

# Writers Voice



Summer Edition #246 DEC 2014

QUARTERLY BULLETIN OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS NSW INC.

## The Veranda Committee and the White Cliffs Loose Ladies Craft Group (+ 1 Man)

Cate Plink

OUTSIDE THE White Cliffs Hotel, the veranda committee sat holding their glasses and surveying the activity in town.

"What in blue blazes are those silly fools of women doing now?" one of them asked, as he watched the Loose Ladies + 1 Man working busily about the town.

"Yarn Bombing." Somebody replied. "It's the latest craze apparently. They're doing it all over the world."

"Why in hell are they 'Yarn Bombing' White Cliffs?"

"This stupid Arts Festival of course. Why in hell do we need an Arts Festival in White Cliffs?"

"Beats me, lot of bloody nonsense if you ask me. This town isn't about that sort of stuff. It's losing its real character. I reckon all this artsy fartsy stuff is ruining the real White Cliffs. I mean what in hell is "wearable art" for crying out loud? Another one mate?"

"Won't say no. Thanks."

In the meantime the Loose Ladies + 1 Man continued their work, and soon all the buildings in town were covered in wonderful woollen art work. Fences were adorned, and the U-Beaut-Ute began to take shape.

In several dugouts, the town's homes which are dug into the sides of the cliffs, the Festival Committee and their army of helpers worked tirelessly on costumes and their own entries for the Festival, as well as the myriad of other tasks required to make a successful event.

The veranda committee sat gloomily watching the proceedings, and drowning their sorrows in copious amounts of ale. "This town isn't about bloody Art Festivals, it's about hard working miners." One of them muttered into his glass. A chorus of beery voices agreed with him.

Finally the day arrived when the festival was due to open. The committee and their helpers worked harder than ever. The hall was prepared with all the art works displayed for viewing. Last minute adjustments were made and the committee crossed their fingers, hoping for a successful event. A lot was riding on the success of the festival. There had been no grant available to help fund the festival this year, so they dearly needed to cover all the costs.

*This is a fictionalised account of my recent trip to White Cliffs NSW for the 2014 'Underground Arts Festival.' As my sister was one of the Committee organising the event, I gained an insight into the incredible amount of hard work that goes into putting on a festival such as this. Cate Plink.*

"Bet they lose money. Stands to reason this town is not up to supporting something like this. Must have cost them thousands, and where did the money come from I'd like to know?" One of the veranda committee mumbled to his mates around his half full glass.

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\*\*\* NOTE QUARTERLY COPY DEADLINES \*\*\*

15 FEBRUARY, 15 MAY, 15 AUGUST, 15 NOVEMBER

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

Next meeting: **Annual General Meeting** Saturday May 2, 2015, 10:00am at City of Sydney RSL Club, 565 George Street, Sydney.

For 2015 the Executive Committee and Branch Delegates will meet the first Saturday of May and November. Minutes are mailed to each Branch Secretary.

## General Membership and Subscriptions

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

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

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

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

## Writing Fellows

FAW Writing Fellows are listed here: <[www.fawnsww.org.au/Writing\\_Fellows.pdf](http://www.fawnsww.org.au/Writing_Fellows.pdf)>.

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

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

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

## Distinguished Service Award

This annual award recognises FAW members confidentially recommended by their Branch Committees and approved by the DSA Assessment Committee. DSA members will be honoured in the following way: a ceremony will be held at the Annual Presentation Luncheon and the successful candidates will be presented with certificates acknowledging their outstanding service. In addition, a permanent Honour Roll in *Writers' Voice* lists the names of recipients of the DSA.

Guidelines for assessing recommendations for Distinguished Service Awards:

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

## ISBN

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

## Public Fund

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

## FAW Manuscript Assessment Service

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

# State Council News

## From the President

WE HAD a great State Council meeting with Port Macquarie Branch of the Fellowship of Australian Writers at the start of November.

It was really nice to meet many of the local branch members plus visitors from nearby Branches.

Thank you to Rachel Palmer (branch president) and her committee for looking after us so well and for the nice gifts you presented. I was pleased to win the bottle of Moscato—one of my favourites.

Thank you to Ray and Frank for showing us around and to the members for having a lively discussion with our state committee.

I really think the weekend was one of real Fellowship, the real meaning of the FAW bringing so many of us together to learn, see and have a good time.

Our wonderful committee ladies were great company—Cate Plink (Competitions), Carolyn Cash (Isolated writers), Colleen Parker (Outreach convener and Trust), Maureen Kelly OAM (Secretary), Kay Bakon (Treasurer)—and what a good time we had with loads of laughs.

They all have a great sense of humour and it's not hard to have a good time. I appreciate so much their work and enthusiasm. It's so good that a committee can feel so like a family and firm friends, enabling them to work, discuss and enjoy fellowship together.

Many thanks to Doug Parker for collecting me and returning me to Wauchope Rail station. I can see why Colleen and Doug love the area, it really is a lovely part of Australia with all the facilities one wants plus the easy beach life style.

Colleen and Doug took us to Ricardoes where we had lunch, picked strawberries, bought preserves and bought gorgeous tomatoes.

It was good to explore a location we were not familiar with... dinner at Clubs, poetry reading at *Saltys* restaurant Saturday night, up to the oldest lighthouse, walk through the shopping precinct, views of the beach areas, a trip in the vehicle ferry to North Shore, a look through the



*Natalie Hopwood, member of Port Macquarie-Hastings branch, presents state president Trevar Langlands with a welcome gift.*

fabulous *Glasshouse Arts Centre* which is really a terrific asset for the city and a great city landmark.

Thank you to Gwen Rees-Hopton, a proud member of Port Macquarie Fellowship of Australian Writers for 39 years and also wonderful Connie celebrating her 91st birthday (and she drove there for the day). Gwen has given me a copy of her book on her life with the Theatre which I will review on air.

I was so proud to meet these two lovely ladies who are so devoted after all these years to our FAW. Thanks to president Rachel and publicity member Kerry for their interest in the day and thank you to their newest member Natalie for presenting me with a local gift bag.

Thank you one and all, including the many people I met on the day for our interesting chats and for making us feel so at home.

*[Report and photos next page].*

## Annual Awards Luncheon

Our Awards Luncheon in Sydney on Saturday November 15 was fabulous, I only wish more members could have enjoyed the wonderful talk and slides on Henry Lawson presented by guest Paul Brunton. Food and service from staff were wonderful and a big thank you to my committee for their efforts. Congratulations to all winners especially to those who were able to join us on the day. A number of newcomers said to me it was one of the best days they have had for a long time. Enjoy the photos from the day *[see page 16]*.

*Trevar Langlands, State President*



*Guest speaker Paul Brunton OAM*

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD HONOUR ROLL



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

# State Council News

## FAW State Council Meeting Port Macquarie 1–2 November 2014

**T**HE NOVEMBER biannual State Council meeting of the Fellowship of Australian Writers NSW Inc (FAW) promised “a great combination... visit beautiful Port Macquarie and attend the meeting hosted by Port Macquarie-Hastings FAW.”

No-one was disappointed! It was, indeed, a great weekend—even the weather co-operated, everyone enjoying plenty of sun and cool sea breezes.

State Committee members—President Trevar Langlands, Treasurer/Membership Secretary Kay Bakon, Hon Sec Maureen Kelly OAM, Publicity Officer/Competition Convenor Cate Plink, Outreach Convenor/Port Macquarie-Hastings member Colleen Parker and Isolated Writers Convenor Carolyn Cash—thoroughly enjoyed everything organised by their host Fellowship of Australian Writers branch.

The venue for the meeting was the spacious Mac Adams Music Centre, Gordon Street, Port Macquarie where, prior to the meeting, morning tea was served, delegates and members being welcomed by Rachel Palmer, Port Macquarie-Hastings FAW President.

