

# Writers Voice



Summer Edition #258 DEC 2017

QUARTERLY BULLETIN OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS NSW INC.

## Annual Awards lunch – a time to celebrate

**T**HE Red Room at Club York, Sydney was the venue for this year's FAW Awards Luncheon held Saturday November 4, 2017 and attended by approximately 50 members and guests.

MC, FAW president Trevar Langlands thanked his committee for their support during 2017 and warmly welcomed Brad Stone, grandson of Walter Stone, Hilarie Lindsay MBE OAM, the Hilarie Lindsay Junior Primary winner Justin Kim and his family, and all FAW members to celebrate the 2017 special awards lunch.

The winner of the **Marjorie Barnard prize**, Gabrielle Leago from Victoria, was unable to attend the event, however, judge Pippa Kay said that the five short-listed stories were all of an excellent quality, but it was Gabrielle's entry, 'The dark road home', which ticked all the boxes to win this year's prize [Judge's Report and the winning story are reproduced in this issue—see pp23–24].

Jan Mitchell, the **Hilarie Lindsay short story competition** judge stated "...the stories were of a very high standard for young children."

She told Justin Kim, the only young winner attending the lunch, his entry, 'Don't and Me' was well punctuated, had great dialogue, was very quirky and funny.

Trevar Langlands awarded a **Writing Fellow** to Southern Highlands member, Dr Barbara Angell, saying this was well-deserved recognition for this talented writer/actress who, for many years, while living in the UK, appeared on TV and wrote many stories and scripts.

Hon. Secretary Maureen Kelly OAM presented Mudgee Valley member Jill Baggett with a **Distinguished Service Award** for her dedication and commitment to the FAW for over 25 years.

Guest speaker, Newcastle born **Marilla North** gave an entertaining talk about her 38 years of research and writing devoted to the life and times of Dymphna Cusack—who joined the FAW in 1935—resulting in the publishing of Marilla's book of letters, *Yarn Spinners*.

The event concluded with Trevar thanking treasurer Kay Bakon for organising the lunch and the raffle—*Writers Voice* Ken Driver editor winning the \$100 first prize and Professor Rae Luckie the second prize winner; many guests also took home lucky door prizes.

A good day of 'fellowship, motivation and celebration.'  
**Maureen Kelly OAM, Hon. Sec.**

Photos pages 14/15...



# Fellowship of Australian Writers 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 5 May 2018, 10.00am** 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 Aust Writers**.

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

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

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

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

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

## Distinguished Service Award

This annual award recognises FAW members confidentially recommended by their Branch Committees and approved by the DSA Assessment Committee. DSA members will be honoured in the following way: 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:

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

## ISBN

Members requiring their FREE ISBN (one number per publication) should 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 up to 7,000 words 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

**D**ID you miss it!!! If you did you missed a wonderful day of Fellowship and fun.

Our 2017 Awards Luncheon once again was a great day out and it was great to see so many of our members and friends there.

Members from Sutherland, Macarthur, Mudgee, Southern Highlands, Isolated Writers, Bankstown, Port Stephens, Port Macquarie, and other areas came along and had a great day.

Dr Hilarie Lindsay MBE OAM attended in one of her fabulous hats and regaled us with some funny tales of the early FAW days—her memory at 95 is still absolutely fabulous!!!

Hilarie tells me her book *The Washerwoman's Dream* is having another printing.

It was nice to catch up again with our Patron Emeritus Professor Elizabeth Webby AM FAHA formerly Chair of Australian Literature at Sydney University.

Thank you Elizabeth for your kind words on the enjoyable day.

Great to see Ken Driver *Writers Voice* Editor there, gaining better health every day.

Our guest speaker Marilla North entertained us with information on Dymphna Cusack, the subject of Marilla's latest book. She brought along Lawyer John Grant, a son of Dymphna Cusack's younger sister.

Dymphna was very involved with the FAW in the '20s and '30s and wrote over 30 books plus plays and poetry. She wrote *Come in spinner* (made into a TV series) and *Caddie* which was made into a movie.

I was really delighted to see Brad Stone attending. Brad of course is from the famous Stone family—ie. Walter and Jean Stone Trusts which are part of our annual competitions. Great to catch up Brad!

How nice to see some members from far off Mudgee, thank you. Jill Baggett from Mudgee branch was awarded our Distinguished Service Award for the year. Well deserved!

It was my pleasure to accept Dr Barbara Angell as a *Writing Fellow*. I have known Barb for quite a few years.

Born in Australia but has also lived and worked in the UK for more than 20 years, Barbara is a talented writer and during her career as Writer and Actress she has spanned the globe in TV and Film.

Top selling books by Barbara Angell include, *The Entertainment Machine*, *Voyage to Port Phillip 1803*, *A Woman's War*, and one I really love, *The Coral Browne Story*: theatrical life of Australian actress Coral Browne, wife of actor Vincent Price.

Barbara was involved with the original *Mavis Bramston Show*, in writing and acting, as well as scripts and as Mrs Soames in *Home and Away*, *A Country Practice*, *First Sight*, *Dave*

*Allen at Large*, *Shortland Street* TV series, and also appearing in many of them, eg Polly in *Superman Returns*, roles in *Defining Moments*, *Love my Way*, Mena Roberts in *Fireflies*; in the UK *Doctor in the House*, *The Jensen Code*, *The Top Secret Life of Edgar Briggs*, *Prisoner Cell Block H*, *Anne of Avonlea*, *All creatures great and small*, and many more.

Welcome Barbara to the list of FAW Writing Fellows.

Thank you to all my Committee for their help and part in the Luncheon awards; Cate Plink for her work with competitions and Publicity, Hon Sec Maureen Kelly for tying up so many important aspects of the day, to Treasurer Kay Bakon for organising the venue details and attending the door on the day.

Many people were present who have helped us over time including Derek Hammond, Stefania McDonald, the valuable work with Isolated Writers by Carolyn Cash, our Public Officer Vince Hatton, an important role in any organisation.

Ever enthusiastic Johan Luidens and Colleen Parker enjoyed the day, they oversee the family Trust and Colleen conducts workshops across the land.

Congratulations to our winners which you can read about elsewhere in this issue of the magazine.

Judge Jan Mitchell was present and gave a report on her judging as well as esteemed Judges Pippa Kay and Ray Luckie who always give us such great support. Always good to hear their valuable advice.

I may have missed some people so my apologies if I have, however a big thank you to all who came along and I urge those who did not—please try to turn up next year and meet your fellow members and Committee.

Members and friends everywhere, this year seems to have galloped away a lot faster than ever. It has been a privilege to serve as President, a position I do with relish. I take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a hopeful happy New Year.

**Trevar Langlands, State President**

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD HONOUR ROLL



Denise Aldridge	Elaine Burton	John Jacobs	Dr John Sheppard
Carolyn Alfonzetti	Ken Challenor	Maureen Kelly OAM	Bridget Sharp
Patricia Allen	Jan Dean	Lyn Leerson	Margot Shugg
Gavin Austin	Beryl Dundas*	Pat Lindsay	Barbara Snel
Barbara Aylott	Margaret Ekin	Helen Luidens*	Dorothe Squires-Cooper
Eileen Backhus*	Thelma Flower*	Vince Morrison	Frank Urban
Jill Baggett	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*	

\*Deceased

# State Council News

## From the secretary's desk

**G**REAT to report I have been busy providing **FREE ISBNs** to members which means many of you are publishing your work—congratulations!

To speed up provision of your ISBN, set out below is the information required:

- Author's name and address
- Contact phone number
- Date of birth
- Publication title
- Retail price
- ebook, digital, hardback or paperback
- Short description of subject matter of book
- Target audience
- Perfect bound
- Publication date
- Your current FAW NSW **Membership Number**.

If you have a jpeg of your cover this would also be a great asset.

It can take 6-8 weeks before it appears on a Google Search.

It does, however, appear on *Bookwire*—see this example:

[www.bookwire.com/books/all?query=9781922050502&pn=1&ps=20](http://www.bookwire.com/books/all?query=9781922050502&pn=1&ps=20)

Please forward information to [honsecretary@fawns.org.au](mailto:honsecretary@fawns.org.au).

Advice regarding successful processing will be advised as soon as possible thereafter.

I hope I continue to receive numerous ISBN requests!

## Branch secretary contact details

I would appreciate branches forwarding their secretary contact details if these have changed from previous years, as I would like to update my list.

**Maureen Kelly OAM,**

FAW NSW Hon Secretary

Phone: 0417 403 720

Email: [honsecretary@fawns.org.au](mailto:honsecretary@fawns.org.au)

## Writing for Children?

**Buzz Words** is an essential twice monthly online magazine for anyone in the children's book industry: markets, competitions, opportunities, interviews, profiles, publishing house profiles, books and websites—much more!

For your free issue, contact [dibates@outlook.com](mailto:dibates@outlook.com).

Cost is \$48 for 24 issues per annum.

Check out *Buzz Words'* children's book review magazine

[www.buzzwordsmagazine.com](http://www.buzzwordsmagazine.com)

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## ATTENTION ALL BRANCHES:

### FEES DUE



## A message from your Treasurer

**H**ELLO to all members. It is the end of the year again, and time to renew your memberships. Current members pay the full yearly fee to their branch Treasurers, who will then send \$40 for each member to the State Treasurer.

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

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

2018 Membership cards for the year are mailed to each financial member.

All those who pay before 1st January, automatically go into our 'Early Bird' draw for \$50. Any who do not renew by 26 February 2018, will no longer receive their copy of *Writers Voice*.

## To all Branch Treasurers:

When January arrives, please send me the details of payments given to tutors and/or speakers engaged between January and December 2017. No need to wait for the end of your financial year. I need to know the amounts so that I can renew the GIO Workers Compensation Insurance at the end of February.

Send to:

**Kay Bakon, Hon. Treasurer**

FAW NSW

Unit 801, Henry Kendall Gardens,  
150 Maidens Brush Road,  
WYOMING NSW 2250

# FAW Branch Reports

## BLUE MOUNTAINS FAW

**B**LUE Mountains Writers are very sorry to lose the services of Kerry Healey Binns who has been a most devoted and industrious president, always having a stimulating agenda for our meetings with subjects to inspire our skills. Kerry will remain an active member of the group and she leaves her flock in good form. One of her last achievements was to arrange a visit from Carol Chandler, an acclaimed Blue Mountains resident who gave us a fascinating insight into the life of an experienced writer, dealing with many aspects of the writing profession that are necessary to successfully write and publish work.

We are still a lively group but currently without a president. Vice Presidents are taking turns to hone their skills in chairing and preparing meetings until we can arrange for a successor. Taking on the responsibility of the top job is not easy. Having officers to share the load is essential as there are a number of tasks that are needed such as looking after the finances, keeping records, dealing with publicity etc. These days time is precious with commitments, making a living, caring for a partner, children or grandchildren. All take precedence over our need to express our talents so it is not surprising that we are having difficulty finding volunteers. Perhaps some discussion in these columns may be helpful to see how other groups successfully manage their affairs.

*John Smith*

## EASTWOOD/HILLS FAW

Our usual monthly workshops were suspended for August and September. The August meeting was devoted to announcing the winners in our Annual Literary Competition. Entries were Australia wide. It was disappointing that only a few prize winners could attend personally to claim their prize. Nevertheless, it was lovely to meet those who came as we were able to hear the work read out by the person who wrote the

piece. For those who could not attend, their entry was read out by one of the members of the FAW, so that the piece of writing could be appreciated by all who attended the meeting.

The AGM meeting was held in September. The Committee was returned. Helena Hamilton will be preparing the branch report for *Writers Voice*.

The October meeting proved to be an informative, stimulating giggle a minute as our President, Elizabeth Collins, navigated us through the various types of comedy and ways of writing in this important but difficult genre. Personal comic anecdotes were shared to the delight of both the teller and the listener.

Our Secretary, Sally Lewry, conducted the last workshop of the year in November. The topic was mystery writing. Some highlights included the necessity of thinking of character development, setting, types of crimes and how to create and maintain tension throughout the story as well as the importance of research.

For our Christmas party in December, members of our group have been encouraged to prepare an item to be performed so as to add to the merriment of the season.

*Helena Hamilton*

## FOREST FAW

2017 has been a productive year for Forest FAW. Members published poems, novels and short stories and had their works short-listed and highly commended in competitions. We welcomed an influx of new members and needed to cap membership to eighteen. Our management committee, with Maureene Fries at the helm, gave generously of their time to organise workshops and inspire members with writing challenges to ensure our creative juices kept flowing.

Submissions to our internal short story competition were judged by an external judge, Pippa Kay. Pippa's report and critiques were presented at our August meeting. Meg Dunn's story, 'Forced Sale' was the winner

with Catherine Smith's story, 'The Letters,' a close second. Their stories were chosen because they were character-driven as opposed to plot-driven. All entrants were invited to read their stories to the group. It was an opportunity to hear some great stories from members.

In September, Maureene Fries led a discussion on writing stories with humour. Maureene gave a talk on the components involved and the difficulties in writing punch lines. It was a fun workshop. Some members brought along short pieces of humour they had written while others read out witty passages they had researched.

Our guest speaker in October was Sally Lewry from Eastwood Hills FAW. Sally gave an excellent presentation on writing crime stories. Members who had never considered writing about crime were inspired by Sally's workshop.

During the winter months our group had many writing achievements. Sophie Chenoweth attended an open mic event at Desire Books, Manly, and recited some of her poetry. Christiana Star had seven articles published online from her book, which she is preparing for publication in 2018. Catherine Smith had two poems and one Haibun published in *Kokako*, a New Zealand publication. Colleen Russell's story, 'Lavender Ladies', was long-listed in the memoir section of the Lane Cove Literary Awards and Lindsay Hay had her poem, 'Spirit of the Land', short listed in a competition at the Manly Art Gallery. Lindsay was invited to read her poem at a special event held at the gallery on November 5.

The festive season is looming and we are looking forward to our Christmas party to be held at our December meeting. For me the spirit of Christmas is about finding time for others and giving without a thought of receiving. May this spirit fill the hearts of all FAW members and may your festive season overflow with happiness, good times and peace.

*Mary Ann Napper*

*cont. next page...*

# FAW Branch Reports

## HUNTER FAW

Looking back on the year's work, I am very proud of the achievements of Hunter FAW. Though our group is small we have held productive meetings, critiquing and discussing language, ideas and content expressed in our writing.

Our members have achieved publication in Haiku and Tanka journals and other anthologies. They have been represented and successful in local and other competitions such as Grieve, Henry Kendall Poetry Prize, Newcastle Poetry Prize, Philip Bacon Ekphrasis competition, Australian Women Writers' competition, Red Room Poetry, Poetry at the Pub, War's End Centenary anthologies. They have judged literary competitions.

