature which on earth is spurned,  
I thought of lessons to be learned  
From that dead fly.  
It would not lie in solemn state,  
No orator its deeds relate,  
No one its name would venerate,  
If name it had.  
But it's a fact, we can't deny  
That when it is our time to die,  
We'll be as dead as that dead fly –  
But not our soul.  
Then as I watched it, all forlorn,  
Lying there that sunny morn,  
A lingering thought began to dawn:  
Have flies a soul?  
Was there, I asked, some heavenly place  
Where flies deceased, by God's good grace,  
Could land upon an angel's face?  
I do not know.  
The Bible says, I do recall  
That every creature, great and small  
Was blessed by God before the Fall  
(Including flies).

If there's fly-heaven, then I'm sure  
That they could land there by the score,  
There'd be no flyscreen on that door  
To keep them out.  
For God created all, you see,  
In sky above, in earth and sea;  
So why should flies forever be  
Denied His love?  
Another thought, like lightning spark  
Flashed down to me and hit the mark:  
Did only two get on the Ark?  
Of that I'm sure.  
But when at last dry land was seen  
Those two lone flies had busy been  
And had not wasted time between  
The Flood and Ararat.  
When Noah flung the Ark's doors wide  
Upon the lofty mountainside,  
A thousand flies were on each hide,  
And on his too.  
When I have crossed the Jordan wide  
And landed safe on Canaan's side,  
May I with all the saints abide  
In flyless peace.  
Regardless of its grieving kin  
And of my thoughts that churned within,  
I dropped it in the rubbish bin –  
That poor dead fly.

**Rev Tony Lang**  
*Lake Macquarie FAW*

## John Cage: Sonata for Solo Clarinet

At last the clarinet  
can sing to us unencumbered.  
No rivals, no need for tricky squeaky notes  
to gain our attention.  
Happy and relaxed she starts  
with decorous greeting.  
Then the music lifts her skirts  
and shows her legs.  
Her steps are quick and nimble  
with a flash of defiance there.  
A good girl at heart she conforms,  
comes back into the tent  
of good manners, leaving us to wonder  
why she couldn't stay longer.

**Greg Tome**  
*Southern Highlands FAW*

### **Submissions to Poets Voice:**

*If you would like to contribute to this page of Writers Voice, please send your poem to our honorary Poetry Editor, **Shirley Goodbar** for consideration. Send by email as a typed attachment to: <[sgoodbar@theorchards.com.au](mailto: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.*

*Please note, poems accepted for publication under the 'Poets Voice' banner will be deemed to have been published and therefore are not eligible for entry in FAW competitions.*



# Competition Results

## THE 2016 FAW NSW WALTER STONE BIENNIAL AWARD FOR LEFWRITING

Announced at the November 5 FAW Awards Luncheon  
by the Judge of the Walter Stone Life Writing Award,  
Dr Rae Luckie, the 2016 winner is:

**Richard Yaxley** OAM  
for *Homecoming: A Memoir*.

### JUDGE'S REPORT:

IN July this year, Geordie Williamson, Chief Literary Critic of *The Australian*, wrote of the crisis facing the development of an Australian National Literature exacerbated by government funding cuts to the arts, 'the defunding of literary magazines that incubate literary talent, [and] the likely dismantling of our local publishing industry through the scrapping of parallel importation laws'. A recent 'Spectrum' article noted that Carmel Bird, a distinguished author and winner of the 2016 Patrick White Award was unable to get her latest novel published 'mainstream'—so I would urge entrants to be active and creative in finding paths to publication.

There is no doubt that the strength of Australian literature is evident in the response to the 2016 Walter Stone Award for Life Writing, attracting 36 entries nationwide—the standard was astonishing. To give you an idea, when assessing at university, one might expect 2 or 3 high distinctions in a postgrad cohort of this size. I would have been fighting to give 15 high distinctions and another 10 distinctions at the top end of the range, so this was the most challenging yet most pleasurable task I have ever undertaken.

It was a privilege to be able to read such a remarkable collection of Australian life writing that captured the pulse of the nation... biographies from colonial times to the present; writings that reflected on the first World War during the centenary of Gallipoli; and memoirs that provided snapshots of life in the 20th century in rural and urban Australia—ranging from Sydney's North shore to Melbourne, Kalgoorlie, Darwin, Deniliquin and Lake Cargellico. Entries included the impact of domestic violence and dysfunctional families; raising goats in Tasmania; travelling around Australia in an FJ Holden; sailing around Tasmania; life in Indonesia in the 1990s; a history of Norfolk Island weaving the writings of Colleen McCullough and Ruth Park; a memoir with YouTube links to listen to mood music while reading; and a considered reflection on the changing nature of women's gender roles through the second half of the twentieth century. Two memoirs wrote of the hurt and grief emanating from the need to hide sexuality because of the discrimination and harassment towards lesbian and gay couples; others wrote of the fear of terrorism; coping with cancer; stroke; mental illness; and aspects of ageing.