Among those in attendance were Hermoine Browning, Noelle White and Rose-Marie Hayes (Great Lakes FAW) and notable Port Macquarie-Hastings FAW members, 91-year-old Connie Jones and 86-year-old foundation member Gwen Rees-Hopton.

A long and absorbing meeting followed; many attendees saying they found the meeting interesting, and gave them a better understanding of how the governing body of the Fellowship works.

After lunch, escorted tours were organised for guests to ‘discover Port Macquarie.’ Ray Evans, Doug Parker and Frank Urban, with historical notes prepared by Justin Palmer, took their guests to Tacking Point to see Australia’s third-oldest lighthouse, then on to Town Green, and the Port Macquarie Observatory.

Following the drive, the ‘tourists’ strolled down to enjoy the waterfront, checking out the completely restored Royal Hotel—originally built in 1841, re-built in 1887 after fire destroyed the building the year before; and revealed their ‘competitive spirit’ spotting koalas (part of the 50-strong fibreglass, individually designed hand-painted ‘Hello Koalas Sculpture’

project); also taking a rest at the life-like statue of Australia’s first Prime Minister, Edmund Barton.

The walk terminated at the magnificent Glasshouse Arts Conference & Entertainment Centre where, in 1823, the first convict overseers’ cottages were built. Interestingly, visitors can now see remains of the old buildings through the glass floor.

At twilight, everyone gathered for dinner at Salty’s Bar & Grill, situated on the banks of the Hastings River.

Following dinner, Port Macquarie-Hastings FAW President Rachel Palmer invited guests to read their poetry and many took up the offer including State Council Committee members Kay Bakon and Maureen Kelly, and Isolated Writers Convenor Carolyn Cash. FAW President Trevar Langlands, prior to thanking everyone for their great hospitality, read three of his poems.

The Port Macquarie-Hastings meeting was deemed highly rewarding by the Committee, with FAW Outreach Convenor and local branch member Colleen Parker moving a motion that State Council take to the road again in 2015, suggesting the November meeting be convened at Eurobodalla.

Unfortunately, Vice President/Public Officer Helen Luidens and her husband Johan, Webmaster Barbara Simmons, Committee member Stefania McDonald and Southern Highlands delegate Jenny Crozier all tendered their apologies as they were unable to attend the meeting.

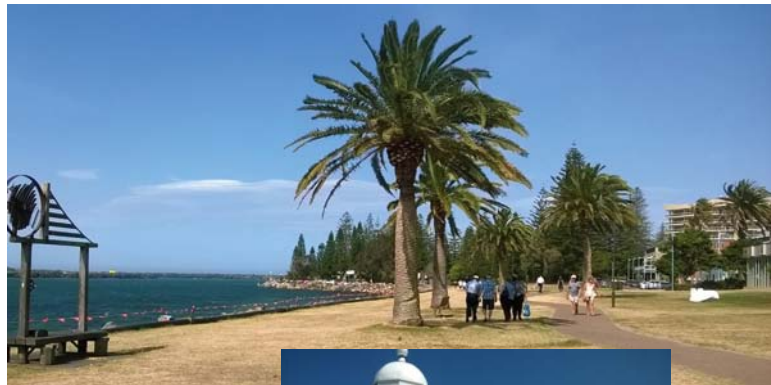
A full transcript of the Minutes of the meeting have been forwarded to all FAW Branch Secretaries and the delegates who were present at the meeting.

The State Committee sincerely thank Port Macquarie-Hastings FAW for their hospitality; also Great Lakes FAW members for their attendance. The visit certainly lived up to everyone’s expectations!

**Maureen Kelly OAM, Hon Sec**



View of Port Macquarie across the Hastings from North Shore.



*Clockwise from top:  
 Branch delegates in attendance at the November State Meeting.  
 Two of fifty colourful koalas placed around town.  
 Town Green, the grassy foreshore of the Hastings River.  
 Taking in the view of the Lighthouse from windswept Tacking Point (l to r):  
 Frank Urban and Ray Evans (Port Macquarie-Hastings members) with state  
 committee members Cate Plink, Trevar Langlands and Carolyn Cash.  
 Town Beach, Port Macquarie.  
 FAW state committee members get up close and personal with Edmund  
 Barton, in front of the Royal Hotel and Rydges Apartments.*



# FAW Branch Reports

## CENTRAL COAST FAW

THREE NEW members joined us at the Gosford Hotel Conference room this quarter and they were made welcome in the dining room for our social lunch after the meeting. Jacqui Winn presented a workshop for our branch in September, and although the attendance was not sufficient to offset the expenditure, it was well received. Jacqui as always, re-energised those of us who felt that they were losing their enthusiasm. Sometimes, we just need a gentle push in the 'write' direction!

Pat Lindsay

## EASTWOOD/HILLS FAW

Writing this report for the final quarter presented a challenge for me as unfortunately I was only able to attend the first of the three meetings, being away for one and joining our wonderful fellow FAW members in the Sutherland Shire for the other. Thanks to Carolyn Alfonzetti, our very organised and supportive president for filling in the gaps or I may have had to test my creative writing skills. Well, on with the show! September saw us enjoying a fireside chat (sans fire) with author, Suzanne Carroll (*Over the Edge*) on 'Editing—When To and When Not To Dig Your Heels In'. Both guest and audience relaxed as we proceeded resulting in animated discussion and much learning about the writing process and industry at large.

October saw the group working with David Terelinck who presented 'More than a Flash-In-The-Pan: How to Write Snappy Flash Fiction'. Information about this increasingly popular form of fiction was interspersed with writing exercises that had members crafting their own concise conflict scenes, character descriptions, and enticing opening sentences. A comprehensive handout was also provided.

In November, Elizabeth Collins had the rest of the group pondering the mystery of my disappearance. OK not really, but she did have them thinking and writing about mystery in her workshop 'Keeping you in Suspense'. In particular she explored

what is needed to set spines tingling, nails a biting and hair raising in great suspense-filled plots and characters for the 'living organism' that is the thriller (cue evil laugh). We look forward to our Christmas party in December, then it's full steam ahead with 2015.

In fact, the 2015 program has already been organised with some very exciting guest speakers and workshops, including Janni Nell, 'Developing an Online Presence: Possibilities and Pitfalls' and Susanne Gervay, 'Writing from the Heart'. This program should be uploaded to our website <[hillsfaw.webs.com](http://hillsfaw.webs.com)> in December and we invite members of other branches to see what we have planned and come along to our meeting if a topic appeals. We recommend telephoning or emailing our President, Carolyn Alfonzetti on 9869 2715 or <[carolyn.alfonzetti@me.com](mailto:carolyn.alfonzetti@me.com)> beforehand, in case changes have been made to our calendar.

Finally, although the end of May next year closing date seems a long way away, we are pleased to advertise the details of our 2015 Literary Competition and Boree Log Award for Bush Verse (see details in this edition of *Writers Voice*). Please enter early and often!

We meet at 1pm every 1st Saturday of the month, at the North Rocks Senior Citizens Centre for adult writers of any age. All welcome.

Artelle Lenthall

## EUROBODALLA FAW

As I sit to write our final report for the year, and reflect on our activities, 2014 has been a dynamic and productive year—book launches, new websites, workshops, competition successes, 20th anniversary celebration, our night group on a sure-footed trajectory, the anthology almost ready for publication, to name just a few. A big thank you to all the members for making these happen.

September started on a sad note. A member for 12 years, Barry Lake, passed away. Into his 82 years Barry managed to fit a career as an engineer in the military, as well as surfer, lifesaver, bushman, sailor, parachutist, marathon runner,

bike-rider and motor-homer. He was also a businessman, award-winning performance poet, Rotarian, chairman of the steering committee for Moruya TAFE and a volunteer in the Bush Fire Brigade. We will miss this larger-than-life character.