The highlight of the year was our November guest speaker, renowned poet and academic David Musgrave who discussed what he valued in poetry by means of analysing poems with our group. This meeting was open to the public and was of great interest to all who attended.

We look forward to 2018 with enthusiasm anticipating new members, new executive and new ideas.

*Luciana Croci*

## ISOLATED WRITERS BRANCH

I hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year, especially for writing success! For those travelling long distances, please stay safe on our roads during the holiday break.

It was fantastic catching up with fellow Isolated Writers and members from other branches at the Awards Luncheon on Saturday, 4 November, and hearing Marilla North share stories about well-known author Dymphna Cusack's incredible life including her association with FAW.

Once again, many thanks to Brian for all his hard work running the **Electronic Round Robin**, especially with moving house earlier this year.

This year, we opened up the Electronic Round Robin to all members of the FAW who would like some feedback on their work, whether it is poetry or prose. We

hope many more members will take part in 2018. Guidelines for participating in the Electronic Round Robin can be found under 'Isolated Writers' on the inside back page of Writers Voice.

Alternatively, there is the **FAW Manuscript Assessment Service** which can help with your prose or poetry—details can always be found on Page 2 of Writers Voice.

If anyone hasn't obtained a copy of *Unlocking The Writer Within*, I have three copies available for sale for \$20.00 plus postage. If you wish to buy a copy, contact me at [isolatedwriters@fawns.org.au](mailto:isolatedwriters@fawns.org.au).

It would also make an excellent Christmas present for any writer friends who are starting out on their journey and need a go-to manual to provide practical advice.

*Carolyn Cash*

## LAKE MACQUARIE FAW

Dr Kathleen Warren spoke to our group in August about Writing for Children. She is a consultant for Early Childhood Education and was a writer for some of *The Wiggles* TV shows. When writing for children one must be accurate with spelling, punctuation and grammar, as well with the information provided. Fantasy was acceptable but it had its limits. Unnecessary complexity, she said, caused confusion. She stressed that all children's writers need to make their work appropriate for the developmental stage of the child reader. Moralising and talking down to children should be avoided and the characters drawn so that children can relate to them. Danger lends excitement, but it should not be too great and the character should be brought back to safety in the end.

Lorraine Robertson, a highly accomplished book illustrator, print maker and paper maker, was a guest at our September meeting. As Lorraine took us through the process from conceptualisation of illustrations, through to preliminary



Lake Macquarie FAW's Jan Mitchell with Willow Ross, winner of the Junior Secondary Section of the 2017 Hilarie Lindsay Young Writers Short Story Competition.

sketching, scrap book creation, and working on the final illustrations, we gained a valuable and close-up insight into the process. Since some of our members (including Tony Lang, who engaged Lorraine to illustrate his recent book, *Spaceships*) have produced children's books this was a fascinating session.

In October, one of our members, Glenys Buselli, led us in an extended exercise to hone our skills in writing dialogue. We were given the real-life story of lost bushwalkers that had been reported in our local newspaper earlier this year. *The Lakes Mail* described how three 'elderly' people (only 65–72!) had been reported missing to the police when they failed to return on schedule. Different members in our group focused on writing imagined conversations amongst the bushwalkers themselves, amongst their family members, and amongst the police rescuers. Happily the story had a good ending, both in real life, and for our writing. The story can be found on the *Lakes Mail* website [www.lakesmail.com.au/story/4627527/lost-bushwalkers-found-safe-and-well/](http://www.lakesmail.com.au/story/4627527/lost-bushwalkers-found-safe-and-well/).

At the group's last formal meeting of the year fantasy writer and editor Dionne Lister talked to us about the nuts and bolts of writing fantasy. To create and write about a fantasy world it's important to do lots of 'scene setting' and include plenty of back story. However, you should not do so much that it slows the narrative. Although there are several special aspects to writing fantasy, many of the skills we apply in general creative writing continue to apply. After Dionne's great session we had a writing exercise based around a fantasy battle scene—quite a challenge for some of us!

We also took the opportunity at the November meeting of congratulating the winner of this year's Hilarie Lindsay Young Writers Short Story Competition (Junior Secondary Section). Willow Ross, who attended the meeting with her family, was presented with a certificate and prize money by the competition's convenor Cate Plink. Competition judge and LMFAW member, Jan Mitchell, gave a report on Willow's winning entry and congratulated her on the quality of her writing. [See photo].

Some of our members this November committed to *NaNoWriMo* (National Novel Writing Month): Alison Ferguson, Kristen Mair and Cate Plink. We wish them success!

**Pam Garfoot**

## LIVERPOOL FAW

As the end of year approaches we are taking stock of 2017 and looking forward to 2018. We have had ups and downs with our membership, as we aren't a large group. But yet we support each other and enjoy a friendly and interesting Meeting each month.

We have seen Peter F Pike, Toula Pappadam and Vindu Maharaj launch their books—a busy and fruitful time. The hopeful self-publishing of the first in a series of books covering a lifetime of my writing, has stalled at the first hurdle. I didn't realize how difficult and time-consuming it would be. But next year maybe?

So we are all taking a breath now and easing toward the final Meeting of this year which will be our Christmas Party in December. But at the same time, we are gearing up for a busy and fruitful New Year. We hope to see our numbers swell as that always makes for lively and enjoyable workshops. And of course for the varied contributions to our regular sessions of reading and the helpful critiques that follow.

All in all a good year behind us now, and I hope to have lots to report in February next year. We wish a Merry Christmas and happy and safe New Year to all our fellow members.

**Rhonda Rice**

## MACARTHUR FAW

Good news for amateur astronomers: Robert Bee has published a new book, entitled *Star Hopping to the Messiers*, a guide for amateur astronomers, to help them locate those elusive Messier catalogue objects in the night sky. The ninety-four page, A4-size text is full of self-drawn maps and detailed descriptions. Anyone who has had difficulty locating a particular nebula or star cluster will find this book most useful. Great idea, Bob.

This year we have been joined by two new members, who have brought with them fresh ideas and new approaches to writing. Welcome Susannah and Colin. Hopefully the forthcoming information session that we are planning to hold at a local mall will result in further memberships.

High-flyer, Cathy Hobson, has had a nine-page article on three women pilots accepted by *Heritage Aviation Magazine*. Cathy is well known for her meticulously researched histories chronicling the achievements of pioneering Australian women aviators. Well done, Cathy.

Our bi-monthly writing competition continues, even into our November Christmas party, when the latest winner was announced and a new competition topic given.

Organised by our efficient secretary, Pauline Twemlow, the party took place at the Campbelltown RSL club—a good way to kick off the festive season.

A development of interest to our members has been the opening of Campbelltown Writers Retreat, located in the local suburb of Wedderburn. An initiative of Campbelltown Council and Westwords <[westwords.com.au](http://westwords.com.au)>, with the support of the NSW government through Create NSW, the retreat is described as 'a dedicated space for writers of any genre to focus on themselves and their work, away from the distractions of daily life.' Set in pleasant bushland at a distance of twelve kilometres from Campbelltown CDB, it will play host to a regular program of literary events and workshops.

Another noteworthy achievement: November marked the fifteenth anniversary of our in-house bulletin, *Inkblot*, produced and distributed by club resident, Margot Shugg. As well as information pertaining to competitions, meetings etc, the bulletin carries advice on writing, reviews, criticism, humour and a host of other items. Members' contributions encouraged and a number of people have risen to the challenge. Thank you for all your hard work, Margot.

Last month we started a 'homework' option for all members. This month, we were invited to write a short story containing the phrase. "Don't go any further."

The idea has been enthusiastically received.

In conclusion, we at Macarthur would like to wish all of our fellow FAW members, coast-to-coast, a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Productive New Year.

**Bernard Smith**

## MUDGE VALLEY WRITERS

We have produced a photo book *Mudgee Valley Writers – The First 31 Years* to make sure our group is remembered! We have many photo albums kept by various members over the life of our group, so thought collating the major events would be a nice memento for us. The first half of the book records photos of the group highlights since 1986 and the second half comprises a page of photos, stories or poems by each of our current members.

Our next major project will be the 2018 Norman McVicker Youth Literary Award. We invite young people, up to the age of 18 years, to enter their short stories and/or poems for the 2018 Youth Literary Award by the 31st March 2018. Entry forms and all details are on the branch website: <[mudgeevalleywriters.wordpress.com](http://mudgeevalleywriters.wordpress.com)> or by emailing <[mvw.nsw@gmail.com](mailto:mvw.nsw@gmail.com)>.

**Jill Baggett**

*cont. next page...*

# FAW Branch Reports

## NORTH ARM COVE FAW

Members celebrated the branch's 20th birthday lunching together at North Arm Cove Community Centre October 15, 2017.

Founded by former Cove resident Bronwyn Cozens and the present branch secretary/treasurer/FAW State Secretary Maureen Kelly, members affiliated to the Fellowship of Australian Writers NSW Inc (FAW) in January 1998, holding their inaugural meeting in October, 1997.

Joining in 1998 and still members are Lal Clayton, Olly Griffin, Moira Hooper, Joan Williams and Bob Bush.

Great publishing success has been enjoyed by the group with, at the latest count, 19 books being attributed to members.

Guests were invited to read their favourite piece of writing by MC Bob Bush prior to the group's most senior member, Lal Clayton cutting the birthday cake baked by Joan Williams.

Lee Clayton sang her own composition, and the party ended with Tim Grant entertaining everyone at the piano with a medley of well-known songs.

September's assignment was different. Not only did it relate to the annual branch *Golden Smartie* award for humorous writing, but sponsor Garry Boyd gave members the last

sentence of either a short story or poem... *Jane turned to Lisa, a wry smile on her lips. 'So, that's what really happened.'* This was a challenge!

However, at the October meeting members rose to this challenge reading some excellent entries. Following this they cast their vote resulting in a tie for first place—winners Lee Clayton and Ron Stewart.

Member/actor Wayne Jarman conducted a valuable tutorial at the October meeting—correct use of the microphone—followed by an exercise relating to members' favourite reading genres, authors/poets and favourite books.

The writing year ended with a Christmas get-together held December 3.

North Arm Cove members wish their fellow-FAW members a safe and happy Christmas, and a big 'thank you' to *Writers Voice* editor Ken Driver with the wish that 2018 is a far better year for him, health-wise, than 2017!

**Maureen Kelly OAM**

## PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS

Is it me or are the years passing more quickly these days? Maybe I can put it down to being retired... I chase my tail weekly even daily and could not exist without the reliable help from my Daily Diary. Maybe an FAW diary

could be a good fundraiser next time we are looking for a project.

To more serious matters our branch has developed from strength to strength. I put it down to my excellent committee members, Joie Black VP, Beth Anderson Hon. Sec and Walter Van Hoorn Treasurer and I thank them all very much, but without our supportive members who come every month and fully participate in the offerings available, we wouldn't be the vibrant group we are.

I am conscious that we do not join the FAW to be administration members, but what a glorious writing year we all enjoy when the committee seamlessly ensures that there is guidance and some structure in the group. When the tasks are divvied up across the members, we each don't feel 'lumbered' with the weight of the world on our shoulders. PMH is functioning successfully like that at present and we have been writing and learning and developing skills in a variety of genres.

We have had sessions on short story, articles, getting published and entering competitions—all of which have left us more confident with what we are writing. We are at present planning a critique group for 2018 so I hope that too, develops into a regular and highly active support session as well as some longer works realising Final Art status and ready for publication.

The highlight of each year for us is our Showcase publication presented to each member at our Christmas luncheon. In Oct each member submits 2 pieces of writing that they produced in that current year and I format them into a suitable manuscript and have them printed and spiral-bound at Office Works. This idea gives us (1) a delightful record of our branch members' writing to read for enjoyment and treasure and (2) a tangible guide for each of us to have witness of the development of our writing skill. So SHOWCASE 2017 is in production as I write.

It is my esteemed pleasure to encourage all members who are Seniors card holders or if over 60 years would like to join Seniors card,

*North Arm Cove branch 20th birthday celebration with most senior member Lal Clayton seated with husband Jim surrounded by some of the branch members.*





to enter the short story competition that we are conducting on behalf of the Dept. of Family and Community Services. [See pages 16-17 of this issue—Ed].

Port Macquarie Hastings writers wish all our fellow members a safe and happy Christmas and a busy writing 2018.

**Colleen Parker**

## PORT STEPHENS FAW

Our Port Stephens writers launched their latest book *Sand, Sea and Sky* on Friday November 1st in the Port Stephens Library Salamander. Wendy our President opened the launch and talked of our participation of our book written about our area. A few read a poem or two. Our guest speaker, our new mayor Ryan Palmer said it was his first ever book launch and was impressed our book was about Port Stephens. Having read the book beforehand he made favourable comments. Ryan also helped me cut the cake, which looked good with a picture of our book's front cover on for all to see.

Peter Golden invited Elder Graham Russell, head of the Worrimi Land Council and his son Jamie as guests. Maureen Kelly and her writer friend from North Arm Cove came and gave an interesting talk. They are our closest group and catch up now and again.

Thank you to our writers who sat at the 'to buy' table and those who worked in the kitchen preparing afternoon tea. Sadly the launch was not put in the local *Port Stephens Examiner* so the large numbers expected were not present, however our writers and a few important guests came and kept the flag flying.

Since then we have had some feedback from shops willing to sell and promote our book. Those interested please contact Wendy Zirngast's number to purchase a book. 02 4981 5567.

**Christine Gregory**

## SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS FAW

Members were very excited to see their work in print when our 2017

anthology, *FIGMENTS*, was published in September. The anthology, illustrated by the late Gabrielle Calov-Stewart and edited by Ken Challenor (poetry) and Dr Barb Angell (prose) sold quickly to branch members and guests at the morning tea following our October meeting. Dr Angell presented complimentary copies to two of the junior winners of the Margaret Cech Competition, Amelie Lynch and Alice West, who were guests at our rather delicious morning tea. The girls delighted us by reading work they had recently written.

The poetry group continues to meet monthly at the homes of participants. There are twelve regular members who bring along poems, either completed or still in progress, to share. Members are invited to enjoy the readings and then offer suggestions and comments and to enjoy a social cup of tea and a bite to eat. It is a very supportive and inclusive group whose members have provided some very fine poems for the recently published *Figments Anthology*.

Luisa Hall's first play *Two Wine Glasses* and Greg Tome's play *Interview with a Mouse* have recently been performed at the Crash Test Drama in Bundanoon. Greg took out the award for Best Director and fellow Southern Highlands FAW member, Brian Haydon, played the lead role in the play. Ken Challenor's play *The Great Train Incident*, which won him Best Play and Best Director Awards when initially performed were once again staged on the Grand Final night in November.