Six well-researched biographical works included the lives of Harriet Mary Dowling (nee Blaxland); writer Katherine Susannah Pritchard; Rhodes scholar Philip Ridgeway Le Couteur (the extract focussing on research into his cricket career and interest in the Australian 'googly'); and a biography of Dorothy Rudder, a Sydney soprano and vaudeville artist famous in the 1920s and 1930s—the latter artfully fashioned including scans of memorabilia items found in an old suitcase.

I was personally enchanted with an experimental piece called 'Interview/Interrogation: an un-autobiography' that

challenged the very nature of auto/biography and involved the reader by posing nothing but questions.

Writing copious notes I compiled a long list of fifteen. I hope all of these works will be published—all met the competition criteria being 'original, creative and inspiring works which present to the audience an engaging work of literary excellence that shows some aspect of Australian history or have some Australian Historical significance'.

Eventually the fifteen became five—all were page turners and each in its own way broke new ground in the field of life writing: *The Music People* (Adam Kerecsy) is a memoir that enmeshes the reader in the absolute joy of music; *Returned* (Phillip Siggins)—a family memoir that offers profound insights into the effects of war and ageing; *The Impossible Dream* (Jim Briginshaw)—a coming of age memoir of a miner's son who hoped one day to be a journalist, written with great humour; *The Girl with the Jesus Eyes* (Jan Ryan)—a delightful memoir written from the perspective of a child about life on the Air Force Base in Darwin; and *Homecoming: A Memoir* (Richard Yaxley)—a discovery of the life of Tom Stott, the writer's uncle, who had been killed at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915.

I recently listened to Frank Moorhouse's 2015 Fryer lecture on Australian literature when he quoted Ross Campbell saying that neurologists and writers both work on the brain. I thought about the criteria 'original, creative and inspiring works'... to inspire can mean 'to make someone have a particular strong feeling or reaction'. All five evoked strong feelings and reactions and each would be worthy of the award. *Homecoming*, with its eloquent language, placed the reader and narrator with 'young Tom Stott' on the farm and eventually at Gallipoli; explored the nature of war and nationalism; the meaning of life and love; and effectively linked the Great War to the current 'War on Terror'. From the opening line...

*My mother rang on a rainy Sunday night and said 'I don't know what I'll do with all this stuff, once I'm gone.'*

... until the last sentences:

*Because it's time, Tom. We, your family, need your story—and not just the ultimate chapter. We need as much as we can get. It's time for you to come home.*

I was drawn again and again to the writing and inspired by the ideas expressed within and declare *Homecoming: A Memoir* written by Richard Yaxley the winner of the 2016 Walter Stone Award for Life Writing.

**Dr Rae Luckie**  
5 November 2016

### References:

Moorhouse, Frank, 'The Survival of Australian Writing: The role and authority of the literary imagination'. Fryer Lecture in Australian Literature, 2015, <<https://soundcloud.com/user-466792516/fryer-lecture-in-australian-literature-frank-moorhouse>>, accessed 3 November 2016.

Sullivan, Jane, 'Turning Pages: In Praise of the Winning Carmel Bird'. *Sydney Morning Herald*, Online (29 October 2016), <<http://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/books/turning-pages-in-praise-of-the-winning-carmel-bird-20161020-gs6vhk.html>>, accessed 3 November 2016.

Williamson, Geordie, 'Australian Literature Crisis as Government Funding Cuts Kick In'. *The Australian*, Online (2 July 2016). <<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/arts/review/australian-literature-crisis-as-government-funding-cuts-kick-in/news-story/81314d2fe9c3735ac3706e729b66cc94>>, accessed 3 November 2016.

# Competition Results

## ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY THE 2016 WALTER STONE AWARD WINNER

**T**HANK you very much for this lovely, gratifying honour. I'd like to begin by congratulating all of the shortlisted writers. Your achievement is a recognition of your skills, tenacity and purposefulness but also, more significantly, a sign that you care deeply for your work. For me, this is the key to better writing; the need to cherish, unequivocally, that which we do.