Members took part in two workshops this quarter. The first, an 'in-house' Character Study, involved the **day group** placing themselves in an environment where there are a number of people (eg a café or a walk around town) and choosing a person to study (discreetly, of course!), then using their physical characteristics and mannerisms as a basis for writing.

Our **night group** were lucky to snare Romance writer, Nicole Murphy, for a stimulating workshop on how to write Romance and Erotica. By all reports the participants found this the best workshop they had participated in. Nicole has had 6 novels, 3 novellas and countless short stories published since 2001. You can check out her website: <[nicolemurphy.com](http://nicolemurphy.com)>. Apart from a list of her publications, there is a very useful selection from 32 writers on the topic of writing habits and processes. Unfortunately she wasn't able to stay to run a workshop with the day group but we hope that can happen next year. Who knows what saucy capers our characters will come up with!

Back in the real world, a visitor and now member of the night group, Taylor Morgan, gave a presentation on E-Publishing. Taylor has previously run her own e-publishing business and worked in the printing industry so literally, has knowledge of how to put a book together, and get it to market. Her current work, *Fifteen shards of broken glass* (a story of familial breakdown, domestic violence and triumph over adversity) was prepared in *Storyspace*, a software program for creating, editing and organising electronic fiction.

Our night group has been inspired to write a book together, chapter by chapter. And there's plenty to inspire both groups for next year too, starting with an opportunity for playwrights

to pen a ten-minute play and have it performed by the newly-formed Mogo Theatre Group which meets once a month.

Details of the various book launches, competition successes and new websites can be found in the 'Literary Achievements' section of this publication. Congratulations to Dianne, Judy, Mike, Tony, Stafford and Suzanne.

*Rosie Toth*

## HUNTER FAW

Well known writer and ABC journalist Scott Bevan gave an exemplary speech to launch *Watermark*, the latest book from Catchfire Press, at the New Lambton Community Centre on 13th September. A number of our members are represented in the book and those present were delighted with Scott's delivery; he used no notes and made us feel very proud of our area, our writing and connection to *Watermark*. This book is highly recommended. For further details see <[www.facebook.com/CatchfirePress](http://www.facebook.com/CatchfirePress)>.

Readings from *A Slow Combusting Hymn*, the poetry collection commented on in *Writers Voice* Spring Edition, continue throughout the area.

This year the prestigious Newcastle Poetry Prize was preceded by interviews of three poets at the Newcastle Library. Our Treasurer Luci Croci interviewed Mark Tredinnick. Gail Hennessy, Christine Brotherson, Louise Berry and Jan Dean were present at the Awards ceremony at the Delaney Hotel, Cook Hill.

After an absence of two months from the Sydney Junction Hotel we were pleasantly surprised to discover differences at our venue in November; a change of ownership brought a stylish revamp and a welcome from new management. Kerri Shying was keen to show us her profile in a recent Newcastle publication and share other publications. Most members presented readings of their favourite poetry written by themselves or others and gave reasons. Leonie Wellard, for instance, introduced us to Edna St Vincent Millay who died in 1950. Leonie wrote a poem in

Edna's honour, which was moving for everyone present. A time limit was imposed so all members had equal opportunity. This proved a valuable exercise as we appreciated the variety of poets, ranging from Charles Bukowski (Jacque) to Jack Gilbert (Gail).

Our AGM is scheduled for Wednesday 3rd December at 10:00 am prior to our end of year presentation of what we consider our best writing of 2014. Hopefully, in keeping with the 'youth theme' for 2015, some younger members will put up their hands for executive roles at the AGM. May the Festive Season bring joy and peace and 2015 prove a splendid time of health, happiness and good writing for all.

*Jan Dean*

## ISOLATED WRITERS BRANCH

Welcome to all our new members who joined the Isolated Writers FAW during the past three months.

I had the privilege of speaking at a Sylvania Rotary breakfast in August, speaking about the FAW, including a brief history, and Isolated Writers for those who are unable to attend branch meetings due to work or family life. Another copy of *Unlocking The Writer Within* was sold.

This month's State Council Meeting was held in Port Macquarie at the Mac Adams Music Centre, with a guided tour, and dinner at Saltys, with some poetry reading. We also had dinner at the Bowling Club the night before, and it certainly put the 'fellowship' into the Fellowship of Australian Writers. A big thank you to Colleen and Doug who looked after us during our visit.

I also met up with Jim Norris and Rae Luckie at the Annual Awards Christmas Luncheon on Saturday, 15 November. I hope more Isolated Writers living in Sydney will be able to attend the lunch next year.

I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, with lots of writing successes for 2015.

*Carolyn Cash*

## LAKE MACQUARIE FAW

We were delighted to welcome children's literature author, Wai Chim, to our July meeting. Wai gave us heaps of really inspirational tips for turning our works into published realities. Of particular value was her guidance on 'pitching' manuscripts, be they story books for children or any other sort of literary creation, to grab the attention of potential publishers.

Our President, Linda Visman, led the August meeting with a discussion on editing and critiquing. She explained why family members and friends are not the best people to critique your writing and also gave tips on how to give a fair and effective critique of someone's writing. Linda suggested one should edit one's work as well as possible, even before asking for critique, and emphasised the importance of editing when submitting work for publication or competition.

In September the group turned its attention to the reasons why we write. We identified an impressively long list of things which can spur us on—all the way from having a sheer love of and fascination for words, through to seeking to avoid the housework, and on to wanting to find out who we are. We were stunned by our own creativity.

Another useful discussion took place at the October meeting, when our President Linda Visman helped members work through some of the things to consider when preparing an author biography. We were encouraged to have biographies of different lengths prepared and ready to go for various purposes, and to keep them up to date as the list of our achievements grows. The features of a good biography include: starting early with your name, being written in the third person, being relevant, listing your best accomplishments up front, bragging, and making every word count. It is also useful to include your nationality or the place you live, a link to contact information, and your current/future projects.

*cont. next page...*

# FAW Branch Reports

## Lake Macquarie Branch

cont. from previous page

On a lovely October day, members set up a stall on The Boulevard at the Toronto Spring Fair. A huge array of members' books was on display and we took some orders from interested locals. We were able to offer promotional literature and lots of encouragement to those who stopped by our stall for a chat. It was gratifying to find that so many people of all ages had a desire to develop (and in some cases further develop) their writing skills as part of a friendly and supportive group.

Members continue to power away with their writing. Our critique groups, which are held between each general monthly meeting, usually have several pieces of members' writing presented for feedback. Many different genres are represented in our critique offerings: short stories, poems, chapters from on-going novels and memoirs, non-fiction articles, and more. The spirit of our critique groups is always supportive, and writers leave knowing they have lots of good feedback to help make their written works even better.

**Pam Garfoot**

## LAMBING FLAT FAW

This year's Cherry Festival Writing Competition attracted record entries from all over Australia, to the delight of our members. It was felt that the group effort had lifted the bar, along with promoting the group locally.

This is the 32nd year we have conducted the competition, to coincide with this year's 65th National Young Cherry Festival. Winners were announced on Saturday December 6 during the Cherry Festival festivities at Anderson Park, Young.

Member, Carrie Hay joined 500 keen writers at a 'Hay House' weekend workshop in Sydney in August, describing it as "an awesome workshop". Reid Tracy and Mitch Albom were two of the guest speakers. Their suggestions were to write every day, build your platform, with three published non-fiction books before you have a following.

Now is a good time to be an author, they said! Participants were invited to submit a synopsis of a work, with the generous prize a contribution towards publishing costs. Carrie came away inspired to write more!