Our membership continues to grow with fresh faces appearing at almost every meeting. Congratulations to one of our newest members, Deborah Ritchie, who has been short-listed in the Short Story Section of The Lane Cove Literary Awards.

The Ken Challenor Perpetual Awards Competition for poetry and prose has now closed with the winners due to

be announced at our Christmas Party. Entries in this competition were restricted to FAWSH members. Many thanks to Kathryn Litchfield who coordinated the competition and to Ken Challenor who judged both sections.

**Luisa Hall**

## STROUD WRITERS

Our Writers' Get Together with Great Lakes FAW and Forster-Tuncurry U3A (University of the Third Age) Creative Writing Group at the Brush Turkey Cafe at Wootton in September was a great success. The three groups are hoping to have another next year, hosted by Great Lakes FAW.

Many questions were directed to the guest speaker, Peter Uren who had outlined the pros and cons of E-Publishing. The consensus seems to be that if your work appeals to a niche market, the more successful you will be.

The Wootton Community Hall buzzed with stimulating discussions and an incredible array of imaginative stories and poems. It is always inspiring to be surrounded by talented people—writers who are able to write with clarity, feeling, and descriptive language, particularly when the topic is sprung on them. It was heart warming to have a Year 7 student participate in the day, having been given permission by the school to progress her writing skills.

The tempting morning tea and lunch provided by the friendly voluntary staff of the cafe complemented a most enjoyable day.

*cont. next page...*

*Peter Uren (standing), Guest Speaker at the Stroud, Great Lakes, and Forster-Tuncurry U3A Creative Writers Group Writers' Get Together.*



# FAW Branch Reports

## Stroud

(cont. from previous page)

Also in September, two of our Night Owls participated in a Weekend Writers' Retreat, in Winton, conducted by the Society of Women Writers NSW Inc. They benefitted from the exercise of having to write impulsively after a meditation session. Devoting time away from home in a conducive writing atmosphere provided them with fresh ideas and motivation.

The Children's Writing Competition for our three local primary schools, is in the final stages. Judging has completed. The winners will be announced at separate school assemblies, at which awards will be distributed. Each participant is to be given a certificate, winners and runners-up will receive book prizes. As well, Stroud Writers are presenting a bundle of books to each school library. Elizabeth Bradhurst has again used her talents to design the book plates, certificates and the booklet of all entries, *Young Writers of the Stroud District 2017*, which will be available for sale for the school communities. Having seen the booklet proofs we bemoan the fact that as we reach senior years, we no longer are able to emulate the soaring imaginations we had as youngsters.

The editorial committee are continuing with the challenging task of editing manuscripts which will be included in our anthology to be published next year. Editing has been a learning experience giving the members a greater appreciation of the nuances of an editor's challenge: to keep the "author's voice" whilst correcting poorly constructed sentences, punctuation, spelling and consistency. The Amateur writers' groups' perennial conundrum—do we alter poorly written "great stories"? Is it important that punctuation is un-conventional or that a modifier is ill-placed?

With all the peripheral activity occupying our time, it is heartening that some members are still continuing with their writing, which is critiqued at our meetings.

Stroud Writers wish all FAW members and their families a happy, safe, Christmas and a New Year of wonderful writing adventures.

*Susan Filson*

## SUTHERLAND FAW

This will be my last President's report for the *Writers Voice*. I will be devoting more time to researching and writing my book, which will involve overseas travel in 2018. We welcome our new President, Fiona Johnstone, who is a talented writer, and an intelligent and enthusiastic member of our Sutherland group. It has been an exciting and challenging experience commandeering our Sutherland group, and to see our group grow from strength to strength. Being actively involved and supportive of each-other's creative writing is such a positive thing.

I am truly grateful to our tireless committee, who give up their time to make our group so professional and innovative. Also, they have been so supportive in my role as President.

A special thank you to Joyce Noble, for creating our professional and interesting newsletter, which has our group firmly established in the public arena. Also thank you to Lynn

Sutherland who organises the great publicity for FAW Sutherland, *Writers Unleashed*, and for our month of fame, being photographed and published in the September edition of *Yours* magazine.

We congratulate Julianne Miles-Brown for her terrific efforts at organising and co-ordinating our *Writers Unleashed* festival so seamlessly. She liaised with Tradies for catering, the rooms, technology to be working, and timetabling Editors consultations, which were full-on all day long. A big thank you and pat on the back to the committee and volunteers which made our festival so professional and a stand-out. Each year we build on the last. This year we had 139 attendees. Next year should be even bigger and better.

We welcomed new members this year; Sal Gallaher, who has been elected Vice-President, Dianne Fetherstone, Tricia Entwistle, Pat Ruell, Helen Jones and Joe Green. It is exciting to hear new voices in our group. We learn from sharing the different viewpoints of our writers, and we are all the more enriched by the experience of hearing diverse voices in writing.

Many thanks to the SPARK judging team: Helen Armstrong, Leanne



*Judging panel for the SPARK Sutherland Shire Schools Creative Writing competition, L-R: Fiona Johnstone, Leanne Bowie, Julianne Miles-Brown, Lynn Sutherland, Helen Armstrong. Also on the panel was Sylvia Vago, who took the picture!*



*Wollondilly FAW president Narelle Noppert and Wollondilly branch members receive a Capital Grant from Wollondilly Shire Council towards the cost of producing the branch's Anthology.*

Bowie, Fiona Johnstone, Julianne Miles-Brown and Lynn Sutherland for doing such a wonderful job of professionally reading 130 short stories, and for such gracious negotiation in reaching consensus for the short list, winners and commended stories. We had a lovely morning sipping coffee and eating cakes and great discussions on my sunny patio [photo below left].

We have participated in a working party with Councillors from Sutherland Shire Council regarding the organisation of a Sutherland Shire literary competition, for prose and poetry in 2018. Further discussions will continue early next year.

We had a very professional workshop conducted by our member, Georgia Carter Mathers—who is a professional editor and writer on plot and structure—which was really interesting. She talked about the two opposing methods of writing the plot of a story: the logical formula for structuring a novel, which is masculine and the more linear (circular) structure, which is the feminine style in which events are repeated, where desire can lead to conflict, but the journey is important. We had a good laugh about the analogy.

On the process of writing I found some very useful advice on a writer's blog by Ruth Harris titled, 'Process goals make that road seem less daunting.' In a nutshell she advises that if you think big, you'll fail. Thinking of writing 60,000 to 100,000 words of brilliant, well-chosen words that actually make sense can turn into the first chapter blues. By setting yourself ambitious

outcomes your book won't get finished, or it may never get started. Too many decisions to make. The key is thinking small, setting process goals. These are the steps you take to get where you want to go.

A delegation of our members attended the second State meeting for this year of FAW NSW. It was an opportunity for us to participate in the meeting, and to introduce our new President, Fiona Johnstone, Helen Armstrong, Secretary and Pat Ruell and myself as State Delegates. We all enjoyed the FAW Awards and luncheon held afterwards at Club York.

During the month of November, it has been Writers Month at Sutherland Library. At the Authors showcase, talks were given by our members, Antoinette Conolly and Jenny Mathers at Sutherland library. There have been a number of write-in activities and further talks by Patti Miller about creative writing, and writing life stories held at various library venues.

We are looking forward to exciting ventures in 2018, a new anthology of writings from our group and success in our individual novel writing pursuits.

Wishing everyone happy and safe holidays.

*Sylvia Vago*

## **WOLLONDILLY FAW**

Wollondilly branch has been successful with two Council grants recently. A Capital Grant enabled us to purchase a new printer, and a further grant gained to produce our Anthology. Both grants were



*Pamela Ferrari with Narelle Noppert at the Parliament House launch of SENIORS STORIES Vol 3.*

\$500 each. We are very grateful to Wollondilly Shire Council.

Our anthology of 120 pages, is ready for printing and we expected to have it printed by the end of November. Most of our members have items included, giving a diverse range and style of writing. Our launch date will be determined when printing is complete.

On 12th October member Pam Ferrari and I attended N.S.W. Parliament House for the launch of the Seniors card book *SENIORS STORIES / Vol 3*. Pam's story on dingoes was selected for inclusion in the book. We really enjoyed the experience meeting up with NSW Minister for Health and Ageing Tanya Davies, comedian and MC Jean Kittson, as well as some friends from FAW NSW. Congratulations Pam!

Congratulations to member, Vince Morrison, for a Commended in the Eastwood/Hills Pauline Walsh, Short, Short Story Competition with his story, 'Nana's Warm Friends'. Vince is our groups' mentor, and continues to assist and inspire us. Well done Vince!

We welcome back member, Susan Pearce, who is rejoining our group after a break of a number of years. Welcome back Susan.

As the end of the year fast approaches, I would personally like to thank Wollondilly members for their encouragement and support during 2017. I hope the holiday period presents many prompts for future writing.

Best wishes to all FAW members for the Christmas and holiday season.

*Narelle Noppert*

# FAW Branch Reports

## ACT: A CELEBRATORY ANTHOLOGY

THE Canberra Region of The Fellowship of Australian Writers (formerly FAW ACT) invites you to celebrate its re-birth in 2018. Two thousand and eighteen is also FAW's 90th anniversary, another event to celebrate.

The Fellowship of Australian Writers was founded in NSW by Dame Mary Gilmore in 1928, its aim being to provide opportunities for Australian writers of all disciplines and experience, to share their writing with other writers. FAW has grown to have fellowships in every Australian state and territory, as well as regional centres. The ACT Branch of FAW was established in 1950. Since its inception, and even after its demise as an incorporated association in 1998, the Canberra Region FAW has been supported by many of its well known members, such as Judith Wright and Rosemary Dobson. FAW ACT has, in turn, supported its members through guest speakers, competitions and workshops on all forms of writing, and by publishing members' writings in a series of anthologies.

FAW ACT's first anthology was *Australia Writes: an anthology* (1953) followed by *Australian Signpost* (1956), *Span: an adventure in Asian and Australian Writing*, (1958) and *Australian Voices: poetry and prose of the 1970s* (1975), originating as contributions to *Australia '75* (Anthology of Short forms of writing).

Anthologies published after 1998 include *The Australian Spirit* (2001, 2013) and *Diverse Roads* (2008). FAW members have also contributed to *PeaceWorks!*—moving beyond 1915 Remembrance, an anthology first published in Australia by PeaceWorks ACT Region last year.

### Call for Submissions

Following in its historical footsteps, The Canberra Region FAW would like to celebrate both anniversaries by publishing an anthology, showing the writing of past and present FAW members. Consequently we invite you to submit a piece of your writing, or that of past FAW members, if available and appropriate.

Please include a cover sheet containing the title, author's name, submission date, address, email, the year you wrote your submission or the year it was published, together with the name of your FAW branch. If your submission has been published, please include its publication details. Plus, a paragraph of biographical data about yourself.

The submission style guide is Word .doc or .docx format, with 1.5 spacing in 12pt Times New Roman. Only one item per person will be accepted. The limit for short stories is 2500 words. Poems should be no longer than 100 lines.

For further information about submitting to this FAW anniversary anthology please contact Pamela Waugh on 0417 692 018 or email <[pwau@bigpond.com](mailto:pwau@bigpond.com)>.

# Book Review

## 12 Years In Care

John Bicknell

MY recent radio guest John Bicknell is the author of *Twelve Years in Care*.

This is a fascinating read as John came from the humblest beginnings and reveals to us what it meant to be a child living through war years, often hungry and uncared for, becoming a Barnardos boy and finally being sent to the distant shores of Australia.

Despite hardships John has created a good life for himself, worked hard to find his identity and with wife and family settled in the Wollondilly region.

Over 150,000 boys and girls were deported from homes in Britain and shipped off to a new life as recently as 1970.

Once put into institutions they became '*fillii Nullius*'—children of no one, to be put to work as authorities saw fit.

John came with two brothers and ended up at Mowbray Park near Picton as a farm worker at age of eight.

John never knew his father and his other siblings including a sister were by other fathers; his mother later ran a brothel during the influx of service men in the war years and John and his brothers were found in a locked shed with no food or water.

They were taken away into a Government home for six months before being sent to Australia.

John found out later he had four other half brothers and did meet up with them but never ever saw his sister again.

Many children suffered malnutrition, sexual abuse and hardship.

The memories of being in bomb shelters and staying in the house as bombs fell are still with him.

His mother did come to Australia, twice, and eventually died here but John wanted nothing to do with her.

Mal, John and Lionel Bicknell were brothers in arms as they battled neglect and malnutrition growing up in Essex during the war.

His mother placed the boys in Barnardos home in 1946.

He tells of being in homes that were like bombshells during the war, ready to explode and where sexual assault and cruelty ran rife amongst evil people.

John has made good with his life, no doubt better than if he had stayed in England.

I found it a fascinating chance to interview John.

His book *12 years in Care* is a great read; and we wonder what happened to many of those thousands of children who came here.

Buy direct from the author: email <[jebicknell@gmail.com](mailto:jebicknell@gmail.com)> or phone 02 4684 3093; also from Tahmoor Garden Centre and Cafe Bargo NSW 4684 2000, or from the website <[johnrbicknell.com](http://johnrbicknell.com)>.

PS: I am sure John would be happy to visit your FAW branch for a talk.

*Reviewed by Trevar Langlands*



John Bicknell

# Roundup



Group of Myall U3A members with Maureen seated second from left.

## Visits to Myall U3A and Port Stephens Writers

**F**AW state secretary, Maureen Kelly had the opportunity during October to visit two writing groups in the Port Stephens area.

Mid-October, she was guest speaker at Myall University of the Third Age's meeting held at the Old Library, Hawks Nest where she was warmly welcomed by president Maggie Buchanan.

Fourteen members of the group read out their assignment from the previous month, requesting a critique from Maureen. This was followed by her speaking about the Fellowship of Australian Writers and her local branch at North Arm Cove.

Maureen also held a Q&A session which gave the U3A members the opportunity to ask questions regarding a myriad of issues including copyright, self-publishing and the acquisition of ISBN.

The two hour session was full of fun, learning and 'fellowship.'

Two weeks later, accompanied by fellow-North Arm Cove branch member Joan Williams, Maureen attended the launch of Port Stephens Writers seventh anthology, *Sun, Sea and Sky*.

Members of the branch read their own work contained in the book edited by Christine Gregory and Wendy Zirngast followed by the official launch by Port Stephens Mayor, Ryan Palmer.



'I gain enormous pleasure meeting other writers and you are never too old to learn something new from them,' Maureen said.

*Port Stephens (l-r): Wendy Zirngast, Christine Gregory, Mayor Ryan Palmer, Maureen Kelly and Joan Williams.*



Many of our members fondly mention to me the good day they had at our awards day when TV legend **Hazel Phillips** was our guest speaker.

I always have a day with Hazel when I go to Queensland and I did just that in October recently.