*Homecoming* arose from a crucible of needs. I had recently discovered that my great-uncle was at Gallipoli on that fateful day of the first landing and needed to know more, not just about him but about my family generally, who have tended to share very little information over the years. At the same time, in a deeply personal sense, I was struggling to align my thoughts and feelings with respect to the recent death of my father, and in a more generalist sense, what I saw as a world racing madcap along a tightrope of chest-out violence and senseless war-mongering of the type that continues to threaten all that we have achieved over past millennia. Why do we never learn, I said to myself as I began to write—why are humans so obtuse as to allow our private extremities to overrule our public desire for civilisation?

This was not a fluent or linear creation. I wrote in sections about people, places and ideas, fears, thoughts and memories. My work was an unstitched quilt, very different from the usual, more prosaic and often indefatigably logical way in which I write. As such, it was the authorial equivalent of creating a film, short highly visual scenes completed in no particular order before being edited together as part of that frightening but exhilarating search for the core of the story. Suffice to say, there were many sections that did not make the final cut.

Whatever the end result, I feel gratified that I have, in my own mind at least, honoured my great-uncle. Whilst he can be seen as representative of the wide-eyed hundreds who died without fanfare, without even firing a belligerent shot, on that opening day, he is more particularly as I describe him in the writing, my sweet green man, one whose blood was akin to mine, who saw the same Tasmanian rivers and sky that I saw as a child, who toiled on a farm and went to a church that I knew and visited. Without over-sentimentalising the process, I feel that the writing of *Homecoming* has both returned my great-uncle to that peaceful part of the earth to which he naturally belongs, and allowed me a more acute exploration of my own feelings with respect to my family, the death of my father and the fickle modern world in which I live. In that sense, the work is very much both requiem and restorative—for both of us.

Thank you to the Fellowship of Australian Writers for this event, and for continuing to tender and administer this unique award in the name of the late, great Walter Stone, a doyen in our field. I feel extremely honoured and humbled to be the 2016 recipient.

Thanks everyone  
**Richard Yaxley**  
5 November 2016

## THE 2016 FAW NSW JEAN STONE POETRY AWARD

Announced at the November 5 FAW Awards Luncheon, the 2016 winner of the Jean Stone Poetry Award, judged by Jan Dean, is:

**Penny Lane** for 'Breathe'

*Penny's poem and the Judge's Report are reprinted opposite page.*

## RESULTS: FAWNS LITERARY AWARDS 2016

### FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS NORTH SHORE BRANCH MINI MEMOIR SECTION

**1st Prize:** 'The Food of Love', Jan Foster (Vic)  
**2nd Prize:** 'Discovering Daphne', Carolyn Eldridge-Alfonzetti (NSW)  
**Highly Commended:** 'Wave to Mummy', Eilene Cooke (Qld)  
**Commended:** 'A Painful Memory', Joan Songaila (Qld).

### POETRY SECTION

THEME: NATURE

**First Place:** 'Triptych: In the Marine Light', Mark Miller (NSW)  
**Second Place:** 'Death of a Tree', Gavin Austin (NSW)  
**Highly Commended:** 'Drought and Flood', Mark Miller (NSW)  
**Commended:** 'The Dancers', Marilyn Humbert (NSW)  
**Commended:** 'The Visitor', Carolyn Eldridge-Alfonzetti (NSW).

Judges' Reports for both Sections, as well as the 1st and 2nd prize winning memoirs and 1st prize winning poem, can be read on the FAWNS website <[sites.google.com/site/fawnorthshoreregional](http://sites.google.com/site/fawnorthshoreregional)>.

## RESULTS: LAKE MACQUARIE FAW

### ALICE SINCLAIR MEMORIAL WRITING COMPETITION

#### CATEGORY A: POETRY

**First Place:** 'Dreams' by Hessom Razavi, Fremantle WA  
**Second Place:** 'Polio' by Pippa Kay, Hunters Hill NSW  
**Commended:** 'Ghost' by Hessom Razavi, Fremantle WA

#### CATEGORY B: SHORT STORY

**First Place (Equal):** 'Borderlines' by Ryan Grice, Red Hill QLD and 'Tell Tale' by Megan McGrath, Taringa QLD  
**Second Place:** 'The Slow Process of Decay' by Kristen Mair, Arcadia Vale NSW  
**Commended:** 'Clown Face' by Jan Mitchell, Rathmines NSW and 'The Recycler' by Graham McDonald, Denmark WA.