The group welcomed two members to recent meetings and we hope Michelle and Carolyn will enjoy their time with us and we look forward to their input.

Subjects for homework at our last meetings have included 'On the Wrong Side of the Law' and 'No Time like the Present'. Members' writings included a grippingly sad family history story and a chatty present tense 'Bush Christmas' story by Maree, intriguing science fiction novellas by Valerie, a family wedding speech with the theme of an international marriage and transfer of kinship by Clare, and a romantic start to a wedding story 'Always the Bridesmaid' by Michelle. Valerie has received news of a story going in the *Queensland Writers Magazine*.

We were sad to hear of the recent passing of Edna Keir, a long-time member of our group, after a short illness, aged 86. Edna was an enthusiastic member for many years, on judging panels and a loyal supporter. After writing several short stories about her daughter Catharine, who was a Down Syndrome child, Edna was encouraged by members to write a book, *Catharine with an A*, which sold 900 copies. Edna was a gifted rhyming poet and wrote about many subjects. At her funeral, her family spoke of 'writing' as one of her 5 loves and mentioned our past president, Joan Graham, as one of Edna's dear friends. Sadly for Edna, her failing eyesight stopped her from continuing with her writing in recent years.

President, Ted Webber recited a moving poem he had written at the 'History of War' Remembrance Concert held at the Southern Cross Cinema at Young on November 11. Ted's poem 'ANZAC Aftermath June 1915' told the story of mateship and the loss of a mate through the battles of war, and was inspired by the characters created by C J Dennis and his poem 'A Gallant Gentleman'.



**Ted Webber**

For December, we will finish the year off with a morning tea, to discuss ideas for next year. The group will have a break for January and will recommence meetings in February 2015. We are excited to be welcoming a new baby to our group in late December, for our vice president, Bianca.

We would like to wish all FAW members a safe and happy Christmas, and a healthy and prosperous New Year. Happy Writing for 2015!

**Maree Myhill**

## LIVERPOOL FAW

Our meetings are 1.00pm–4.00pm, 2nd Saturday of each month in the Pirie Street Community Centre, cnr Moore and Bigge Streets Liverpool; enquiries Rick 02 9821 3373.

We are no longer 'Liverpool Creative Writers', but have reverted to our original 'FAW Liverpool.' We feel this will strengthen our ties with other Branches and of course Head Office. A vote was taken at our September 2014 meeting and was passed unanimously.

Peter F Pike was dangerously ill with pneumonia recently, and during hospitalisation was found to need Triple Bi-pass surgery. Thankfully the surgery was successful, but for some time we thought he wouldn't make it through the pneumonia let alone having another serious condition! He is slowly recovering now.

We had to cancel some of our 'Pause for Paws' Poetry nights due to renovations of the Hilda Davis Rooms in Bigge St., Liverpool. In



the New Year a new venue is being checked out.

We have purchased sound equipment and microphone so we can practice a more precise and enjoyable delivery of our written work.

We are beginning to compile Members' writing for our Anthology which we hope to have printed and released by Christmas 2015.

**Rhonda Rice**

## MACARTHUR FAW

In my last report I promised an update on Amanda Howard's visit, which proved to be an outstanding success. Amanda not only gave us insights into her own writing habits, research methods, and general experience of the world of crime; she graciously stayed for the whole meeting, sharing with us her expertise. It was interesting to hear Amanda say that she works sixty hours a week, yet still finds time to write. I am sure we are going to hear a lot more about this prolific writer whose latest book is called *Murder on the Mind*. Thank you, Amanda, for giving up your time to provide us with a most entertaining afternoon.

Good news this week for one of our own writers who has had many short stories published. Victoria Chie has had a very amusing story accepted for publication by the magazine, *Yours*. Congratulations, Victoria. The title of the story is 'The Bungee Clock'. We look forward to more stories to come. A dedicated writer and respected critic, Victoria has done a wonderful job as 2014 Macarthur Branch Vice President.

Due largely to the efforts of our able secretary, Pauline Twemlow, we are trialling a new format for our Christmas party this year. Instead of taking place at a member's home, it will be a catered affair held during our usual meeting time at the Campbelltown RSL club. I hear there will be decorations and delicious Christmas fare. This should be an enjoyable and relaxing occasion and a great opportunity for members to socialise.

Much of the credit for our success this year goes to our



*North Arm Cove group at Vacy Carnival (l-r) Bob Bush, Moira Hooper, Wayne Jarman, Margaret Wilson and Garry Boyd.*

president, Bob Bee; not least for his cheerful and inclusive manner of chairing meetings. No Pickwickian deliberations here. Always maintaining a focus on the core business of writing, Bob made members and visitors alike feel welcome; their work valued. His efforts on behalf of the club have been greatly appreciated.

In a previous article I mentioned some of the innovations that we have made this year, including the reintroduction of our in-house writing competition, which has been attracting high-level entries in sufficient numbers to make it worthwhile. Topics which exercised out minds included 'A Winter's Day' (poetry) and 'Temptation' (short story). There is nothing like a deadline to get the creative juices flowing. The handsome new winner's certificate is well worth competing for.

One of the things that gives cohesion to our group is our in-house bulletin, *Inkblot*, edited and distributed by Margot Shugg. Providing members with vital information concerning meetings, as well as valuable writing tips, the bulletin encourages contributions from members. I notice that it is becoming increasingly popular in this regard. In her other role as Branch Treasurer, Margot continues to keep our finances in tip-top condition. Fans of Margot's writing will be glad to hear that she has published a third book of eight short stories

with the intriguing title *Chuck the Train Dog* (available from the author, <margotshugg@aapt.net.au>).

This report would not be complete without thanking all of our members for keeping us entertained and inspired throughout the year with their wonderful and varied writing and insightful comments, as well as for the simple pleasure of their company. This, of course, includes State President, Trevor Langlands, who managed to combine his busy schedule with regular appearances at meetings.

Finally, it is good to know that we have colleagues all over the country who share our interest in writing. We read about them in *Writers Voice* as well as seeing their pictures. Like us, they are extremely photogenic!

We would like to wish every one of them a very merry Christmas.

**Bernard Russell Smith**

## NORTH ARM COVE FAW

Inspired by the arrival of Spring, North Arm Cove published writers, Garry Boyd, Bob Bush, Moira Hooper, Wayne Jarman and Margaret Wilson enjoyed a day in the sun at Vacy Country Carnival mid-September. They manned a stall to sell their latest books to the many visitors attending this very popular carnival.

Joining the group was member Maureen Kelly who promoted the Fellowship and sold copies of the resource book, *Unlock the Writer Within*.

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# FAW Branch Reports

## North Arm Cove Branch

*cont. from previous page*

After the success of Vacy, the group took a stall at the Myall River Festival, Tea Gardens October 25, 2014 where they all enjoyed another successful book sale day.

Judging of the Port Macquarie-Hastings Fellowship of Australian Writers Open Competition 2014—short story, rhyming verse and free verse—was undertaken by members during September, everyone enjoying the experience.

Garry Boyd's assignment, 'Alliteration', challenged the writer in the use of words, everyone agreeing this was a very valuable exercise which produced, probably, the most popular and funniest assignment ever!

In conjunction with his assignment, Garry inaugurated the awarding of his 'Golden Smartie' award, to be presented by him annually. The trophy, a gold 'S' mounted on a plinth, was won by Moira Hooper.

Lee Clayton asked members to set aside half-an-hour in October and walk for twenty minutes noting their surroundings, their mood, inspirations that come to mind, returning home to write what they discovered in that time. Once again, varied and interesting writing was achieved by all those members who read out their work.