Looking fabulous Hazel never seems to age and as you see in our photo still as stylish as ever.

We had a great day. Hazel is an excellent artist, she has been in the Archibald and intends entering the next one. While there she did a pencil sketch of me.

Her poodle is Beau and loves to sit on my lap.

**Trevar Langlands**

## Kids & YA Festival 2018

### Call For Submissions

**T**HE NSW Writers' Centre has announced that its **Kids & YA Festival** will be held on Saturday 30 June 2018.

The Festival Director, best-selling, internationally published children's author Belinda Murrell, is calling for submissions from people involved in the writing community to share their diverse experiences and insights into creating books for children and young adults.

Involvement may take the form of panel speakers, chair responsibilities, mentoring or manuscript feedback sessions. To register your interest, please send your name, address, telephone and website details to <[FestivalsWritingNSW@gmail.com](mailto:FestivalsWritingNSW@gmail.com)>.

Submissions close Sunday 28 January 2018. The Festival program will be released in May 2018.

More information: <[www.nswwc.org.au/whats-on/festivals-2/kids-ya-festival-2018/](http://www.nswwc.org.au/whats-on/festivals-2/kids-ya-festival-2018/)>

# Awards lunch

Story: front page. Photos: Trevar Langlands and Ken Driver.



Brad Stone, Barb Angell.  
Right: MC Trevar Langlands.



Above: Jan Mitchell announces the 2017 Hilarie Lindsay Young Writers Short Story Winners.



Above L-R: Pippa Kay, Dr Rae Luckie, Barry Luckie, Craig Cooper (standing).  
Right: Cate Plink presents the Hilarie Lindsay Junior Primary prize to Justin Kim.



Below right: Justin Kim and family.



Above: Maureen Kelly presents the DSA Award to Jill Baggett. Above right: Jill with her award.



Right: Lucky Door Prizes.

Far right: Kay Bakon at the reception desk.





Above: Pippa Kay announces the Marjorie Barnard Award.



Above right: Guest Speaker Marilla North.



Above L-R: Elizabeth Webby, Hilarie Lindsay and Marilla North.



Right: Trevar with Bankstown FAW group,  
L-R: Zaiga, Neridah Tyler-Perry, Shirley Galloway and John Coyne.



Above L-R: Ken Driver, Derek Hammond,  
Doug Parker.



Above right: Sutherland FAW members  
Antoinette Conolly, Helen Armstrong,  
Sylvia Vago, Pat Ruell.

Right: Marilla North with some of her  
books for sale.

Far right: At the State Council meeting  
prior to the Luncheon, Public Officer Vince  
Hatton working with Colleen Parker.





Your State Committee is proud to launch an exciting project on behalf of NSW Seniors Card, to be held between Feb—June 2018.



SENIORS CARD



THE Department of Family and Community Services accepted our FAW proposal to conduct a Short Story competition for them next year.

The prize is publication in their next book, titled **SENIORS STORIES** | Volume 4.

The Project Team of Colleen Parker, *Project Manager*, Cate Plink, *Competition Manager*, Maureen Kelly, *Communications Manager* and Kay Bakon, *Financial Manager* has been planning and working since the inaugural Meeting on 30th August. President Trevar Langlands and Colleen co-signed the Proposal in September and FAW was confirmed as the preferred provider later that month.

For competition details and how it will work, see the item on this spread from the Competition Manager but it is important to understand that the intention is twofold for us. On behalf of Seniors Card we are encouraging seniors to write a *non-fiction* short story and to as many of you who enjoy writing short stories we encourage you to participate. If you are already a Seniors cardholder, that's good. If you wish to join, that can easily be done through their website <[www.seniorscard.nsw.gov.au](http://www.seniorscard.nsw.gov.au)> and it is FREE to join.

FAW wants new writers 'to have a go' by coaxing NSW seniors in our communities to share their stories. With your help in branch-land, this opportunity could be amazing by promoting the competition in your areas and inviting the community to participate in this project.

We will conduct workshops during February and March 2018 in the Northern, the Mid-coast, the Southern and the Western regions and during Seniors Festival we will be in the NSW Library in Macquarie Street, Sydney in April.

The Competition Manager will begin accepting the short story submissions in early 2018 but if help is required to write a short story, attendance at a workshop will be the pathway.

The Project Team members will be leading the workshops but support from the FAW members will be important and appreciated. My vision is to have the assistance of FAW members, by having some of you sit amongst the new writers and help them follow the elements necessary to recall their possible topics and join in discussions and interactions as the presenter shares the guiding information. The opportunity to share your contact details and your branch with a new writer will be there, because mentors will probably be needed after the workshops. Also computer assistance might be needed to type up the new writers' stories and submit them. My hope is that this support system may open up the opportunity to build on our branch memberships when writers learn that our Fellowship is a support organisation.

The competition differs from most because there will not be A Winner, but One Hundred Winners as the Top 100 selected stories will be published.

The short story theme is: **Positive Ageing.**  
*Colleen Parker, Project Manager*

### 2018 WORKSHOPS

<b>Mid-coast</b>	Raymond Terrace Library	February 14 10.00am–1.00pm
<b>Northern</b>	Port Macquarie Port City Bowling Club	February 19 10.30am–12.30pm
<b>Southern</b>	Moss Vale Wingecarribee Council Theatre	March 13 10.30am–12.30pm
<b>Western</b>	Mudgee Kanandah Ret. Village	March 31 10.00am–12.00pm
<b>Sydney</b>	NSW State Library Macquarie Room	April 16 10.30am–12.30pm

Please contact the Team with any questions.

**SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY ONLINE IN 2018 AT**  
<[fawns.org.au/seniors-card-short-story-competition/](http://fawns.org.au/seniors-card-short-story-competition/)>



### From the Communications Manager...

I heartily agree with the statement made by Minister for the Ageing, The Hon Ken Wyatt, AM MP, that "in 2017 life begins at 70" and I am, therefore, thrilled that the Fellowship of Australian Writers NSW Inc will be involved with Seniors Card NSW to promote their 2018 short story competition with the theme **positive ageing**.

We all have fantastic anecdotes and stories to tell about our positive outlook on life as we 'mature!' Seniors Card NSW's competition is a chance for us to write these stories and motivate others to enjoy life to the full.

As FAW Hon Secretary and Communications Manager for this project, I applaud the opportunity to promote the competition we will be conducting on behalf of Seniors Card NSW and I commend you all to enter. Encourage your relatives, friends and neighbours to put pen to paper and, if they are not Seniors Card holders, encourage them to apply as there are many benefits/ discounts to be had using the card.

Get your entries in early and if you have any queries, please don't hesitate to call me 0417 403 720.

**Maureen Kelly OAM**, Communications Manager

### From the Competition Manager...

As the competition manager my role will be similar to my role as the Competition Coordinator for the FAW. I will receive the entries via email, and forward them to the readers. Once they have read the stories, they will send them back to me with their feedback and scoring. I will then send the top entries from each reader to the Project Manager who will make the final selection.

I hope that 2018 will be an exciting year for all of us, and look forward to everything it holds. We, the management team, expect to be very busy, but that's how we like it. We look forward to your input, and entries. Remember that if you don't enter you can't win, so get your stories in as soon as possible.

**Cate Plink**, Competition Manager

### From the Financial Manager...

I don't know of many writing competitions that are FREE to enter. So this should appeal to most short story writers.

Eligibility is, you must be Seniors Card members. The age to join the scheme is 60, if you are already a cardholder and under 60 that is fine.

Joining is also FREE and to participate, include your Seniors Card Membership Number on the Application as well as your 2018 FAW Membership Number. I send those cards to your Branch Membership Secretary or your Treasurer, but Isolated Writers pay direct, so those cards go back to the Member. Our numbers change each year as they expire on 31st December. Note however, it is not necessary to be an FAW Member to enter.

It is also FREE to attend a workshop the Team will be conducting across NSW. They are for writers or new writers if they have anecdotes about their own positive ageing lifestyle or others they want to write about. There is no need if you know how to write short stories.

Pictured is the 2017 edition (Volume 3) of **SENIORS' STORIES**. It was launched on Thursday 12 October 2017 at NSW Parliament House.

Selected contributions from NSW Seniors Card holders—including FAW NSW members who have a Seniors Card—will provide the content for Volume 4, to be published in 2018.

This year's edition is available now at your nearest library, or you can download a free PDF formatted eBook from the link on this Seniors Card blog page: [www.seniorscard.nsw.gov.au/news-activities/items/ageing-minister-tanya-davies-launches-seniors-stories-vol.-3](http://www.seniorscard.nsw.gov.au/news-activities/items/ageing-minister-tanya-davies-launches-seniors-stories-vol.-3)



As there will be 100 winners their prize will be inclusion in **Seniors Stories** | Volume 4, with a FREE copy of the book published by the NSW Government.

The Team will invite members to assist with various tasks and subsequently they may claim for expenses; please ensure your details are clear so I know who to reimburse and where, along with the details of what work you did.

**Kay Bakon**, Financial Manager

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

### Seniors Card Short Story Competition 2018

1. The competition is open to all New South Wales Seniors Card holders.
2. Seniors Card number must be noted on the entry form.
3. Entry is free.
4. The theme for this year is '**Positive Ageing**'.
5. Story length maximum 1000 words.
6. Closing date midnight Friday 1st June 2018. No entries will be accepted after this date.
7. The top 100 entries will be published in the Seniors Card Anthology to be released in October 2018.
8. The judge's decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.
9. The Entry/Submission form will be available online from the FAW website <[fawns.org.au](http://fawns.org.au)>. The form is interactive, and the entry document must be attached. Your details and the attachment will be sent automatically to <[scsscfaunsw@gmail.com](mailto:scsscfaunsw@gmail.com)>.
10. Due to the requirement of the printer, entries must be in digital form. (Assistance may be requested in this matter by contacting an FAW Branch.)
11. Entries must be a Word document, not a PDF or Jpeg.
12. Entries sent in a format other than Word will not be accepted.
13. Entries should be typed in 12pt font, double spaced.
14. Please include a title page with title of story and word count only.
15. NAME SHOULD APPEAR ONLY ON THE ENTRY FORM.

Any queries please contact:

**Competition Manager Cate Plink 0458 375 256**  
or email <[scsscfaunsw@gmail.com](mailto:scsscfaunsw@gmail.com)>.

# Literary Achievements

## **EASTWOOD/HILLS FAW**

### **Erina Booker:**

Latest Book 'A Cobbled Path', on Amazon.com

2nd place for 'Liquid', a Sonnet, in the Eastwood/Hills FAW monthly competition, June 2017.

### **Elizabeth Collins:**

Second Place in Eastwood Hills FAW annual John Kelly Short Story Competition. 'How Princess Penelope Found Happiness'.

### **Beverley George:**

senryu fireside knitting selected for *Daily Haiku*: Charlotte Digregorio

tanka and 'A Kettle Refilled', a haiku response written with Kent Robinson, published in *Blithe Spirit* 27 (3) 2017 [UK]

rengay 'The Drone of Bees' with Simon Hanson published *Kokako* #27 2017 [NZ]

rengay 'Plea for a Parley' with Kent Robinson published *Kokako* #27 2017 [NZ]

Led haiku workshop at Society of Women Writers NSW retreat at Brahma Kumaris, Wilton (Sept 15-17) and also performed poem 'Catching Up'

tanka in *Seasons Greetings Newsletter* #17 2017 [US]

tanka in 'Gusts' no. 26 Fall/Winter 2017 [Canada]

Founded new writing group 'White Pebbles Haiku Group' and convened first meeting at Gosford/Edogawa Gardens on September 23

rengay 'Bedrock' with David Terelinck published *Presence* #58 2017

rengay 'Spinifex Shadows' with Simon Hanson published *Presence* #58 2017.

### **Anne Howard:**

Equal first, with two other members, for 2016 Eastwood Hills FAW Participation Award

Second for short story based on a given beginning, in Eastwood Hills FAW Monthly Competition, July-Aug 2017.

First for poetry, blank verse, in Eastwood Hills FAW Monthly Competition—a poem on the seasons, September to October 2017.

### **Anita Howard:**

My story 'The Phone Call' is to be included in the Rainforest Writing Retreat Anthology.

### **Marilyn Humbert:**

Free Verse Commended *Eyre Writers Poetry Competition*

Free Verse published in *Henry Kendall Anthology* 'ear to earth'

Haiku Commended *Creatrix Haiku Prize 2017*

Tanka published in *Gusts, Cattails, International Tanka Journal*

### **Margaret Longhurst:**

1st Place for 'A Moment Past', a Villanelle, in Eastwood/Hills FAW monthly competition, June 2017.

Highly Commended for poem 'Four Seasons', Eastwood/Hills FAW monthly competition September 2017.

### **David Terelinck:**

'Making Up' (free verse poem) published in *Grieve: Stories and Poems for Grief Awareness Month*, Vol 5, Hunter Writers Centre, 2017

Co-editor, with Margaret Dornaus, for the 2017 Tanka Society of America Member's Anthology: *The Right Touch of Sun*

4 individual tanka published in 2017 TSA Members' Anthology: *The Right Touch of Sun*

Article – 'In Other Words: applying general poetic sensibilities to tanka' – published in *Blithe Spirit* Vol 27, No. 3

2 individual tanka published in *Blithe Spirit* Vol 27, No. 3

Rengay with Beverley George in *Skylark*, Vol 5, Issue 2, 2017

Tankart in *Scryptic Mag*, issue 1

Short story in *Scryptic Mag*, issue 1

Rengay with Carol Judkins in *Scryptic Mag*

Edited tanka submissions for *cattails* issue 2, 2017: online journal of United Haiku & Tanka Society;

Judged 'Fleeting Words' tanka competition for United Haiku & Tanka Society

Rengay with Marilyn Humbert in *Presence* 59.

### **Jan Westerink:**

PhD in Interpretative Writing awarded by Charles Sturt University. The title is 'Consigned to the Colony—The life story of Martha Ford Goodman, a Convict sent to Van Diemen's Land.

## **HUNTER FAW**

**Gail Hennessy's** new collection of poems *Written on Water* was published by Flying Island Books

**Louise Berry** and **Jo Tregellis** edited, produced and published *Third Wednesday Poets Anthology* Vol 2.

## **ISOLATED WRITERS**

### **Pippa Kay:**

A Collection of Stories titled *Keeping it in the Family* accepted for publication by Ginninderra Press.

### **Carolyn Cash:**

A post on her History and Royalty blog: Charles II Hides In Oak Tree To Escape Oliver Cromwell's Army... <<http://carolynmcash.com.au/2017/09/06/charles-ii-hides-in-oak-tree-to-escape-oliver-cromwells-army/>>

### **Elizabeth Macintosh:**

Received a Writing NSW Access for Regional Writers Grant, Round One, 2017.