## RESULTS: FAW SHOALHAVEN

### LITERARY AWARDS FOR POETRY

*The aim of this biennial competition since 1999 continues to be the recognition of literary excellence and the enhancement of the image of the Shoalhaven as a place of strong cultural development.*

*The Awards are sponsored by Shoalhaven Arts Board (of the Shoalhaven City Council), Fellowship of Australian Writers (Shoalhaven Region) and Bundanon Trust. Judge: Brook Emery.*

**First Place:** Gemma Parker for 'In the Ring'.  
**Second Place:** Jill Gientzotis for 'Falling off the Maps (Palmyra)'.  
**Third Place:** Frank Russo for 'Last Evening on the Malecon'.  
The **Geoff Bolton Award** for an entry from a *Shoalhaven resident* went to Rod Milliken from Greenwell Point, for his poem, 'the language of the grail'.

## RESULTS: HILARIE LINDSAY YOUNG WRITERS

### 2016 POETRY AWARDS

Announced at the November 5 FAW Awards Luncheon by Competition Convenor Cate Plink, the winners are:

#### Section 1 Senior Secondary (Years 10, 11 & 12):

Isabella Vacaflares, Year 10, North Sydney Girls High for 'Stuff in Space' [reprinted below].

#### Section 2 Junior Secondary (Years 7, 8 & 9):

Tessa Yu, Year 8, St Michaels Collegiate, Hobart for 'Dawn on Maria' [reprinted page 29].

#### Section 3 Senior Primary (Years 5 & 6):

Arhan Basra, Year 6, Carnegie Primary School for a poem based on the Vietnam War (1962–1975).

#### Section 4 Junior Primary (Year 4 and under):

Ava Rylance, Yr 4, St Michaels Collegiate, Hobart for 'Dog'.

### Stuff in Space

*Isabella Vacaflares, Year 10  
North Sydney Girls High School*

Sometimes,  
It feels like the universe is spinning  
Right through me  
And I will  
Never know quite what  
To do with it.  
I am the sun,  
A blazing, bleak sight –  
No one can ever come near me  
For risk of dying  
I don't know,  
But whatever it is, I'm uninhabitable.  
Sometimes I'm a comet –  
With a sparkly blue tail,  
A beautiful piece of debris,  
The telescopes are out  
And I am admired  
A once in a lifetime spectacle.  
I'm the light side of the moon –  
The one that doesn't get a song  
Trailing behind the dark,  
I'm like the handyman of  
The world  
Trying to keep everything in balance.  
Occasionally, A solo astronaut –  
Charting the uncharted  
Guided only by myself.  
A lonely entrepreneur,  
The first teenager  
To ever step foot on the moon.  
It really does  
Feel like the universe is spinning  
Right through me  
Maybe, I'm not  
Supposed to know  
Really quite what to do with it.

### Breathe

*Penny Lane*

Breathe: inhale the breaths of eagles,  
the breaths of emus, echidnas, kites  
in saltbush, spinifex, airy country,  
of gangurru, kanguru, kangaroo;

Inhale forty, fifty, sixty thousand years of human breaths  
that tussle with scrub and gum and wattle;

Squint to sun glare on metal scrap roofs like salt lake dazzle,  
to a cramp of humpies, dugouts, shacks,  
flecks, patches, dabs on the red dirt curvature of earth,  
barely rooted as a speckling of pebbles breeze-bustled into a huddle,  
to mud-slathered stone walls, to wind-rackety roofs on rickety posts;  
Inhale the flow of sighs through fifteen decades of opal-burrowers;  
Crumple into this humpy here: head dip, slouch through, squeeze into  
an earth floored square of stove, cupboard, table, chairs,  
buttock-sculpted cushions on a lounging pair,  
four footstrides to a patchwork-blanketed bed,  
pots atop the stove, a kettle, a metal jug of spoons, knives, forks,  
four floral cups and saucers, a pile of plates,  
newsprint papering a ledge, moulded to its length and scallop-edged,  
a tap, a tub;

Watch through a squat window whirls of wind-worried dirt,  
swirls of wind that once fluffed skirts and shirts,  
scattered banter, laughter, squabbling;

Slip outside:

Savour the free, whirling, free-wheeling air;  
Inhale the breaths of children past, skittering with lizards,  
wielding a sparkle of firesticks, counting countless stars;  
Tread red earth,  
toss ancient water-rippled, wind-stippled stones,  
follow footprints of wallaroo, slitherprints of snakes,  
run with a scurry of tumbleweeds,  
with willy-willies, with wildlife;  
Live.

Eye-squint beyond the horizon:  
on the eastern coast a boast of houses, flats, apartments, villas,  
four-bedroomed, five-bedroomed, six-bedroomed,  
spa-bathroomed and ensuited,  
living-roomed,  
roofed-in, walled-in, hard-edged gluttony of trammelled air,  
concrete-encumbered sky where trees once canopied,  
parrots perched and kookaburras, cockatoos, wattlebirds;  
Breathe the stale, cornered breaths.