'Painting in Words' a descriptive writing exercise was set by Trish Parnell in October. She asked everyone to write 300 words or 32 lines of poetry on 'How you first came to the place where you live now,' the results of this exercise to be read out at the Christmas get-together.

Members were heartened by the mass of entries received from both Tea Gardens and Karuah Public Schools for the branch annual short story competition, prizes to be awarded at the end of the school year.

Members will gather at North Arm Cove Community Centre for their annual Christmas get-together in December and will make a donation to the Kenyan school they have supported for the last few years. The money donated helps provide writing

materials, books and other teaching aids to children less fortunate than our school children.

As another busy, but satisfying, writing year concludes we all take the opportunity to thank the FAW State Council for their hard work and Ken Driver for his expertise editing *Writers Voice*.

Finally, wishing every member of the Fellowship of Australian Writers a safe and happy Christmas and great 2015!

**Maureen Kelly**

## PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS

The approach of Christmas and the end of yet another year provokes reflection. Have you done your best? Crossed a few things off your bucket list and added a few more?

Port Macquarie-Hastings Fellowship of Australian Writers branch members can be proud of what they have achieved in 2014. Under strong and inspiring leadership our energetic group have spiralled forward. We have increased our membership by 21, gathered sponsors who now advertise regularly in our newsletter, raised much needed funds, purchased a microphone and speaker to assist those who are slight of voice or hard of hearing, organised a successful Open competition, participated in many In-house events and workshops and enjoyed a growing social aspect. In a joint and dedicated effort, we have certainly raised our community profile. In a supportive and encouraging fellowship, members have participated in writing activities, with several publishing or winning prizes.

Our recent visit from State Council Members was also cause to stop and reflect. Firstly, upon history; it was interesting to learn both Henry Lawson and Miles Franklin were once committed members of the FAW. And that the Fellowship was established to encourage Australian writers and support the development of Australian Literature. Writing from an Australian perspective, our nation's early authors found their work seldom considered in a very British publishing industry. And what

dynamic and progressive thinkers Lawson and Franklin were; Henry Lawson was, of course, one of the first republicans. And Miles Franklin? A pioneering feminist, who, as we know, wrote the classic, *My Brilliant Career*.

But it is change, not history that moves us forward. We learn from history but change propels us. It excites us and arouses our interest. Without change there can be no growth.

And 'fellowship'? It is polite and encouraging. It acknowledges and promotes success. By listening and assisting, fellowship nurtures and advances, allowing us to realise our best.

The members of Port Macquarie-Hastings FAW have achieved much this year. And so we deserve to kick up our heels, raise our glasses and celebrate at our approaching Christmas event.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

**Kerry Buchanan**

## PORT STEPHENS FAW

Time flies and our last meeting of the year on the third Thursday of November was followed by a Christmas Party at Port Stephens Tavern. This is always a good time to share and encourage writing during the break. In January we meet for coffee to catch up.

Our children's book *Ripples* has sold well and seven local schools have found it an incentive to write for their own school book. Wendy Zirngast's pencil drawings have encouraged children to illustrate in pencil too.

Each school's stories and poems embrace a variety of locations revealing children's weekend activities and interests. We are proud of what we as a group have achieved with *Ripples* and I personally have enjoyed visiting schools and inspiring children to write.

We look forward to 2015 with a series of interesting workshops by our own members and some outings as well. We wish all our members and readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy Writing New year.

**Christine Gregory**

## STROUD FAW

Stroud Writers wish to throw down the gauntlet to other groups.

Exercise: First person present tense. Write an honest autobiographical story of no more than 100 words. Topic: 'Youthful Escapades'. The following words must be contained within the story: drugs, alcohol, jail or gaol, constabulary, wall climb, Rock and Roll.

This exercise proved quite a challenge for most of us.

We followed up the exercise by having writers contribute a story to the Annual Writing Competition, of the Friends of Great Lakes Library Service (FOGLLS) in conjunction with the Foster Film Festival. Topic: 'Libraries are not just books'. One of the winning entries to be made into a short film. You may imagine our excitement when Elizabeth Bradhurst's 'Secret Mission' was chosen. We now have a film script writer in our midst. And Elizabeth used First Person Present Tense. A wonderful story.

Encouraged by the reception from participants at the Kerri Lane Workshop held earlier in the year, Brettney Sattler pitched her idea for a Picture Story Book, at a Publisher's Conference in Brisbane. Beforehand (and since) Brettney trialled her story with several groups of Pre-school and Primary School children, through the auspice of our local schools and library. We were all chuffed when the critics agreed with our assessment—"Terrific". Time came for the Publisher's one-on-one feed-back opportunity. The young critics were more straight to the point: "Publish, publish, publish".

Elizabeth has also commenced a book for higher Primary School First Years Secondary School aged children. It is a beautifully written, intriguing, modern story.

The anticipated launch of Peter Uren's sequel to *The Old Mechanic, Dominator in the Shadows*, was an opportunity for Peter to explain from where he gets his ideas, his writing regime and the benefits of self-publishing for a niche market. Sales of both books are doing very well

particularly through online sales. We have been critically reading chapters from the last book in his trilogy.

Our Writers have been taking part in the Great Lakes Creative Ageing Writing Project, where we have encouraged and assisted senior members of our community to write a short story or poem about an event in their life. Our facilitators Peter Uren, Dianne Foster, Margaret Lang and Susan Filson successfully coped with "I cannot write"; "I have no interesting stories to tell". Once one person read out or told an episode, everyone talked at once. It was a wonderful way to learn about local history.

Although being so busy cruising or attending reunions (it is such an important year for Veterans of all Wars) Bill Merchant manages to find time to add to his memoirs and contribute articles to Service Reunion Journals.

Our Night Owls welcomed a prospective new member who has a vivid imagination, with many stories gestating in her mind. Night Owl, Tracy Jones, continues to entertain us with the next chapter of her book, whilst Margaret Lang has now quite a folder of stories for her grandchildren.

We wish all Branches the compliments of the Season. May you have a safe and pleasant break.

*Susan Filson*

## SUTHERLAND FAW

We've had a busy, productive year with many submissions to competitions from our writers and poets. We thank Joyce Noble for continuing to publish our *Shire Scribblers* monthly newsletter and for creating and maintaining our website. Her research and knowledge of what's on in the writing world and notifications of writing competitions has been a huge asset to our group. We also appreciate Julianne Miles-Brown for successfully juggling her role as Treasurer of our branch with coordination of the *Writers Unleashed Festival* and Lynn Sutherland, who expertly handled the PR and publicity for both the branch and the Writers Unleashed Festival.

It was our sixth Writers Unleashed Festival this year. The adult Festival was held on 1 November at Gynea Tradies. The Writers Unleashed Festival is open to anyone anywhere who loves writing. It caters for all ages and interests, with over 80 participants attending this one day event. It is an enjoyable and informative experience listening to published writers and editors discuss the process and skills of writing in their specific genres and the complexities of the publishing process.

The *Children's Writers Unleashed Festival* was held on 17 November and each year is open to applications from primary schools in the Sutherland Shire. I believe we are the only writers' festival with such a strong emphasis on writing by children and for children.

It has been a very exciting year for individual members' achievements in publishing their manuscripts. In particular, Lizbeth Klein's second book in the Bethloria series, *Greenheart of the Forest* published by Wombat, was launched at Gynea Community Centre in August, with the added attraction of knights in armour battling one another. Earlier this year Liz attended the Queensland launch of her book. She also presented at our Writers Unleashed Festival, where she spoke on world building and the fantasy series.

This year Jodie Wells-Slowgrove launched her *Wilderness Fairies* series of children's books, published by Penguin. The first two books, *Daisy's Quest* and *Daisy's New Wings*, were launched in March. Her next two books, *Daisy's Secret* and *Daisy Takes Charge*, were released in August. More books in the series are on the way. Besides her heavy workload with writing, Jodie has been busy with presentations of her books in primary and pre-schools. Jodie also presented at the Writers Unleashed Festival on manuscript to publication.