Short story, 'Ransom', won a commended in the 2017 Scribes Writers (Victoria)

'Short Takes' Literary Awards in the Fictional Short Story category.

Taught or mentored over 50 rural high school students who have won or placed in writing competitions since 2008.

## LAKE MACQUARIE FAW

### Glenys Buselli:

Published in *Hunter Professional Arts Magazine*, issue 4 Sep 2017–Oct 2017, story 'Birds and their counterparts'.

### Alison Ferguson:

Participated in Hunter Writers' Centre Live Readings, September, on theme of historical writing  
Participating in NSW Writers' Centre Short Story Feedback Intensive online program, July–December 2017, which includes submitting a 1,500 word story each month.

### George Graves:

Published in *Hunter Professional Arts Magazine*, issue 4 Sep 2017–Oct 2017, story 'A discourse about a horse'.

### Elizabeth Horwitz:

Published in *Hunter Professional Arts Magazine*, issue 4 Sep 2017–Oct 2017, editorial.

### Tony Lang:

Published in *Hunter Professional Arts Magazine*, issue 4 Sep 2017–Oct 2017, poem 'The hornet'; memoir 'The tragic story of 'M for Mother''

Published in *The Echo* (Canberra, A.C.T.), 2017, article 'Wimmin'

Published in *The Review* (Manly, N.S.W.), 2017, article on Police Remembrance Sunday.

### Jan Mitchell:

Published in *Hunter Professional Arts Magazine*, issue 4 Sep 2017–Oct 2017, review 'Broadchurch, TV series on ABC'; film review 'The eagle huntress'

Judged the Hilarie Lindsay Short Story Award, reported to the Awards Ceremony on 4 November and at presentation of the Junior Secondary Award on November 11.

## LIVERPOOL FAW

**Peter F Pike:** Poems in *FreeXpresSion*;

**Eric Esber:** 2 poems in *FreeXpresSion*;

**Rick Vincenti:** Article in *FreeXpresSion*;

**Rhonda W Rice:** Poems in *Positive Words* and *FreeXpresSion*;

Poem in recently published book 'Police Rescue and Bomb Disposal – An extraordinary history.'

## MACARTHUR FAW:

### Robert Bee:

New book published: *Star Hopping to the Messiers*

**Catherine Hobson:** 9-page article on three women aviators accepted by Aviation Heritage Magazine.

## MUDGE VALLEY WRITERS

### Kevin Pye:

Quoted by Max Presnell in his book *Good Losers Die Broke* regarding some verse to introduce a chapter on Max Crockett, a noted horse trainer.

'Real Time, Dream Time' Highly Commended in Ipswich International Poetry Competition.

## NORTH ARM COVE

### Garry Boyd:

Guest speaker September Myall U3A writing group meeting

Received Most Highly Commended in *The Port Stephens Examiner's* short story competition for his story 'Mabel'.

### Bob Bush:

From August–November shared his poems at Charlestown Ladies Probus, Lake Macquarie U3A, Eastlakes U3A, The Lioness Club of Rutherford, Morisset Ladies Probus, Forster Lions Club and Probus club of the Junction.

### Lee Clayton:

Joint winner annual branch *Golden Smartie* award for humorous writing.

### Elizabeth Deane:

Editorial—Community Library published *North Arm Cove: Celebrating 50 years* August 2017.

### Tim Grant:

Story and poem published *Headstart* magazine.

### Moira Hooper:

Editorial—Theatre group published *North Arm Cove: Celebrating 50 years* August 2017.

### Maureen Kelly:

Editorials—Community Centre, book club, art group, writing group and *Cove News* published *North Arm Cove: Celebrating 50 years* August 2017.

Guest speaker Myall U3A October writing group meeting  
Guest Port Stephens Writers book launch October 2017.

### Ron Stewart:

Joint winner annual branch *Golden Smartie* award for humorous writing.

### Joan Williams:

Editorials—Rainbow Quilters, Stitch Gatherers craft group and Youth Encouragement Sport Support published *North Arm Cove: Celebrating 50 years* August 2017.

Guest, Port Stephens Writers book launch October 2017.

## PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS

We are pleased to list one of our members who writes under a pseudonym and has published his first book: *Tales from the Big Peace*, Patrick M. Johnson. It was launched on May 19th through Amazon where it can also be purchased.

cont. next page...

# Writing Competitions

Closing date 5 February 2018:

## THE NEWCASTLE SHORT STORY AWARD

Over \$7000 total prize pool. Calling for 2,000-word short stories. Judges: Isabelle Li and Ryan O'Neill. An anthology of the top 30-35 stories will be published and launched April 2018 at the Newcastle Writers Festival. 2018 is the 4th year of the prize. This competition attracts many emerging writers around Australia. More info: <[www.hunterwriterscentre.org/newcastle-short-story-award-2018.html](http://www.hunterwriterscentre.org/newcastle-short-story-award-2018.html)>.

Closing date February 18, 2018:

## THE TASMANIAN WRITERS' PRIZE 2018

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 2018*. Entry forms and terms can be downloaded from <[fortysouth.com.au/tasmanian-writers-prize/](http://fortysouth.com.au/tasmanian-writers-prize/)>

Closing date 25 February 2018:

## THE ATLANTIS SHORT STORY CONTEST

*The first and only contest that offers a perceptive critique on every submitted short story.*

Cash prizes (first prize is USD\$300, total prize pool USD\$450) and in-depth feedback await unpublished writers from around the world. Now in its seventh year, the Annual Atlantis Short Story Contest is looking for short stories that create exciting new worlds with dynamic characters. Our goals are to mentor and foster talent as well as to assist winning authors in the editing process to publish a longer manuscript and promote it on our website. No theme or genre restrictions. Maximum 2,500 words. Entry fee: starts from \$10 (depends on level of feedback wanted when the story does not place). More Info: <[www.atlantis-shortstorycontest.com](http://www.atlantis-shortstorycontest.com)> E-mail: <[inquiry@atlantis-shortstorycontest.com](mailto:inquiry@atlantis-shortstorycontest.com)>.

Closing date 28 February 2018:

## THE AUSTRALIAN INAUGURAL SO BAD IT'S GOOD WRITING COMPETITION

Nambucca Valley Writers Group invites entries in its *So-Bad-It's-Good* Writing Competition. \$500 first prize, \$250 second, \$100 third, plus e-book publication for fifty or so of the best of the bad.

## Literary Achievements

### STROUD WRITERS

#### Elizabeth Bradhurst:

Writer/Editor Newsletter, *Friends of St John's Stroud* October.

### SUTHERLAND FAW

#### Helen Armstrong:

Poster design for *Art of Living* Festival. Fast press releases for promoting local events for Chamber of Commerce.

#### Antoinette Conolly:

Interview on self-publishing published in *Buzzwords*. Showcased author talks at Sutherland Library.

#### David Harris:

Story published in October Shire *Scribblers* newsletter.

#### Fiona Johnstone:

Story published in *Oatley Writers Anthology*.

#### Helen Jones:

Story published in *Oatley Writers Anthology*.

#### Jenny Mathers:

Showcased author talks at Sutherland Library.

#### Julianne Miles-Brown:

Published article in *The Leader* on the Festival.

#### Elaine Staples:

1st prize, Discovery Festival 2017 for flash fiction. Highly Commended for 'Wattle Creek' (flash fiction). Wrote a nature/environment poem 'Back to Nature' in poetry section of same Competition. Published a poem for World Naked Gardening Day.

#### Lynn Sutherland:

Lionesses press releases and *The Leader* press releases; FAW *Writers Voice* entries, and other local community submissions.

### SYDNEY CITY FAW

#### Colleen Keating:

Colleen's published poems: 'to abide with me' in *Poetry for Public Transport*, Issue 13, June 2017, and 'memory', in *Poetry Matters*, Issue 30, July 2017.

#### Pip Griffin:

Pip's published poems: 'Clinquancy', 'From a bus window, George Street' and 'Quit' in *Poetry for Public Transport*, Issue 13, June 2017, and 'Mayday' in *tamba*, Issue 60, (celebrating 60 issues) Autumn/Winter 2017.

Rules and examples of the genre can be viewed at  
<[www.nambuccawriters.info](http://www.nambuccawriters.info)>

If you are champing at the bit to write a narrative with more clichés than you can poke a stick at and if you can create similes that are so excruciatingly erroneous they'll make everyone LOL this competition is for you! \$10 entry fee.

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**Closing date 31 March 2018:**

### **2018 NORMAN McVICKER YOUTH LITERARY AWARD**

Mudgee Valley Writers FAW invite young people, up to the age of 18 years, to enter their short stories and/or poems for the 2018 Youth Literary Award.

The prizes for the awards in each category are provided by the estate of Norman McVicker OAM. Mr McVicker spent his life involved in writing and the performing arts. He has left ongoing legacies to encourage young people to write, and to become involved in the performing arts. More on the life and legacies of Norman McVicker can be found at <<https://budgeebudgee.wordpress.com>>.

Prizes for each section: \$700 First Place, \$200 Second and \$100 for Third. Highly Commended and Commended Certificates will also be awarded.

Entry forms and all details are on the website: <[www.mudgeevalleywriters.wordpress.com](http://www.mudgeevalleywriters.wordpress.com)> or by emailing <[mvw.nsw@gmail.com](mailto:mvw.nsw@gmail.com)>.

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**Closing Date 15 May 2018:**

### **EASTWOOD/HILLS FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS LITERARY COMPETITION 2018**

All categories Open Theme

- **Category 1: Short Story**  
Max 3,000 words. First Prize \$250, Second Prize \$100
- **Category 2: Poetry** – Includes all forms of poetry except Bush Poetry (See separate Boree Log competition). Max 80 lines per poem.  
First Prize \$200, Second Prize \$75
- **Category 3: Alan Russell Award for Memoir**  
Max 1,500 words. First Prize \$150, Second Prize \$50
- **Category 4: Pauline Walsh Short Short Story Award.**  
Max 800 words. First Prize \$150, Second Prize \$50

Entry Fee: \$7 per entry or \$25 for 4 entries.

Cheques or money orders in AUS\$ payable to: Eastwood/Hills FAW. Fees can also be sent electronically this year. Enquiries: Marilyn Humbert <[mah53@tpg.com.au](mailto:mah53@tpg.com.au)> or phone 02 9456 1307.

Each entry must be accompanied by a separate signed entry form.

Conditions of entry and entry forms can be found on the Eastwood-Hills FAW website: <[hillsfaw.wordpress.com/](http://hillsfaw.wordpress.com/)>.

**Closing Date 15 May 2018:**

### **EASTWOOD/HILLS FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS**

#### **BOREE LOG AWARD FOR BUSH VERSE 2018**

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

Entrants are eligible for one award only.

Ballads to be in perfect rhyme and metre with max 80 lines and an Australian bush theme.

Entry Fee: \$7 per entry – Maximum 4 entries per entrant.

Cheques or money orders in AUS\$ payable to: Eastwood/Hills FAW. Fees can also be sent electronically this year.

Enquiries: Marilyn Humbert <[mah53@tpg.com.au](mailto:mah53@tpg.com.au)> or phone 02 9456 1307.

Each entry must be accompanied by a separate signed entry form.

Conditions of entry and entry forms can be found on the Eastwood-Hills FAW website: <[hillsfaw.wordpress.com/](http://hillsfaw.wordpress.com/)>.

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#### **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 (where required), contact the relevant competition organisers.

# Poets Voice

## CONCERT ITEM:

*Gabriel Faure: Elegie for Cello and Piano*

Only the cello can make that sound  
that woos the stomach, drawing empathy  
in visceral waves. Here it is  
right at the start. The piano emerges  
a respectful companion with steady  
but elegant tread. An effective couple  
they enmesh all in a blanket of calm  
surrender before a storm breaks.  
Noise and pace rage. It is an elegy  
after all and complacency  
is not welcome here.

But storms always pass. The cello  
collects our senses, prisons them  
in our entrails. The piano tactfully abets  
in this exquisite bondage. There they stay  
long after the music ceases.

*Greg Tome, Southern Highlands FAW*

## Nothing To Do

As I idly chew the end of my pen  
A fleeting thought comes now and then  
Like the pitter patter of gentle rain  
Lo and behold it's gone again.

The sun is fierce and the puddles have dried  
From the stormy night when we all cried  
In fear of what we'd done in sin  
And of the Devil if he should win.

Wrecked ships found by the light of day  
No lighthouse yet to show the way  
Loved ones weep by the rocky shore  
And pray for the souls they'll see no more.

Flotsam floats with each gentle wave  
The briny sea is the only grave  
Of those we loved, in their final sleep  
It's sad to think that life's so cheap.

But those that are saved must carry on  
Work is hard and the days are long  
Cold winter nights and summer heat  
The seed must be sown if we're to eat.

Then babies are born when nature is King  
With all the love that little ones bring  
Who in the world could ask for more  
Then along comes a tyrant and starts a war.

*Cliff Rayner, Wollondilly FAW.*

**Editor's Note:** I have two poems that I would like to publish.  
They are: 'For Marj' and 'Earth Struggles Into a New Day'.

If you wrote them, please identify yourself and your FAW  
branch—I've no idea who sent them!!

**Shirley Goodbar, Poetry Editor**

## The Dieter's Parody

*(With apologies to 'Banjo' Paterson and his poem, 'The Man from Snowy River')*

There is room within my trousers, for my girth is not so round,  
Without regret I've dieted fat away.  
I have cut down on my courses – I had weighed two hundred pound!  
The table now I leave without delay.  
All the tried and noted diners that I've dined in near and far  
Had made my trousers vastly over-tight;  
For I loved the fast-food diners where the great hamburgers are,  
And I always sniffed the burgers with delight.  
But now I am a stripling, just a small and weedy chap;  
I am somewhat like a matchstick undersized,  
With a touch of pine-tree needle, but drained of course of sap;  
The sort that are as toothpicks often prized.  
And down around the diners where the fatties push and shove  
Their bulky forms to get their orders in,  
Bright eyes and chubby faces, chomping tucker that they love,  
And rare the one without a double chin;  
Where burghers big as footballs are ordered to the tune  
Of cash registers, and mouths are open wide –  
It is there that you won't find me, for to that I am immune,  
And I tell my story with an air of pride.

*Tony Lang, Lake Macquarie FAW*

## Jet fighter trails

Across the visage of an immaculate sky  
impossibly high above the earth  
four sleek machines  
built to kill  
each scores its mark  
a precise chilling line of spoor  
white  
untouchable  
threatening in its beauty  
in its unspoken message  
we practise to inflict death.

*Greg Tome,  
Southern Highlands FAW*

## Burraborang's Ghost

*(A Lamenting Haiku)*

Burraborang lies  
beneath the watery grave –  
a yesteryear's ghost!