#### Judge's Report [extract]:

#### 2016 FAW Jean Stone Award for Poetry

It was quite challenging to arrive at a short list of four for this award, as the best of the poems were of a high standard that is, they were ambitious and used the resources of language in an interesting way. By ambitious I mean that the poets all reimagined the world in an original way, they had something to say and said it precisely. This is particularly evident in the winning poem, 'Breathe', which begins with an injunction to breathe the breaths of our country, animals, plants, ancient to modern culture. This is not a common idea and it enables us to re-imagine our (local) world in a physical way which brings with it reflection and understanding.

*Chris Mansell*

THE WINNING ENTRY:  
2016 FAW NSW  
JEAN STONE AWARD  
FOR POETRY

# Book Reviews

## Gemstones

Anne Benjamin and Friends

Skyllark Publishing, pb, 67pp, 9781530574889

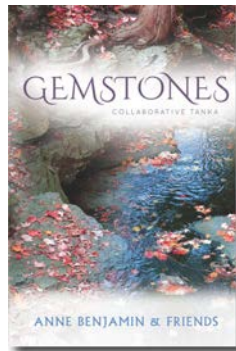
**G**EMSTONES is all about relationship. In her introduction to this anthology of responsive tanka, poet Anne Benjamin speaks of her friendships with, and admiration for, her seven co-writers (Jan Foster AUS, Claire Everett UK, Patricia Prime NZ, Marilyn Humbert AUS, Luminita Suse CAN, Julie Thorndyke AUS, Carmel Summers AUS) and the Biographical Notes highlight each writer's impressive individual accomplishments.

The Foreword by David Terelinck briefly alludes to the history of the form, explains the key requirement of responsive poetry as 'the ability to have individual, yet complementary voices', and whets the reader's appetite for the poems encompassing an expansive scope of moods, settings, and themes including love, loss, joy, and social justice that follow.

The beauty of a polished stone is either intensified or diminished by its setting. Happily, the experience of reading each of the small gems in this anthology is enhanced by its relationship with its company in the chain. The skilful links and the shifts in direction of each sequence are satisfyingly free of fictional contrivances or jarring leaps and these poems ring with authenticity.

in winter sunshine  
the shadow of my earrings  
on the writing pad  
while beside it sit three parcels  
of books from overseas

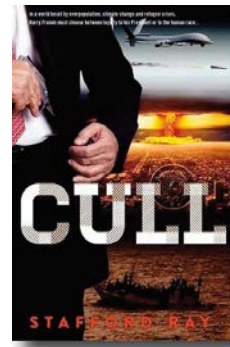
tea leaves  
in the bottom of my cup  
shift shapes –  
palm trees, a finger moon  
jewels falling from the sky  
(Patricia Prime and Anne Benjamin  
from 'Finger Moon' p26)



Those readers who enter into relationship with the poetry Gemstones contains, who read this collection as it should be read—unrushed and in a peaceful place, savouring each poem, sitting a while with their own reaction to it, and open to the direction the next will take—will be more than richly rewarded:

the stillness  
of this evening lake  
we remember  
what it is  
to stop, listen, wait  
(Julie Thorndyke from 'Stillness' p50)

**Reviewed by Carolyn Eldridge-Alfonzetti,**  
Writing Fellow—Fellowship of Australian Writers NSW



## CULL

Stafford Ray  
(Eurobodalla Branch)

**A** fable for our times, *CULL* is a sophisticated and absorbing read. It's a prescient warning to governments that fail to deal swiftly enough with two of the most urgent issues we face today.

Dropping us straight into the murky world of a shocking conspiracy, led by the US government, it hinges on a radical solution to rampaging population growth and global warming. It forces us to look at the real possibility of horrific answers if the world does not face up to these two challenges adequately.

This is a world in which morality has been largely replaced by expediency and secrecy.

Stafford is like a puppeteer, deftly controlling the spectrum of characters and the breadth of the conspiracy. The action moves back and forth from the halls of power in Washington, Canberra, Beijing and Tokyo, and a group of refugees on a boat in the Indian Ocean.

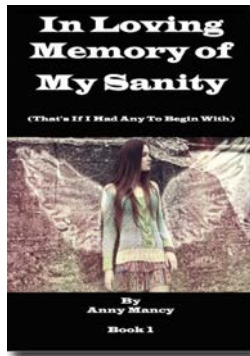
The plot is given breathe by skilful dialogue. The behind-the-scenes encounters between leaders and their staff provide, at times, entertaining repartee, but mostly a chilling recognition of the lengths they will go to for self-preservation at the expense of others. As the head of the Australian Dept. of Sustainability says to his PM, 'You have policy (to deal with), I only have science.'