Another of our members, Antoinette Conolly, has published five children's fantasy books, *The Cauchemar Trilogy*, published in 2008, reprinted in 2010 and 2011, and its

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# FAW Branch Reports

## Sutherland Branch

*cont. from previous page*

sequel, *Alien Wizardry* published this year and a stand-alone novel, *Key To Time*, published in 2012. Three of her books were also reviewed on *Writers Web*. She attended the Mudgee Festival for book signings in August. Antoinette has presented to over 18 schools during Education Week and book week. She is much in demand at Primary schools for her informative presentations. She talks about the process of writing and about her books.

Other members of our group have also been recognised for their achievements in their writing. Most noteworthy and prolific is Elaine Staples, followed by Frank McGuire. The details of their many successes are posted in the 'Literary Achievements' section. We hope to increase the diversity of our membership in 2015 by introducing new workshops to stimulate ideas, guest speakers, surprise venues, in-house writing competitions and the production of a *Shire Scribblers* anthology.

Finally we would like to thank our outgoing president, Helen Armstrong, for her tireless promotion of FAW Sutherland, and Writers Unleashed festival. We will miss her 'wielding the whip and staff' to motivate our group to write, write and write

some more! Helen will continue as Secretary and will be joint delegate with Pat Strong to State Council.

We look forward to our last meeting for 2014 which will be full of Christmas cheer, good food, Secret Santa and morsels of flash fiction to finish off the year.

On behalf of my friends and colleagues, I wish everyone at FAW a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

*Sylvia Vago*

## WOLLONDILLY FAW

It is a terrible thing when the tall poppies are cut down. It should be made law that we encourage and praise successful individuals. In Ireland where I was born and raised we call these poppy choppers 'the begrudgers'. I believe in blowing one's own trumpet. I am proud of our little group down here in Wollondilly Shire; they are the best group one could work with.

We celebrated our 21st FAW birthday a few weeks ago. We can give lessons on partying. While we had the usual speeches our system of entertaining guests was an event to behold. We invited members and guests to do a party piece to entertain our guests.

Kerrie Green-Davy did some hilarious Limericks, none escaped her

witty expressions of our individual writing idiosyncrasies. Maysel Ode read one of her brilliantly composed poems; I might add here that Maysel is the modern female version of Banjo Patterson. Ted Webber a former member of the Wollondilly Shire group now living in Orange performed a very moving monologue describing the feelings of a World War I veteran on the topic of war. Ted should be up there with all the classic actors as we were moved to tears, it was so real.

Jan Whiten read her recently published (and now in the American market) children's book *Chooky Doodle Doo*. Lena Jacobson read one of her lovely poems on nature. Vince Morrison entertained guests on Wollondilly Shire's FAW history over the 21 years, remembering our past members both living and deceased, reminding us all of their contributions to the group.

Yours truly did a PowerPoint® presentation on my recent trip to Africa with some education on animal and bird habits. We threw streamers and drank champagne and delved into the culinary delights provided by members.

However, one of the most entertaining party pieces came from our youngest guest speaker, the eight-year-old granddaughter of Yvonne Wooldridge who read out her First Prize winning story on 'When I Grow Up'. She brought the house down as she confidently entranced the guests with her cleverly written story.

Back to blowing the trumpet again! I am proud to announce that Vince Morrison our publisher and editor of the monthly newsletter *Scribblings* was accepted for the *FAW Distinguished Service Award* (DSA) for his services to FAW and the Wollondilly Shire group. This is the first DSA presented to Wollondilly Shire group and we are very proud of him and also happy that the committee of FAW NSW accepted him for this wonderful recognition of his service. It was a bit of a job trying to get him to come to the ceremony. I lied my head off and he sucked it up and accompanied me. We had a hard job keeping this a secret so he got the

*Wollondilly Branch celebrates 21 years in the FAW.*



# Letters

shock of his life when his name was read out and for once in his life he was speechless.

The FAW NSW Awards Luncheon held in Sydney on November 15th was a well organised event. It was a first for me and it was very entertaining and enjoyable. There were lots of prizes and treats. The food was good but the deserts were to die for. It was good to meet up with the other branch members and especially the very dedicated and hard working committee. I even got to meet our fantastic editor of *Writers Voice* at last.

The guest speaker Paul Brunton OAM, Emeritus Curator of the State Library of New South Wales was absolutely brilliant. He spoke about the life of Henry Lawson and we heard about the various life events not commonly known to the public. I will not see him in the same light but will remember him as a man despite his drawbacks who is now remembered as one of Australia's best known authors.

Apparently everywhere he went, lived or visited there is a plaque placed in these areas to remember him. That is how proud Australians are about this wonderful man. Paul also presented the some rare photos taken during Henry Lawson's life which I may add were very interesting. It was such a wonderful presentation and we all learned so much. Thank you Paul for this very entertaining and educational presentation.

Can I take this opportunity to let you know of the sad passing of Rosemary Peters' beloved husband John who died very peacefully in Camden at the end of September. We will miss him, as he was one of nature's gentlemen, so very kind and sincere but most of all a wicked sense of humour and fun. Please remember Rosemary and her family in your prayers.

Christmas will soon be upon us and on behalf of our branch may I wish you and your families a peaceful happy holiday and that 2015 will bring forth health and happiness and most of all enough to get you all through 2015.

**Olivia Mulligan**

## Thanks from a DSA Recipient

Dear Trevar,

I couldn't let the occasion go by without extending my thanks to you and all those involved in arranging this year's FAW Awards Luncheon. The time and effort expended is greatly appreciated.

The atmosphere was happy, the food was delicious, and Paul Brunton's address on Henry Lawson was excellent—I could have happily listened to him for another hour!

I am still recovering from the shock of my Distinguished Service Award. My Eastwood/Hills FAW cronies are very devious but most kind. I feel quite humbled to be honoured in such a way but can assure you that anything I have put into the FAW has been paid back many many times over in the generous sharing of expertise by my fellow members, their encouragement, and their friendship.

Warm regards,

**Carolyn Alfonzetti, Eastwood/Hills FAW**

## About Branch Names

The FAW NSW State Secretary,  
22 Promontory Way, North Arm Cove 2324.

Dear Maureen,

Your letter dated 4 Aug 2014 in which you stated your grave concern at the adoption of the short title Port Writers by our branch for local usage has been considered by our branch committee.

Port Macquarie is the largest town between Newcastle and Coffs Harbour and is normally known as "Port" by most residents in the same way that Coffs Harbour is generally called "Coffs" and Rio de Janeiro is often called "Rio."

Our official title "The Port Macquarie Hastings Branch of the Fellowship of Australian Writers New South Wales Inc" is exceptionally long and unwieldy and over many years we have had great difficulty in getting our branch publicised in local media who never use the full title. Most people have no idea what FAW stands for and might associate it with Footballers or Australian Women.

Our late Patron, the War Correspondent and Author Gilbert Mant knew what was appropriate when he titled his history book of Port Macquarie: *A Town called Port*.

It was to mitigate further confusion that our branch passed a unanimous resolution at our monthly meeting on 22nd Feb 2014 to use the name Port Writers locally while making it clear that it was not intended to alter the formal title of our branch. The resolution was voted on and approved by all members present except two who abstained. Our President cleared the name change with Maureen Kelly before our branch voted on adoption of the change.

Our local name Port Writers is well understood by local citizens and conforms to the name used by Bankstown Writers, Bondi Writers, Stroud Writers and Wyong Writers. Since adopting our practical name this year our membership has grown from under 30 to over 50, many of whom are young members or folk who did not previously know of our existence.