*Lambertus Mastop,  
Macarthur 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

## RESULTS: 2017 FAW NSW ANNUAL WRITING COMPETITIONS

### The FAW NSW Marjorie Barnard Short Story Award

Awarded to:

Gabrielle Leago for 'The Dark Road Home'.

Judge's Report follows. See over for the winning story.

### The FAW NSW Hilarie Lindsay Young Writers Short Story Competition for Australian School Children

- **Section 1: Senior Secondary (Years 10, 11 & 12)**  
Winner: Freya Cox for 'Send me Home my Friends'
- **Section 2: Junior Secondary (Years 7, 8 & 9)**  
Winner: Willow Ross for 'Sydney Cove'
- **Section 3: Senior Primary (Years 5 & 6)**  
Winner: Isaac Robinson for 'Innocence'
- **Section 4: Junior Primary (Year 4 & under)**  
Winner: Justin Kim for 'Don't and Me'

### Judge's Report: The 2017 FAW NSW Marjorie Barnard Award

From a longlist of 12 very good stories, I eventually drew up a shortlist of 4:

No. 5: 'Bad Bones'

No. 13: 'Kind'

No. 38: 'Thursdays at Samar's'

No. 39: 'The Dark Road Home'.

After reading and re-reading these four stories I finally decided the winner should be No. 39: **The Dark Road Home**, though this wasn't an easy decision. The other three on the shortlist are all excellent and quite different in subject matter and writing style.

'Bad Bones' has an impressive use of language and imagery. The narrator in 'Kind' is a young girl and I was impressed by the author's insight and the girl's voice. 'Thursdays at Samar's' is a well-crafted story of revenge.

All four of these stories moved me, and I couldn't say which moved me most. I was drawn into all of them from their opening sentences. They are well-constructed with a good build to a climax and a logical and satisfactory conclusion. The characters were interesting and credible.

I tried scoring each on criteria like *structure*, *characterisation* and *originality* to see if one scored better than the others, but total scores were similar. While, for example, 'Bad Bones' scored highest on originality and had the best opening sentence, 'Kind' scored highest on characterisation and narrator's voice, and 'Thursday at Samar's' scored highest on structure with a very satisfying resolution.

However, I kept coming back to 'The Dark Road Home' which I found difficult to fault. It is narrated by a woman driving her husband home from hospital after chemotherapy. It is a dangerous journey both literally and symbolically—a classic *dark and stormy night*. Their life together is shown in snatches of backstory and there is sequential logic to the way these episodes are woven

into the narrative. I admire the narrator for her strength and honesty. The subject matter could invite melodrama, but the author avoids this. The story-telling is tight, the writing is spare and precise, and this seems appropriate to the toughness of the characters and the hardships they face.

There were only 54 entries this year. I felt the overall standard was high but I was disappointed that a few entries were more like anecdotes or snatches of memorabilia without much plot. For example, a series of episodes from childhood, or a travel diary, or random descriptions of characters who don't interact. Perhaps I'm old-fashioned but I'm a firm believer in stories having a beginning, middle and end, with a climax somewhere near the end.

Another common problem occurs when an author tries to put too much into a short story, as if summarising what should really be a novel. Invariably this leads to more telling than showing in the narrative. The winning story covers a long period of time through backstory, which the author has skilfully woven into a relatively short journey.

I am always surprised at the range of subjects in the stories I've read. Recurring themes this year were child abuse and neglect, euthanasia and dementia. Despite their grim subject matter, I was often moved by these stories. There wasn't much humour this year. Is this a sign of the times?

Thank you to the FAW for asking me to judge the Marjorie Barnard Award this year.

**Pippa Kay**

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## RESULTS: SCRIBES WRITERS 'POETIC LICENCE' AWARD 2017

### TRADITIONAL VERSE:

- 1st 'Spring in Hardware Lane', Jennifer Macauley, Portarlington, VIC
- 2nd 'The Heart of Darkness', David Campbell, Airey's Inlet, VIC
- H.C. 'Tippy Woman Dancing on a Cruise', Rhonda Rice, Heckenberg, NSW
- H.C. A Cautionary Tale', Shirley Goodbar, Lisarow, NSW
- C. 'Read It ... and Wonder', Kevin Pye, Mudgee, NSW
- C. 'I never dreamed that love could die', John Margetts, Grovedale, VIC

### FREE VERSE:

- 1st 'On seeing an Indian farmer at prayer', Rory Hudson, Werribee, VIC
- 2nd 'Upon approaching a homeless man', Cameron Semmens, Upwey, VIC
- H.C. 'Outside, Looking In', David Campbell, Airey's Inlet, VIC
- H.C. 'There Comes a Time', Rae Barclay, Highton, VIC
- C. 'Private Lives', Damen O'Brien, Wynnum, QLD
- C. 'Wrecking Ball', John Egan, Ashfield, NSW

## The Dark Road Home

by Gabrielle Leago

WHEN we were young we ran laughing through storms. Now we shamle hip to hip, stepping carefully over puddles, scowling into wind-blown rain, his bones sharp against me. In the car park I'm cheered by the sight of the stolid ute, by its rusty dings, its fleecy seed-threaded seats. I switch the heater to full blast as we peel off layers.

On the way, creeks edged towards the highway till finally they covered it. I wanted to brave it but Dave said not to. Caution's caught up with him. Can't say I blame him. Going home, we'll likely face a few more detours.

I look at Dave in the dashboard light, at his bloated face, at his neat, hairless skull. I want to take him in my arms, tell him he'll survive, but that would be more for me than for him. I'd call his demeanour Zen-like if I didn't know better.

We negotiate neighbourhood roundabouts, joining commuters past car yards, warehouses, factories and the last of the street lamps. A stream of tail-lights festively flows ahead, peeling off to the freeway until I'm peering into needles of rain in the darkness.

My thoughts slide around like cows on ice. I'm anxious about everything and nothing in particular, exhausted with the effort of not showing it. Tight shoulders, loose bowels and a silly twitch above one eye betray me. Maddened by a rash, I saw the GP. He spoke of mindfulness.

"I'd prefer unconsciousness," I said.

He gave me the number for a counsellor and wrote down the name of an ointment.

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Leafing through a magazine in chemotherapy, I was waiting for Dave when the oncologist asked me into her office. I'd only ever glimpsed her in passing while a nurse battled his veins. Fingering a mouse, she did that annoying clicking thing with her tongue while she peered at Dave's notes through outsized specs. "The dietician reports that he needs more nutrition to supplement his PEG feeds. I assume you purée his food?"

If she'd had children, she'd have recognised my tone. "Well, yeah."

Percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy: a surgically inserted tube in the abdomen through which a pump pushes liquid nutrition. Knowing that our know-all son would quiz me, I'd committed it to memory.

"External or internal?" he'd asked.

"The pump?"

"Well, yeah." See where I get it from?

The oncologist uncrossed her legs and leaned back, her silk blouse sighing softly. "As I'm sure the dietician has advised, you need to serve his food with plenty of gravy. And don't be afraid of seasoning."

I'm scared of quite a few things but seasoning isn't one of them. Her assumption that I was uninformed, incapable, made me want to shout at her. "He says everything tastes of nothing," I said instead.

She nodded. "That's normal. Once the treatment ends, and he starts to feel better, his sense of taste will likely return. In the meantime, he needs to gain weight."

"Better." Yes, she had definitely said that. For the first time since this nightmare began, here was a glimmer of hope: a dazzling flower among untended plots of despair, a best-case scenario after the worst. Bubbles of joy filled my head. I felt weightless, ecstatic.

"Cancer patients can die from malnutrition," she said as she typed. The bubbles all burst at once, replaced by that lumbering monster, dread.

Dave, set free from the needle, looked thinner than ever. Buttoning his shirt cuff, he looked up at me. "Well?"

"She said you're doing fine."

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We're in open country. Blasts of wind veer us sideways. Sleet rattles the duco.

"If this doesn't let up," I say, "we'll burn the last of the logs."

Dave doesn't speak.

I throw him a glimpse. He's closed his eyes.

"You all right?"

"Yep." His voice is low, gravelly. At twenty-three I fell in love with the sound of it. Some of it's still there. The rest I'm getting used to.

"You okay?" he asks.

"Yep."

I wish our children were here. Mark flew down in April and drove out to the paddocks with feed. Over lunch he bellyached about the state of the road, warning me to be careful when it rained. I told him I learned to drive on roads torn up by gravel trucks and, anyway, it hardly ever rains here. He persisted, lecturing me, in minute detail, on how to negotiate potholes, but when he started talking tyre technology, I suggested he stack the firewood. He got through most of it before his editor phoned.

"Something big's happening in Canberra," he said when they'd finished speaking.

"When's it not?" I was annoyed he was leaving so soon, but it was just as well, really, before Dave could pass judgement. Dave builds beautiful walls of firewood, more like works of art. He's pretty particular about his stacks. Mark lacks his patience and doesn't take criticism well.

The mid-sized logs have all gone, only the biggest are left now. I'll be wheeling them up to the house in the rain, or the sleet, or whatever fresh hell is delivered next, but at least I'm spared the feed run. Our few remaining head were sold last month. When the pastures come good, maybe we'll offer them up for agistment. But I should stop thinking too far ahead.



Rache will be down in the holidays with John, unless he joins mates in Byron. She says he lacks the empathy gene and I want to warn her off him. I stop myself, though; it's her affair. All heart, she fails to see fault in others. She takes after Dave in that regard.

If the bridge in the gully is under, we'll turn back; same, too, if the ford at the crossing is gone. If only I'd thought to bring Dave's meds we could've stayed the night somewhere, but there's no room in the ute for all his gear. Our days of being intrepid are gone, ditto spontaneous. All I want now is for Dave to survive.

He's been so ill, I thought of having The Talk. You know the one: favourite music, preferred place of rest, invitations. I couldn't bring myself to do it. If he doesn't raise it, I won't. I'll just have to wing it.

Speaking of wings, the northern paddock is now a wetland with swans, herons and ibises feeding in its shit-rich tide. This morning the water crept towards our road and might now cover it. When the weather warms up there'll be mozzies and potholes galore. There I go again, thinking ahead.

Dave's parents ran cattle. There were orchards and dairy herds here in those days, all gone now. In the city he yearned for the days he'd spent on the farm as a boy and managed to rope me into his dream. And here we are: on a hundred and fifty acres with a rundown house and a gang of overactive mutts. They'll be half-mad with hunger by the time we get home.

Dougie, grizzled and arthritic, was just a pup when we arrived. That spring, the paddocks were lush with Phalaris and rye grass. European trees sprouted bright new leaf and annuals crowded the pretty garden. Certain we'd done the right thing, we brought in fifty head and a few cows with plans to increase the herd, buy more land. But that mild spell segued into scorching heat and by mid-summer the pastures had withered to straw. Wood smoke filled the town with panicked talk. Dust devils swirled across the country like prophets of doom, and I felt as jumpy as the stock as they bellowed through the hot still nights.

On a blast-furnace day, with a northerly straight from hell, the sunlight turned deep orange. Smouldering gum leaves started to fall. As I slopped buckets out to the deck, Dave tore home from a feed run and while we frantically tamped out embers with mops, a convoy of CFA trucks screamed down the road. They caught it before it reached the forest but only just. A fool with an angle grinder copped the blame.

In the dry bitter seasons that followed, when winters delivered hard frosts but no rain, Dave and I fought constantly: about the farm, about the house falling down around us, but mainly about the lack of money that made it impossible to do anything with either. When Dave refused to sell up, I threatened to leave. Taking his only option, he sold most of the herd. After that, he'd retreat to the shed to smoke and throw back beers. At the table we didn't speak.

About a month ago, a classified appeared in the local paper wishing him a speedy recovery "from all your

friends and neighbours". Dave's pretty private but I could tell he was touched. The "all your friends" bit baffled us, though. Soon after our move here, friends flew down from Sydney, curious to see where we'd landed. From a safe distance, now, they sometimes email to ask how we are. I try to sound stoic.

Looking back, I suppose we should've made an effort to socialise, get out more, but we were poor company for each other let alone for anyone else and, anyway, the remains of the herd kept us busy. We ended the day exhausted, staring vacantly at TV till we fell asleep in our chairs. Cold and stiff in the early hours, we'd drag our cricked necks to bed.

"You should pick a team to go for," Len told Dave, as he waited for Marg outside the supermarket. Dave nodded but I knew that he wouldn't.

Len is a cheery, weather-beaten sort. That day he was decked out in a hand-knitted blue and white scarf and matching beanie: Marg's handiwork I guessed.

They talked feed prices and drought until Marg turned up with bags of shopping. I'd seen her helping him and a young bloke in the paddocks, driving a trailer piled high with lambs' tails to a spot under the pines. A no-nonsense, salt-of-the-earth woman with work-worn hands, she urged me to join her quilting group. "It'll help keep your mind off things."

"I'm not into sewing," I said. "Besides, I'm not much of a joiner."

"Oh well, your loss." Sniffing, she turned away, as if looking for someone better to talk to. I realised how rude I'd seemed.

"We have two children," I said, hoping for common ground, "a girl and a boy. Grown up now of course. Rachel's a teacher and Mark's a journalist in Canberra." Aware of the district's low aspirations, I tried not to sound too proud. "Do you have children?"

She sniffed again and counted them off on her fingers. "One's a grazier in the Western District, one's an agronomist near Tamworth, one's a hydrologist in Tasmania and the twins are vets in the Central West. Connor, our eldest, has a masters in land management. Him and his family help Len and me run the farm."

Until then, that was the most we'd said to each other. Lately, though, she calls every so often to ask how we're going and if there's anything we need. Dave reckons we're probably a hot topic at the "stitch 'n' bitch club", as it's known around town.

\*\*\*

Looking into a long scope down Dave's throat, the specialist made worrying noises then sat down to tap out notes. Swivelling around, he said: "Well, David, I think it's safe to say that your singing days are over."

When I laughed too loudly and for too long, he raised an eyebrow at me before moving on to the body blow. "You'll need further tests but I'd say that it's possible you'll

*cont. next page...*

# Prizewinning Short Stories

## The Dark Road Home

*cont. from previous page*

lose the larynx, part of the trachea and maybe some or all of the thyroid gland.”

Detaching, I floated away like a lost balloon. From somewhere far away, the words “surgery”, “radiation”, “chemotherapy”, “voice prosthesis” were spoken. “In the end it’s often down to luck,” he finally said. Then he looked at me. “And good support, of course.”

My voice emerged in a frightened whisper. “Of course.”

In the golden, late-afternoon sunshine, a caul of pink cloud floated across the deep blue sky. An avenue of trees glowed yellow. At another time, it would have been a moment to savour but right then, with each of us ensnared in our numbness, I felt the loneliest I had ever felt. I wondered how we’d get through.