We follow events as they unfold, through the protagonist, Harry Fromm, the US Ambassador to the UN. Harry is in the unenviable position of knowing too much and too little at the same time. How does an individual follow his conscience when he is being blackmailed to remain silent?

*CULL* is a genuine page turner, particularly over the last 100 or so pages, and I was breathless by the end. In the current state of affairs globally, it is not much of a stretch for the events of the novel to become a reality.

Look out for the sequel, *Australian Gulag* [see *Members' Bookshelf* back page]. Both books available through Woodslane Press.

**Reviewed by Rosie Toth**



## In Loving Memory of My Sanity (That's if I Had Any To Being With)

### Book 1

Anny Mancy

**A**NNY Mancy, a recent radio guest of mine, has written two books. Her first book talks about how she healed herself through her own mind, as she believes that 'The Mind is a powerful weapon'. It tells how her mother went to great lengths to help her daughter and can fill you with self-belief, self-love, morality, deep thinking, purpose and meaning etc.

Anny was born in Sudan, she is fair with greenish, light brownish, greyish chameleon eyes. Her parents are Arabic and were considered upper class, having a gardener, nanny, chauffeur and housekeeper.

Anny spoke English which was a great help when she arrived in Australia in 1983 at the age of nine.

They left a lovely home behind but moving to Australia started her psychological problems; she was bullied at school, and she hated it.

When she was still in her mother's womb her mum was in a severe car accident, plus there was much sadness with the loss of her grandfather. As if this was not enough combined with beatings by her father at the age of ten, Anny was hit by a car after stepping out of a pizza restaurant during vacation in Queensland. She had fractured both the left and right side of her skull, was tossed in the air and did a 360 degree turn and fell back to the ground and under the car. Her long hair twirled around the front tyre and stopped it from crushing her face but also tore her knees to the bone. On crutches for a year she was left with uncontrollable migraines and one leg shorter than the other.

On reaching puberty Anny fell into deep depression and her escape from pain and depression was writing prose and poetry.

Anny was determined to find herself and be free of her burden, which many days left her curled up in bed unable to rise.

Writing had a great deal to do with her release and her books are a great inspiration to anyone going through depression and family problems.



Trevar Langlands with on-air guest author Anny Mancy

Anny is now a happily married mother of two with a wonderful husband and is also a writer, public speaker and mentor.

Anny was a delightful guest and it was a great pleasure to meet her, in fact I have invited her back at a later date.

Give yourself the gift of Anny Mancy's books or give one to a needy friend. You can email her at <[annymancy@hotmail.com](mailto:annymancy@hotmail.com)> or buy through Amazon.com or <[lulu.com](http://lulu.com)>.

She also invites you to phone her on 045 041 0558—Anny is happy to be a guest speaker at your branch.

*Reviewed by Trevar Langlands*

### Winning Entry: Section 2 FAW Hilarie Lindsay Young Writers 2016 Poetry Awards

[see page 27 for full results and Section 1 winner]

#### Dawn on Maria

Tessa Yu, Year 8, St Michaels Collegiate Hobart

I sit  
Alone,  
As the island is engulfed in darkness,  
Any trace of humans  
Dissolved  
By this deep, blue wash  
  
I walk  
Alone,  
As the wind whispers wistful tales  
Through the trees  
Wisps of light emerge,  
Slowly  
The branches softly moan  
  
I run  
Alone  
Light spreads across the island  
Like a raging infection  
Stripping the land of darkness  
Breathing new life into this fragile world.

# 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:  
<healbinn@bigpond.com>  
Facebook page:  
Blue Mountains Writers FAW

## **CENTRAL COAST FAW**

**3rd Sunday – 10.00 am**

Gosford Hotel, 179 Mann St, Gosford.  
Enquiries:  
Johan Luidens (Sec.)  
<centralcoastfaw@live.com>  
Branch: <centralcoastfaw@live.com>

## **EASTWOOD/HILLS FAW**

**1st Saturday – 1.00 pm**

Senior Citizens' Room, Cnr Farnell &  
North Rocks Rds, North Rocks.  
Enquiries:  
Carolyn Eldridge-Alfonzetti  
(Pres.) 9869 2715  
Email: <carolyn.alfonzetti@me.com>  
or one of two Secretaries:  
Laura Davis <lauraceedee@  
yahoo.com.au> or Frances Moon  
<mria55@yahoo.com.au>  
Web: <hillsfaw.wordpress.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**