We accept that we belong [to] a statewide umbrella organisation but we object to enforcement of an outdated, unwieldy title.

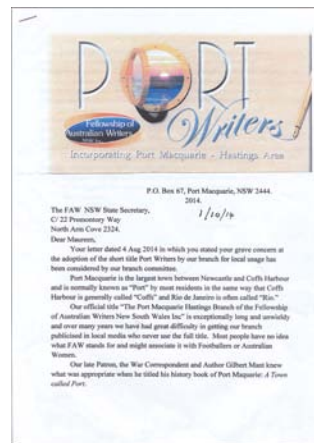
We suggest that the State Council seek a suitable short name for itself.

We also request that this letter be published in the *Writers Voice*.

Yours sincerely,

**Rachel Palmer, President**

**Frank Urban, Hon Secretary**



*The 'Port Writers' letter*

# Short Story

## Images

by Pam Garfoot

IT'S THE way Brad says it that gets to her. She's used to his downbeat attitude to everything by now, but these words really hurt.

"I need to tell you this, Lyn. I'm afraid no-one is going to be interested in your photos," he says. "You have to face the fact that these days everyone has a digital camera too or a camera on their phone, and they snap away all day long. Why would anyone take an interest in the photographs *you* take?"

Rising from the table she collects the dishes and turns away quickly. She's not going to let him see how upset she is. *Couldn't he just say how nice it is that I'm planning to get serious about photography? Couldn't he say he is proud of me? No, he just needs to shoot me down.* Well, he *tries* but she just won't let him. Even if he thinks her talent for photography is worth nothing, it won't stop her.

Since childhood she has been drawn to taking photographs. Her father gave her a little Kodak Brownie camera for her ninth birthday. It was always such a joy to use it. Nowadays she has a newer and more impressive camera which is capable of so much more than the Brownie, but her beloved first camera was really wondrous to her.

That feeling of wonder returns to her more and more often lately. And she wants to continue reflecting the beauty she sees through her camera lens. She tries to capture images which show, perhaps, the jewel-like colour of autumn leaves, or the delightful simplicity in the turn of a child's head. Each time the little wagtail stops by her verandah to give that chirpy little click and to swing his tail she tries to be quick enough to catch him. And the glowing evening light on the water outside her window entrances her with its fleeting perfection. She sees wonder in so many things and she wants others to see it too.

So, no, she won't stop. She will try all the harder. She will show him she can do it.

Every day she takes a few minutes out for some photographs. One day she might stop on the half hour drive home from work to shoot the purple dusting of that cursed Salvation Jane on the slope down to the roadside. The next she is enchanted by the clear reflection of trees and sky in a farm dam. On the train from Sydney she stealthily captures the image of a sleeping child or a weary workman on his way home. There is always something.

She loves the time at her computer almost as much as the act of taking the photographs. Painstakingly she renders the images even more beautiful. The feeling as she rights the horizon or crops out an intruding signpost, and then clicks to apply her work is simply magical. Suddenly the image is transformed and she feels once more the joy that keeps her doing this.

When she tells Brad about the blog she plans to start, she doesn't really expect any praise. Sure enough, he gives her a brief grunt of acknowledgement and the merest flick of an eyebrow over the newspaper.

No matter. For her, the blog is just a way she can record what she experiences as she creates her photographs. And she can show some of them off there too. He doesn't need to see it. In fact, it's better if he doesn't. The blog is *her* place.

Over coffee with a friend she takes some images of her friend's hands, disembodied but prayer-like, clutching the warm china mug. In the foreground the colours are rich and lustrous, behind they are dark and moody. Her preview screen somehow makes the image look wonderfully atmospheric.

"I really love what you do, Lyn," her friend encourages. "You just seem to have an eye for it."

Lyn smiles at her friend and suppresses a momentary sadness. *Pity Brad couldn't see it like that,* she reflects. Later, the image appears on her blog.

In time she becomes immersed in this new world she has created for herself. There is often affirmation from her blog followers. Affirmation that others enjoy the little window on the world which her pictures offer. The number of people following her blog slowly increases... first just a handful, then twenty, fifty... more. Some she knows, some not. Brad doesn't seem to notice that she spends ever more time either out walking, exploring and seeking subjects, or else at her computer screen. The intensity of her concentration in editing or uploading her photographs surprises even her.

Nevertheless something is missing and she longs to have Brad's support.

When the phone call comes telling her she has won a small photography competition, with her coffee prayer picture, she is stunned. The prize is modest but really it's the acknowledgement that thrills.

Brad isn't home yet and she's a little too distracted to do more editing or even start the dinner. Logging on to email, she resists the temptation to post news of her win on her blog just yet. Instead she checks her email where another surprise awaits her.

"Brad, you'll never guess," she calls, as her husband comes in the side door.

"I won the 'Winter Warmers' photography comp! And, as well as that, the shire council wants to use two of my images in its next 'What's on in the Shire' brochure! I can't believe it."

She sees her husband come into the kitchen where she is sitting at the computer on the small side work bench. *No doubt about it, he's not expecting this.* She sees him swallow and fleetingly hesitate. He can't seem to think what to say, but finally he smiles. That smile isn't much but it's all she needs. It has to be.

□

# Poets Voice

## THE SONG

Your grown-up children both  
think you're a staid old thing –  
you don't drink, don't eat meat,  
don't sing.  
You look severe, learned, determined,  
you're always at work or reading.  
That's what they think.  
But I've seen you dance wildly  
like a twelve year old,  
joke and giggle, pleased or excited,  
you hurl away inhibitions,  
whirl into life like a carnival,  
relishing the pleasure.  
Yes, I love your darkness, your mystery  
but more, I love the little girl  
who's playing hide and seek  
with me, behind your smile.  
And when you laugh  
with helpless glee,  
in a torrent of mirth and banter  
I'm brave and young and strong.  
That's what you do for me.  
Behind the serious woman,  
the child,  
behind the child  
the song.

*John Egan, Moocooboola FAW*

## Sea Shells

Sea shells, symbols of welcome,  
adornment, gifts and exotic places.  
Treasures of childhood,  
the common denominator  
for every beach gatherer.  
Chameleon coverings for tiny sea creatures;  
protection against the buffeting tides,  
minimalist in their clever simplicity,  
but complex  
when nature has another plan.  
Compliant shells, willing to house  
smelly low-life ocean dwellers.  
Insouciant shells  
that lie about waiting to be seen.  
Glistening mother-of-pearl,  
playing Russian roulette  
with the commercial gatherers.  
All are beauty.

*Jenny Crozier, Southern Highlands FAW*

## SUBMISSIONS FOR POETS VOICE

Please send your poem for consideration, with SSAE for response to:  
**The Poetry Editor, Writers Voice, PO Box 195, LAWSON NSW 2783**  
Or, send a Word attachment by email to David Berger <[isdafrog@bigpond.com](mailto:isdafrog@bigpond.com)>. Please provide your name and FAW branch.

*(The following poem was a response to an exercise on James Joyce—Poetry Ed.)*

## Oh Dedalus, Dedalus

I wish that I were born with brains  
To comprehend the works of Joyce,  
Although I sweat and take great pains,  
I've yet to grasp his cryptic voice.  
I've tried to read his books in bed,  
I've tried it standing on my head,  
And though I sit and read till Doomsday,  
I'll never see the point of Bloomsday.  
On June sixteen the literati  
All gather round and drink and party,  
And to James Joyce they drink a toast,  
And mouth his words and brag and boast  
Their doctorates and erudition,  
And parade well thumbed editions,  
They flaunt their views of Bloom and Molly,  
And primp and smirk and say "How jolly  
That we are of the chosen few  
Who can the Master's works construe.  
How clever cicerone Dedalus  
Used Homer's myth to tease and needle us."  
Oh Dedalus, Dedalus,  
Why need you wheedle us,  
Into the labour of penning a paean  
To Joycean prose so Daedalean?  
I never was meant by wan candle light  
To wrestle with writing so erudite,  
Attempting to find in those passages dense,  
Some rhyme or some reason or plain common sense.  
Quoting at length from James' opus contentious,  
Is meant to impress but it's really pretentious,  
To say I succeeded would be rather nice,  
But henceforth I'll court only that Courtney named Bryce.