At the ute Dave folded me into his arms and hugged me tightly, as if one of us were about to depart. Since then we’ve journeyed such a long way together.

\*\*\*

Some nights, at the kitchen window, I stare into darkness. I imagine my life without him, without the shared routines, the structure to our days. I can’t see how it, or I, will be. I tell myself it’s stupid to think about things that might not happen. I should think only of what is.

But alone in bed my gut ties itself in knots. Only a fortnight of treatment left but what if the cancer comes back? What if he has to go through it all again in a year, two years’ time? What if he can’t take it? What if he refuses? I “what if” like this for ages till exhaustion mercifully puts me to sleep.

In the morning I awake in fright, my thoughts defaulting to panic. Has he survived the night? Has he reacted badly to the last dose of chemo? Will we again have to rush to emergency? I throw off the covers, heave lumpen limbs out of bed and rush to the spare room.

He sits upright and smiling. The pump’s switched off, the feed bottle’s empty. He throws back the covers and I climb in to snuggle up to his bony warmth. I ask how he is and stroke his face. “Not bad,” he says in his growly, night-clogged voice.

\*\*\*

The other day, where the road cuts through the forest, we stopped for a family of choughs. Big black birds, they travel in groups of a dozen or more. The worst they do is to rake out plants and make a racket till I run out shouting to chase them.

They shambled over the road like a clutch of griping nuns. Worried we’d be late for Dave’s session, I hurried them along, rolling slowly forward while they shrieked in protest. They’re endearing, really, when they’re not destroying the garden. I’d just begun to pick up speed when a straggler, who’d opted to fly, hit the grille. I

slammed on the brakes. If it was injured, I needed to help it. If it was dead, I should move it off the road.

I once hit a cockatoo. In the rear-view mirror, a cloud of angelic feathers floated down onto the road. Shocked and appalled, I stopped and moved its still-warm corpse and I cried for it.

That day, crying was the thing I most needed but the thing I least wanted, and I clenched my jaws, gripping the wheel so hard my nails dug into my palms. I watched rain run down the windscreen in tiny rivulets. “Angel tears,” Rache as a six-year-old had called them. “They’re kept in the clouds and angels pour them out to make the flowers grow and flowers make us happy when we’re sad.”

The memory of my darling little girl was enough, and as my gut convulsed in a spasm of grief, I slumped against the wheel. In wrenching sobs I cried in terror of losing Dave, in sadness for all that he’d lost. The emotions that I’d carefully hidden from him were now on display, big time.

Alarmed, he unfastened his seatbelt and took me into his arms. His breath was warm and small on my neck, as once our babies’ had been, and when his tears joined mine I was shocked. Only once I’d known him to cry, when Mark was born. Words formed in his ravaged throat but failed to emerge. In their stead he comforted me with caresses. Time flowed around us until a car slowed down and stopped. I opened the steamed-up window to a blast of cold air and waved them on. The look on the driver’s face made it clear that my own was a sight. Dave cleared his voice prosthesis while I wipe rivulets of mascara from my cheeks.

I knew I should get out but I didn’t and summoning the vision of desiccated, chough-raked plants, I callously pulled away.

In the side mirror, Dave examined the view. “Nothing on the road, darl. Reckon you just clipped it.”

\*\*\*

You know when you arrive somewhere and can’t remember the journey? Well, I can’t remember the detours we took tonight, when the rain stopped, or when I switched off the wipers.

We’re on our road’s greasy clay when the ute starts to slither. I grip the wheel, yanking it first this way, then that, but we slew uncontrollably. My heart skips beats.

“Easy,” Dave urges, “go with it.”

I stop pulling on the wheel and allow the ute to glide a little, steering into the skid. We’re heading towards the ancient gum tree near the gate; in front of it, a crater brimming with muddy water. I hear Mark’s voice as clearly as if he were with us. “Brake just before you hit a pothole, never in it.” At its rim I push my foot down hard on the pedal, lifting it as we sink.

Our headlights show indents in the massive trunk, a history of hard knocks. Mud slides down the windows. Dave’s loony grin makes me laugh and I release the breath I didn’t know I was holding.

□

## DON'T AND ME

By Justin Kim

Prizewinning story for the 2017  
HILARIE LINDSAY Competition  
(Section 4 Junior Primary,  
Yr 4 & under).

I was on my bed, sighing and thinking of what humiliation would take place tomorrow. It was the donkey race and my donkey was the most stubborn donkey of them all. He would never listen to me no matter what I did. His name was Don't and had thick tangled strands of tail hair that beat around whenever the tiniest fly got caught in the matted hair. All the other donkeys were going to win as my useless donkey and I would lose the competition, but I loved him with all my heart. I met him in a flea market when I was four years old. He was abandoned and lonely like me so I begged my uncle for him. Ever since I looked after him, he would kick me whenever I came near him in his stable. I just wished we would be true friends than winning this competition for my grumpy and mean uncle.

All the donkeys were at the start line except Dont that was trying to chew my shoes without paying any attention. The crowd shifted uncomfortably at my embarrassing animal. Their facial expressions told me that they were sure that Dont was never going to win. Some of them were ready to catch the most hilarious moment. I suddenly felt urge to win that race. I told myself never give up. No! I could not give up on that. "On your mark!" Everyone suddenly lowered their upper bodies and tightened the reins.

There was a smoky smell after a noise like a thunder. All of them raced off in the speed of light as I was alone with my useless companion, gazing at the dusty road. Half of my shoelaces were gone! "Dont, please! You have to run! Go! Go!" I heard people giggling. My face turned ruby red in embarrassment. I knew that he would not listen to me. I took one of my shoes off and threw it vigorously and shouted, "GO DONT!!!" and whacked his bottom with all my strength. Seeing the shoe fly, he started to gallop. His mane shone in the sunlight and was ahead of two donkeys already. My donkey was really listening to me. The wind was whispering to me and the rough, rocky road did not distract my donkey from victory now.

The barrier of ignorance in his heart vanished forever. I felt freedom. Nothing could stop us. The crowd stared at him, pushing forward for some space to see him and now they were sure Dont was not useless and stubborn donkey anymore. We whistled passed our opponents one by one. Victory was going to be ours until...WHOOPS! Dont saw my shoe on the ground.

"NO NO DONT!" My grin turned into an upside down watermelon. The crowd laughed so hard that they fell off their chair. I pulled the shoe out of his mouth but he wouldn't let go. I pulled harder but his grip on the shoe was firm. We both pulled until my shoe was sent flying in the air and onto the finish line. Dont saw the shoe and galloped as fast as he could to the finish line. We then came third and I gave him my shoe as the prize for this huge achievement. For the first time in my life, he licked my cheek. I love him so much. □

## Innocence

by Isaac Robinson

Prizewinning story for the 2017  
HILARIE LINDSAY Competition  
(Section 3 Senior Primary,  
Yrs 5 & 6).

I glanced up at the cloudy sky, the sun illuminating the evening in a vibrant pink. The first of a myriad of stars began to appear as soldiers ruffled anxiously around me, ready for what was to come. You could almost lose yourself in the beauty of it...until you remembered what you were here to do. On my broad shoulders perched a smooth wooden musket, my only life-line. My uniform muddy and stained, clung to my body as rain bucketed down upon me. Bringing me back to reality, the whistle screamed and pierced the air like the crack of a whip.

I gripped the blackened wet earth, trembling, and pulled myself over the trench wall. My knuckles ghostly white with terror. While bullets flew past my head, centimetres away from what would be a certain kill. Even through the haze and clouding smoke of the battle, it was impossible to mistake the terror on my face. I stood perfectly still, wide-eyed as soldiers fell like puppets being cut from their strings. Limp and lifeless. Some still with smiles etched on their colourless faces, a last laugh. Screams and howls fought an endless battle, hungrily devouring the life and hope that had once engrossed the faces of many young men. The wind split in two as bombers sped overhead leaving a trail of destruction in their wake. Eyes darted to the sky in fear and anticipation. A final act of curiosity before their limbs were ripped from their bodies.

Still... I stood rooted to the spot, my courage betraying my body. My eyes darted around the battlefield, oblivious to the war that raged around me. All the bodies that lay there, lifeless, friend and foe alike, were young. The ground thick with their blood. They were much too young. Too young to fight in a war they didn't even believe in. Some were children, at least the age of my younger brother Henry. He would be sitting at home now talking enviously at the dinner table of my great adventure, while my parents smiled their hollow smiles, unsure whether I would come home. Scared of a knock on the front door, yet still hopeful, despite the inevitable. I wish I could turn and run. From the pain. Run from death. So that maybe I might get home to my family. Without warning, a searing, burning pain shot through my thigh.

I stared down at the large, gaping hole left where the bullet pierced my skin. I fell with a thud to the ground, as terror consumed me and my head spun madly. The blood continued to spill, endlessly and uncontrollably. Though my mother had been a nurse, I had never been able to cope with blood. Not a great thing when you go to war. Yet still, my instincts kicked in and I ripped the fabric from the right arm of my uniform using my teeth. With no time to waste, I quickly tied the fabric around my leg and tightened it enough to stop the blood. It would work but not for long. Slowly, I mustered enough strength to push myself out of the mud. I stood over the battlefield, littered with bodies. Silence had won against all else. Yet slowly, out of the mud a figure emerged.

cont. next page...

# Prizewinning Short Stories

## Innocence

(cont. from previous page)

The silhouette stood several paces in front of me. Clutching his shoulder, he stumbled to the ground once again. That's when I caught sight of his crimson red uniform. The enemy. Trembling, I reached for my musket and pulled it off my back. A weapon they had given to thousands of soldiers, who didn't even know how to use, let alone take a life with one. It, in its own right was the messenger. Yet here I was pointing it at a man who could have easily been me. What would Henry think of me now? Would he be excited? Or disappointed in me even giving

thought to such an act of cruelty? Though, if I waited too long this man would pull his gun on me and I would never get home to hear Henry out. I must survive!

Slowly.... Shaking, I pulled up the musket and aimed the barrel directly at his head. As he drew to full he only just caught sight of me, his deep brown eyes stared directly into my own, piercing me like a blade. The man finally came to a realization, closing his eyes as a tear dribbled down my chin and fell to the ground with a splash. All the while my finger pressed down hard on the trigger and a loud crack echoed around the silent plain, as the sun melted away into the horizon.

□

## Send me home, my friends! By Freya Cox

Prizewinning story for the 2017  
HILARIE LINDSAY Competition  
(Section 1 Senior Secondary,  
Yrs 10, 11 & 12).

SOME things never truly let you go, no matter how much space or time you let stretch between you.

I hear a child's shriek, feel the direct blazing heat of the sun smack my face, smell a particular scent, and I'm sent rushing back, tumbling through the years to land in a gangly twelve-year-old body.

*I'll be sitting on the floor as Mama crouches over the fire pit in the middle of the room, stirring a wooden spoon round and round, singing softly as she does so, her lilting voice rising up to the thatched roof.*

*Through the door I'll see my older sister plucking the feathers out of one of our chickens for dinner. Its broken, scrawny neck hangs limp in her grasp. The feathers cascade slowly through the air, light and fluffy as tiny clouds, to litter the ground at her feet.*

*I remember salivating at the thought of chicken for dinner. I remember the eagerness with which I waited for that meal, but I cannot accurately recall my older sister's face. I know she had cool hands that would always be there to pick me up when I fell, and that could pluck a chicken in record time. I know she would protect me from boys who thought it funny to tease and torment children younger than them, and for the few years she attended school she was always quick at her work.*

*But whenever I try to call up her face I can never see it.*

Something will jolt me back to the present around about then. My boss will toss a case file onto my desk and ask me to look through it, or ask to see what progress I have made on writing up a report. The image of the past will slowly crumble as I let other people's problems consume me, and the present re-establishes its hold on me.

I'm walking down the street after work, the buzz and honk of city traffic wrapped around me, when I notice some construction workers by the side of the road. One reaches up to swipe the sweat from his brow, leaving a smear of dirt across his sun-tanned forehead. The face underneath his hand transforms before my eyes and this stranger becomes someone incredibly dear to me.

*My father and brother will come back late from working in the fields. Stained with sweat and dirt, my brother will lunge to wipe his grimy hands on me, making me squeal and duck out of the way, almost crashing into Mama where she is trying to set the table. She'll yell at me, and then when my baby sister starts crying, flap her work-roughened hands at me and tell me to go sooth the baby. I'll peep over the edge of the crib at the crying wrinkled bundle, who seems to frown at me and starts crying harder, as if reminding me it's my fault she has woken.*

*I'll dip my hands into the cradle and pull her up towards me, settling her in my arms and bouncing her around as I've seen Mama and my older sister do. She screams louder. My older sister sees my failed attempts to calm the baby, and quickly takes her out of my arms, expertly settling her in moments.*

*Eventually we'll all sit clustered around our low table, shuffling till we're seated comfortably on the bamboo floor mats. My mother will scoop up a handful of rice with her right hand and place it in my father's bowl before we're allowed to start.*

The toot of a taxi brings me out of my reverie, and I duck my head and hurry on down the footpath. The stream of people move around one another like a school of fish weaving in and out.

That afternoon my wife and I go to a teashop where the smell of crushed tea leaves permeates the air, to buy a present for her aunt. She lifts up a box for me to smell, curls of red hair brushing her shoulders. "What do you think of this one?"

I close my eyes as the strong, bitter scent of green tea curls around my face.

*After dinner, my father will relax back in a chair, stretching out his legs and sipping at a cup of steaming green tea. The mosquitoes provide a comforting background drone, and outside the light slowly slips from day to dusk.*

*My father will pull out an old tattered book he still has from his time at school—he went to boarding school in the city for a few years before coming back to help his father on the farm. It's a book of poetry by Tin Moe, one of our nation's famous poets, whose work my father admires greatly.*



*He'll always start by flicking half way through the book, to a well-thumbed page that cradles his favourite piece of writing. He'll start reading out loud, his voice rising and falling with the mosquitoes.*

*The cigar has burned down;*

*The sun is brown.*

*Send me home, my friends!*

*After he's read the poem he'll muse on its meaning, wondering out loud whether the burned-down cigar and sinking sun refer to the ending of a political regime, or perhaps represent a person at the end of their life, speaking about where they're headed next.*

The poem meant little to my twelve-year-old self. Sitting on the floor of my home, surrounded by the people I loved most in the world, I couldn't empathise with the poet's great desire to go home. I couldn't understand why he would have left in the first place.

In the mornings, when the cold mist hangs heavy and thick in the air as I make my way to work, there are always children rushing to school. Their backpacks bounce an uneven rhythm upon their small backs and their eager feet beat out a background tempo. The tempo of school children's feet seems to be the same no matter what ground they're running on. I'm pretty sure my feet beat out the exact same rhythm years ago, although they moved on a very different earth.