Toronto Public Library Meeting  
Room, Cnr Brighton Ave and  
Pemell St, Toronto.  
Enquiries:  
<lakemacfaw2@gmail.com>  
Facebook:  
<www.facebook.com/LakeMacFAW>  
Website:  
<lakemacfaw2.wordpress.com>  
Twitter: @lakemacfaw2  
Instagram: #lakemacfaw2

## **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 – 12.45 to 4.15pm**

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: Jill Baggett 6372 0743  
PO BOX 356, Mudgee 2850  
Web: <mudgeevalleywriters.  
wordpress.com>

## **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**

Wallarobba 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**

**1st Saturday – 12.30 pm**

Room A Level 2, 1 Fitzwilliam Street  
(RAFFLES building next door to the  
library, across from Parramatta Stn).  
To gain access to the 2nd floor ring the  
Secretary, Lyn Leerson 0421 188 770.

## **PORT MACQUARIE- HASTINGS FAW**

**1st Saturday – 1.00 to 4.00 pm**

The Mac Adams Music Centre  
33 Lord Street, Port Macquarie  
[behind Players Theatre near the  
pool carpark]  
Enquiries: Colleen Parker (Pres.)  
6583 3997 or Debbie Bayliss (Pub.)  
6556 3740 or 0478 609 153  
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: Jennifer Dickerson (Pres.)  
Mobile: 0412 530 434  
Email: <jdickerson@shoal.net.au> or  
<info@fawnswoalhaven.org.au>  
Web: <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.  
Enquiries:  
Dianne Foster 4994 5727  
c/- Stroud Library – GLLS  
12 Church Lane, STROUD NSW 2425  
Email: <stroudwriters@gmail.com>

## **SUTHERLAND SHIRE FAW**

**Last Saturday – 12.00 pm**

Sutherland Library, meeting room 1,  
30–36 Belmont Street, Sutherland.  
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.fawns.org.au](http://www.fawns.org.au)>

**Facebook:** <[www.facebook.com/FAWNWSW](https://www.facebook.com/FAWNWSW)>

### 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 (*see opposite page*) 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,  
53 Summerhill Road, Reservoir VIC. 3073.  
Phone: 03 9478 1942  
Email: <[president@writers.asn.au](mailto:president@writers.asn.au)>  
Web: <[www.writers.asn.au](http://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](http://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](mailto:admin@fawwa.org.au)>  
Web: <[www.fawwa.org.au](http://www.fawwa.org.au)>

### Queensland:

Fellowship of Australian Writers (QLD) Inc.  
Web: <[www.fawq.net](http://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  
Email: <[isolatedwriters@fawns.org.au](mailto:isolatedwriters@fawns.org.au)>

### MEMBERS' ACHIEVEMENTS:

**The Editor, Writers Voice**  
65 Barbara Boulevard, Seven Hills NSW 2147  
Email: <[wveditor@fawns.org.au](mailto:wveditor@fawns.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*). Make cheques/money orders payable to **Fellowship of Australian Writers** and enclose SSAE for receipt if required.

### ELECTRONIC ROUND ROBIN (ERR):

This consists of manuscripts submitted by members, sent as email attachments 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.

Apart from your comments, your contribution to the scheme is no more than the time 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.

### ERR Closing Dates

The ERR closes at the end of each month.

### ERR Submissions

Send your submissions to the ERR coordinator, **Brian Armour**. Email: <[isolatedwriters.err@gmail.com](mailto:isolatedwriters.err@gmail.com)>

# FAW Members' Bookshelf

ROBERT BEE

*Moon Charlie Shoots For Goal*

Charlie Angler lives on the Moon with her parents and her five year old pain-in-the-bum brother Jacob. Charlie has just turned 10. Little does she know what a difference that will make in her life: Getting a new luminous lemon-yellow spacesuit; her first dust crater skiing adventure; an encounter with a dreaded 'moon shark'; trying out for her dome's U11s netball team; nasty tricks by her nemesis Skyler Snow; making new and unlikely friends; meeting her netball hero. All of this happening on the airless, extra-low gravity Moon where one leap can take her many metres and where she can jump higher than her very tall Dad. Will Charlie make it into the U11 netball team, the Plato Parrots? Can she foil Skyler's attempts to keep her out? Can they win the Inter-Dome competition? And what will Jacob do to cause so many tears? 176 page novel for junior (9-12yrs) girls (and mums and nans) who love netball and adventure. Cost \$12 plus p&h. Contact the author (02) 4647 4335 or email <[robertbee46@gmail.com](mailto:robertbee46@gmail.com)>.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE FAW

*Dreams of Home*

*Dreams of Home* is a home-grown collection by talented writers at the Sutherland Shire branch of the Fellowship of Australian Writers. The collection is in partnership with 'SPARK' High School's Writing Competition, featuring the junior and senior winning entries. The book is available for purchase at \$15—please contact <[sutherlandshirefaw@gmail.com](mailto:sutherlandshirefaw@gmail.com)> for further details.