*In the mornings, I'll meet my best friend Lwin in front of his house and we'll race down the road together, my battered writing book clutched under my arm, sweat from my armpit staining its cover. It's early, but already the sun beats down from above, and we scamper between the patches of shade cast by the jagged leaves of the neem trees that line the road, shoving each other and laughing.*

*We have one class for all of the children from our village. Our teacher will write on the board with a stick of chalk, and mop his dripping forehead as the sun traipses higher into the sky. Small hands will pop up to answer his questions, and there's the soft scratching of numerous pencils copying down what he writes on the board. Lwin is just nudging me to show me a funny picture he's drawn of the boy in front of us, when a shadow appears over our classroom door. Two men in dirty army fatigues stand in the doorway, guns slung over their shoulders.*

*"We want all the children outside, now," they bark.*

*We are herded to the front of the school and made to line up. Two other men wait outside. Eyes run us up and down, evaluating what we could be worth to them. There's the sharp smell of piss in the air, coming from one of the terrified boys behind me.*

Whenever I use a public toilet today the acrid smell of piss still leaves me reeling with fear, and covered in a cold sweat.

*One of the soldiers walks up to me and points his gun in my face. I freeze. Gesturing with the butt of his gun he makes me move forward out of the line.*

*A dozen boys and four girls are selected.*

*My older sister sees me being escorted out by the soldiers when she is coming back from taking our father and brother lunch in the fields.*

*With a scream, she tears after me.*

*Laughing, one of the soldiers grabs her. They start to drag her along with us too, but she keeps scratching at the soldier's face and keening a wild high wail. They decide not to take her along after all.*

*My beautiful sister's body is left crumpled on the road like a broken bird that's fallen out of the sky, her face pressed into the dirt, her hair splayed out like fingers reaching for help.*

*In two weeks I learnt how to hold and fire a gun, how to take orders, and how to be a proud member of the national army. For four years I put everything I learnt into practice. Lying on the ground at night, unable to sleep, tormented by the things I had seen and done, listening to the soft cries of the newest recruits, I murmur the words of my father's poem to myself.*

*Send me home, my friends!*

I came to understand the yearning expressed in that line better than I ever wanted to.

When the government was finally pressured into releasing some of their child soldiers I had a flurry of UN and aid workers assigned to help me. But they couldn't locate my village. I had no idea where it was on a map of our country, nor could I think of any defining landmarks to help identify it.

I remained in Myanmar for another few years, but the memories crowded in and haunted me. One of the aid workers helped me apply for a scholarship at a university in London, where I ended up completing a law degree, falling in love with a British girl with eyes the colour of neem tree leaves and hair the colour of autumn, and settling down.

Here there is less blazing sun and fewer familiar smells to summon up memories like watery ghosts, rising from the bottom of the well in which I've tried to sink them.

A baby's cry disturbs me, and for a minute I am reminded of my little sister, whom I failed so miserably to sooth that day. The cry comes again, louder this time, and I move to the corner of the room. My own son lies in the cradle, his little face scrunched up, and I reach down to pick him up with much more finesse than I had decades ago in another country. My wife calls out from the study, asking if everything is ok. I look down at my son's face, the sound of my wife's voice echoing in my ears, and focus on nothing but the present.

My son's face pushes out old thoughts, of a different family in a different country.

*The cigar has burned down;*

*The sun is brown.*

*I am home, my friends.*

# Branch Meetings and Contacts

## **BANKSTOWN WRITERS**

**1st Saturday – 1.00 to 4.00 pm**  
Banksia Room,  
Revesby Workers Club  
*Enquiries:* CarneyVaughan42685383

## **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

## **EASTWOOD/HILLS FAW**

**1st Saturday – 1.30 pm**  
Pennant Hills Community Centre, Cnr  
Yarrara & Ramsay Rds, Pennant Hills  
*Enquiries:* Elizabeth Collins  
(Pres.) 9873 2941  
*Email:* <elizabeth.ac3@gmail.com>  
or Sally Lewry (Sec.) 0448 878 856  
*Email:* <dslewry@bigpond.com>  
*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:*  
Pam Bayfield (02 9913 1147  
*Email:* <pambayfield@gmail.com>

## **GREAT LAKES FAW**

**2nd Friday – 1.00 to 4.00 pm**  
Great Lakes Library  
(for September and October 2017  
during Club Forster renovations)  
4-12 Breese Pde, Forster, NSW  
*Enquiries:*  
Christine Hayes 6555 9904  
or post, Mrs Hermione Browning,  
15 Eden Place, Tuncurry 2428

## **GRIFFITH RIVERINA FAW**

**Last Thursday – 6.30pm**  
Multicultural building  
Bana Ave, Griffith  
(Between courthouse and park).  
*Enquiries:* Marilyn Sayer 0488 444 951  
*Email:* <mazysayer@icloud.com>

## **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  
<isolatedwriters@fawns.org.au>  
See inside back page for full details  
and guidelines.*

## **LAKE MACQUARIE FAW**

**2nd Saturday – 2.00 to 4.00pm**  
Toronto Community Centenary Hub,  
97 The Boulevard, Toronto.  
*Enquiries:*  
<lakemacaw2@gmail.com>  
*Facebook:*  
<www.facebook.com/LakeMacFAW>  
*Website:*  
<lakemacaw2.wordpress.com/>  
*Twitter:* @lakemacaw2  
*Instagram:* #lakemacaw2

## **LAMBING FLAT (YOUNG)**

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

## **LIVERPOOL FAW**

**2nd Saturday – 1.00 to 4.00pm**  
Dr Pirie Community Centre  
Cnr Bigge & Moore Sts, Liverpool.  
*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:* Margot Shugg  
*Email:* <margotshugg@aapt.net.au>

## **MOOCOOWOOLA 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>

## **PARRAMATTA FAW**

**1st Saturday – 12.30 pm**  
Room A Level 2, 1 Fitzwilliam Street  
(RAFFLES building next door to the  
library and across the road from  
Parramatta Station).  
To gain access to the 2nd floor ring the  
Secretary, Lyn Leerson 0421 188 770.

## **PORT MACQUARIE- HASTINGS FAW**

**Last Saturday – 1.00 to 4.00 pm**  
The Mac Adams Music Centre  
33 Lord Street, Port Macquarie  
[behind the Players Theatre]  
*Enquiries:* Colleen Parker (Pres.)  
6583 3997, 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**

**2nd Saturday – 10am to noon**  
The Henrietta Rose Room,  
Bowral Library.  
*Enquiries:* Barb Angell (Sec.)  
*Phone and SMS:* 0417 192 055  
*Email:* <fawshinfo@gmail.com>  
*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 – 12.30–3.30pm**  
Sutherland Library, meeting room 1  
30–36 Belmont St, Sutherland  
*Enquiries:*  
Fiona Johnstone (Pres)  
0401 976 130  
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**  
Woodbury Park Community Centre,  
1 Woolmers Cres (off Woodbury  
Park Drive), Mardi NSW  
*Enquiries:*  
Mei-Ling Venning (Pres.) 4333 7489  
85 Oaks Road, Shelly Beach 2261  
*Email:* <meilingvenning@  
hotmail.com>  
*Web:* <www.wyongwriters.org>

## Fellowship of Australian Writers NSW Inc.



ABN 59 557 152 715

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

**Internet:** <[www.fawnsw.org.au](http://www.fawnsw.org.au)>

**Facebook:** <[www.facebook.com/FAWNSW](http://www.facebook.com/FAWNSW)>

### ABOUT THE FAW

The aims of the FAW are:

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

### Branch Meetings

The branch fellowships hold regular meetings; conduct workshops and tutorials; hold writing competitions and publish anthologies of members' work. Visitors are most welcome to attend meetings or to contact the Fellowship through their respective branch (*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 Queensland (FAWQ)  
**Email:** <[fawqwrite@gmail.com](mailto:fawqwrite@gmail.com)>  
**Web:** <[www.fawq.com.au](http://www.fawq.com.au)>

## FAW ISOLATED WRITERS BRANCH

### MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES:

**Carolyn Cash, Isolated Writers Convenor**  
Fellowship of Australian Writers NSW  
PO Box 429, Caringbah NSW 1495  
**Email:** <[isolatedwriters@fawnsw.org.au](mailto:isolatedwriters@fawnsw.org.au)>

### MEMBERS' ACHIEVEMENTS:

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

### AFFILIATION FEES:

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

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

Mail subscriptions to the FAW State Treasurer Kay Bakon (*see page 2 for address*). 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

## FAW SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

### *Figments*

*Figments* is a brand new collection from our writers of the Southern Highlands. A strong collection of new short stories, memoir, poetry, travel etc. illustrated by our late cherished member artist Gabrielle Calov Stewart. *Figments*, ISBN 978-1-876409-28-9 includes humour, drama, mystery, pathos, all the ingredients for highly entertaining reading over the Christmas holiday break and edited by Dr Barbara Angell (prose) and Ken Challenor (poetry). *Figments* also includes the major prize winning entries in the inaugural Margaret Cech Writing Competition. Available for purchase for \$15 to FAW members plus P&H. Pop a copy into the Christmas Stocking.

Contact <[biz@angellpro.com.au](mailto:biz@angellpro.com.au)> for fuller details.

## ANTOINETTE CONOLLY

### *The Fifth Planet*

A science fiction novel for Primary School readers. Abigail Mitchell, Matthew Gordon and Madison Ramsey are three 11 year old friends who go to the Royal National Park for a bushwalk and picnic. After a violent electrical storm, only Maddie returns home. Abby and Matthew find an alien space shuttle and inadvertently become stowaways. The shuttle is driven back to the mother ship which returns to the home planet of Zorgon.

Their journey takes them to many different and sometimes dangerous worlds. Will the two children have any possibility of returning home to Earth or must they remain with the Zorgi people forever?

The novel has 157 pages and appeals equally to girls and boys, requiring only that the reader has an active imagination. Available from the author for \$25 including postage and packaging.

Contact <[a.conolly@optusnet.com.au](mailto:a.conolly@optusnet.com.au)> or phone 02 9545 4553.

## CYNTHIA HALLAM

### *New Horizons*

*New Horizons* is Cynthia Hallam's sixth volume of poetry. Her 51 poems continue on the themes she has developed in previous works: plays on words and observations of her world at a distance and very close. Cynthia is an observer who notices every nuance; the little things that make people who they are as well as the small victories, frustrations and tragedies we all experience. [See also *Book Review p16—Ed*].

Published 2017 by Ginninderra Press. Available from The Turning Page Bookshop, 1/125 Macquarie Road, Springwood. Phone 02 4751 5171, or contact The Blue Mountains FAW on its Facebook page of the same name, where Cynthia Hallam is a member.

## PETER F PIKE

### *IConverse*

A book of 53 sonnets. Each sonnet has an accompanying apt colourful illustration and an appropriate black and white icon. [See also *Book Reviews p16—Ed*].

Available from the author <[peter@freexpression.com.au](mailto:peter@freexpression.com.au)> for \$12.95 plus postage, but for FAW Members the postal charges will be waived.

## KATHRYN BERRYMAN

### *Erinland*

A fantasy novel. Two troubled young adults find themselves key players in a deadly game that spans the 21st century and the Viking Age.

Amy, finding it difficult to 'fit in', becomes increasingly obsessed with the virtual reality game Erinland. The VR characters and the mist of Erin begin to invade Amy's dreams and her waking moments. She finds herself drawn into Erinland in 9th century Ireland. Amy becomes part of this mystical world as she joins in the struggle to defeat the Viking raiders. Richard has a complicated home life and feels he doesn't belong anywhere. A series of events finds him desperate and living on the streets, where he finds himself dragged into 9th century Norway by Viking warrior. Richard finds acceptance with the Vikings and joins them on a colonisation raid to Ireland.

10% of every copy sold will be donated to support Father Chris Riley's 'Youth Off the Streets.'

ISBN 9781925530001. \$25.00 with free postage (within Australia). Also available as a Kindle eBook and from Amazon Print-On-Demand. <[www.kathrynberryman.com](http://www.kathrynberryman.com)>

## GREGORY TOME

### *Watching from the Shadows*

This poetry book by Southern Highlands FAW member Greg Tomes has been published by Ginninderra Press. It can be ordered by logging

## 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/>>

onto the Ginninderra Press website. RRP \$20 plus \$7 for packaging and postage. Print and e-book editions are also available through Amazon Book Depository and other online booksellers.

## PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS FAW

### *Heartbeat of the Hastings*

This anthology is a collection of tales of some of our community's selfless volunteers who are the heartbeat of our Port Macquarie community and of some who are the arteries to the rest of the world. It is a suitable gift for birthdays and Christmas as it tells the stories of the causes and communities in which the volunteers participate.

The local CWA, Riding for the Disabled and Sailability (Sailing for the Disabled) perform many miracles in their day-to-day operations. A women's health clinic in Nepal, Mercy Ships off the west coast of Africa and construction work on a small island off Vanuatu are some of the offshore volunteering that is performed by our wonderful Aussies.

This B5, full colour book is available for purchase at \$20 + postage if required. Contact Colleen Parker at <[parkerpattinson2@bigpond.com](mailto:parkerpattinson2@bigpond.com)>.

## VINDU MAHARAJ

### *Cultural Prison*

Vindu's debut novel *Cultural Prison*, subtitle 'A daughter's worth' is on sale for \$29 retail, but for FAW members, \$25 plus postage either through Liverpool branch or directly from her. Vindu's email address: <[vkumaraj@hotmail.com](mailto:vkumaraj@hotmail.com)> The book has been launched in Fiji and Australia, and is a 'book of courage' for women victims.

## PAMELA KING

### *Angel with Drumsticks*

This is the story as it was told to the author by Angelo Ferrari, drummer, singer and founder of the Italian Beat rock group *Angel and the Brains*. After recounting how the band was formed and its music ambitions, it continues to tell the true story about the aftermath of La Messa Dei Giovani (La Messa).

La Messa was conceived to fulfil the desires of the Vatican II to make the Catholic Church more appealing to young people but, because of resulting bitter and vicious arguments within the church and the media, the Vatican took a course of action that was inconsiderate, hurtful and cold hearted.

The story describes how these young musicians, who had responded to an invitation from the church to perform the first rock mass in Rome had their fledgling careers destroyed by the Vatican. Recent articles falsely acclaimed the event as being a successful innovation of the Catholic Church at the time.

Purchase information is available from the website <[www.pam.id.au](http://www.pam.id.au)>.

## 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.

## 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. 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, just \$20 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)>.



The paper this publication is printed on is in accordance with the rules of the Forest Stewardship Council®. The FSC® promotes environmentally responsible, socially beneficial and economically viable management of the world's forests.