STAFFORD RAY

*Australian Gulag—a love story*

Tom McKinnon returns from Afghanistan with PTSD and hides himself away on a remote north Kimberley beach with no communication with the outside world. After a fierce storm, his dog leads him to the lone survivor of an asylum-seeker boat wreck.

He tends her wounds and nurses her back to health but is prevented from taking her into Broome by the Wet. In those three months of isolation, she gets into every aspect of his life. He delivers her to Border Force only to discover he loves her and wants her back. She wants him, he wants her but they are kept apart by wire fences and secrecy. Available from Bookshops, Amazon etc, on line and in libraries. Published by Woodslane Australia 2016.

STAFFORD RAY

*CULL*

Obama has been replaced by a Republican President who vows to make America great again, and ran his campaign as a climate change denier. His answer to the rise of China and mayhem in the Middle East is to 'nuke them all'.

'A ripper yarn with a deadly message': *Nick Golding, Fairfax.*

Available from Bookshops, Amazon etc, on line and in libraries. Published by Woodslane Australia 2016.

PETER J. UREN

*Classic Bike Dreaming*

With the success of his first three novels in *The Old Mechanic* series, a fourth was crying out to be written. But where the other stories gave equal billing to the restoration of a number of classic British motorcycles as well as to the different characters, in this book, the author concentrates more on the main characters, and in particular, the new mechanic, Paul Saunders. Paul is about to graduate near the top of his class as a motorcycle mechanic. He was once a gang member but, having served his time, is about to be released from prison. All he needs is a job and a safe place to live. Paul is also an Aboriginal of the Kamilaroi tribe, trying to live between two cultures, yet he faces misunderstanding, racism and intolerance nearly every day. In this book, Peter J. Uren explores the impact Paul's experiences have on the lives of the old mechanic and those who work in his workshop. Available from the author for \$16.00 plus \$8.00 postage within Australia, email <[theoldmechanic1@yahoo.com.au](mailto:theoldmechanic1@yahoo.com.au)>, or as an ebook from Amazon. Peter's other three books are still available at a discounted price for two or more books. POA.

PAM GARFOOT & ELIZABETH CONWAY

*Making Them Real*

After their father's death, two sisters find a diary written at Gallipoli by their grandfather, Percy Gooch. It captivates them, compelling them to bring alive not only Percy's story but also that of their family's beginnings in Australia. The authors record their findings and describe how they feel about significant events in their voyage of discovery. Their unique style combines different writing streams: historical narrative, personal memoir, and practical guidance. At each chapter's end helpful explanations are given, illustrating how the story has been uncovered.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:webmaster@faw.nsw.org.au)>

The FAW Bookshelf web page address is:

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

A substantial bibliography shows how wide research has supported the historical narrative. Photographs, maps and charts complement each story. The voyage helps to document the history of Australia's past and brings a richness to the authors' lives which they will treasure always. The book is available via this link (search on the book title): <[www.digitalprintaustralia.com/bookstore.html](http://www.digitalprintaustralia.com/bookstore.html)>

TOM PEARSON

*Almost an Ordinary Life*

This is a story of Tom's life for the first 20 years, 11 months and 10 days precisely. It was made particularly interesting by the people who at one time or another passed through it with him, some in close association, others for some little time and others so briefly that as to hardly raise a ripple on the sea of life. But whoever they were they added colour to the kaleidoscope that was to become Tom's life. Available from the author ph: 02 6584 3980. \$26 plus P&H. Tom also has a book titled *Hello My Name is Jennifer and This Is My Story*, about his most treasured pet.

MAVIS GRANT GUNTER

*One and One Make Five*

Mavis 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.

WAYNE JARMAN

*With a Mind to Achieve*

"If only I knew then, what I know now!" How many times have you heard someone say that? Author Wayne Jarman says, "I've said it myself. If only someone had shoved a book in my hand, when I was young, that gave some guidelines for leading an effective life—full of achievements and success. The book wasn't forthcoming though and, like most people, I have muddled through life. I have now reached an age when I have developed my mind and accumulated enough information and experiences to write my own book. Whether you agree with everything in this book is immaterial. At least it is a thought-provoking head start. The book is now in YOUR hands. See what you can do with it!" The Success Book (paperback or ebook) is available from various sources on the Internet. Find Wayne Jarman's Amazon Author Page at <[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.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](mailto:honsecretary@fawns.org.au)>.



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