*Peter Miller, Blue Mountains FAW*

## Still

Common sense did not instil  
in him the need to check the pill  
he swallowed when he heard Aunt's will  
his hopes of gifted funds now nil.  
Was it that the shock did kill  
this foolish man so cold and still?  
Or was it really that he did fill  
his tum-tum with a poisonous pill?  
Some say they think he caught a chill  
that brought about this final ill.  
But any cause will fit the bill  
of his demise, be it pill or chill.  
From this day on, it's all downhill  
no skill, bad pill, big dill, now still.

*Jenny Crozier, Southern Highlands FAW*

*Poems accepted for publication under the 'Poet's Voice' banner will be deemed to have been published and therefore not eligible for entry in FAW competitions.*

# FAW Awards Luncheon 2014

THE 2014 Awards Luncheon of the Fellowship of Australian Writers NSW was a rewarding experience, not only for the winners of the writing awards but also for Branch members attending, who were given an insightful and amusing talk on the life of Henry Lawson by the excellent guest speaker Paul Brunton OAM, Emeritus Curator of the State Library of New South Wales.

The event was held at '99 on York' (formerly known as the Bowlers Club of NSW) in York Street, Sydney on Saturday November 15.

FAW State President Trevar Langlands introduced FAW Patron Prof. Elizabeth Webby AM, FAHA and a former FAW president Hilarie Lindsay to the audience, which included Branch members from Bankstown, Eastwood/Hills, Central Coast, Sydney City, Wollondilly, Port Macquarie, Macarthur, North Arm Cove and Isolated Writers.

Dr Rae Luckie, judge of this year's prestigious *FAW Walter Stone Life Writing Award*, presented winner Julie Weatherburn the \$1,500 prize for her moving story *Swimming Across Myself*. [See Judge's Report page 25].

Unfortunately, Caroline Glenn the winner of this year's \$500 *Jean Stone Poetry Prize* was unable to attend the function.

Sakalaia Soakai, Section 3 winner of the *Hilarie Lindsay Young Writers Poetry Award*, accompanied by his parents Charlotte and John, was presented with his award by Cate Plink, FAW Competition Convenor.

Other school student winners in the Hilarie Lindsay competition, not able to attend, were Section 2 Lewis Orr and Section 4 Malina Johnson. Judge Pat Lindsay (Central Coast Branch) congratulated all entrants for their work

stating the competition certainly encourages children to write and enter competitions.

*FAW Distinguished Service Awards* were given to Vince Morrison (Wollondilly), Carolyn Alfonzetti (Eastwood/Hills), and Helen Luidens (Central Coast) by FAW Hon Secretary Maureen Kelly OAM who praised each recipient for their dedication and commitment to their branch.

*Writers Voice* Editor Ken Driver announced that the 2014 Branch Newsletter Award went to Lake Macquarie FAW for *MacMuse*, edited and published by Linda Visman. Ken said *MacMuse* satisfied all four judging criteria—Content (including branch member contributions), Relevance to writing, Presentation/Layout and Consistency of cover dates.

Paul Brunton concluded his inspirational insight into the life of Henry Lawson by reading Lawson's poem, 'The Soul of the Poet'. Formerly Senior Curator of the Mitchell Library, Paul was President of the Australian Society of Archivists from 1991–1993 and is an Honorary Associate of the School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry, University of Sydney.

The event concluded with the raffle organised by treasurer Kay Bakon. An excellent Awards Lunch where the 'fellowship' of writing was enjoyed by all who attended.

Cate Plink donated the lovely big hamper for the raffle... a huge thank you to Cate for donating this wonderful prize, which she has donated for the last three years. Thanks a million Cate from all of the Committee and your President.

**Maureen Kelly OAM**



Guest Speaker Paul Brunton OAM delivers his informative talk on the life and times of Henry Lawson.





*Above, L to R: FAW Hon. Sec. Maureen Kelly presents the FAW Distinguished Service Award to Vince Morrison; proud DSA recipient Carolyn Alfonzetti; and an emotional Helen Luidens graciously accepts her DSA.*



*Dr Rae Luckie with Walter Stone Award winner Julie Weatherburn.*



*MC Trevar Langlands with FAW Patron Prof. Elizabeth Webby and Hilarie Lindsay.*



*Ken Driver announces the Branch Newsletter Award.*



*Cate Plink, and Hilarie Lindsay Young Writers Awards judge Pat Lindsay (right), announce the winners.*



*Pauline Twemlow, Macarthur branch with Johan Luidens.*



*Visitors Colleen and John Weatherby from Elderslie NSW, with Trevar.*

# Literary Achievements

## BLUE MOUNTAINS FAW

### Peter Miller:

3rd prize in poetry for 'Hiawatha's Brain Waves' in Durham Village Writing Competition.

### David Berger:

Commended, 'Not available', Port Macquarie FAW open short story competition;

Commended, 'Edith the Cat', Alice Sinclair Memorial Writing Competition.

## CENTRAL COAST FAW

**Helen Luidens** received an FAW Distinguished Service Award at the Annual Awards Luncheon in Sydney.

**Shirley Goodbar** who is a long time member of Toast Masters International, has recently gained first place in the Evaluation Speech contest. Shirley's expertise in speech making is a splendid recommendation for the organisation.

**Johan Luidens**, our literary officer, wrote an article on prostate cancer which has been published in *Bridge* (a health magazine). His book, *What... Me?* is his personal experience of a journey through prostate cancer treatment, which has been published on the *Prostate Foundation of Australia* website and is now being used by the Gosford Oncology Radiation Institute. His third novel, *Friends and Foes* is now in the hands of the publisher.

**Helen Ross**, after a rather long spell of hospital misadventure, is home and looking forward to the launch of her second book, this time one of short stories.

**Pat Lindsay** won first prize for her story, 'Tunnel Vision' in the Port Macquarie FAW Short Story competition. Pat was also judge of the 2014 FAW Hilarie Lindsay Young Writers Poetry Competition.

**Jerry Dolans'** book, *Tommy Mcgee at War* is in the process of publication as an Ebook. We Central Coast members have been privileged to have read parts of this book as it made its journey toward publication, and as this is to be part of a series, there will be more fun to come.

## EASTERN SUBURBS FAW

### Cynthia Rowe:

2 haiku in the NZPS Anthology *Take Back Our Sky* 2014;

haiku published *The Heron's Nest*, Volume XVI, #3, Sept. 2014;

16 tanka published in *Bright Stars: An Organic Tanka Anthology* Volume 6;

'nectarine moon' Highly Commended, Katikati Haiku Contest 2014;

'shipping lane' Honourable Mention, 68th Matsuo Basho Haiku Festival and included in the 68th Basho Haiku Festival anthology;

'even the stars' Honourable Mention, 2014 Autumn Moon Viewing Contest;

*Floating Nest*, haiku/senryu collection published by Rebus Press.

## EASTWOOD/HILLS FAW

### Carolyn Alfonzetti:

Children's story 'The Boy in the Blue Goggles' published in *The School Magazine's 'Orbit'*.

Carolyn also received an FAW Distinguished Service Award at the Annual Awards Luncheon in Sydney.

### Anne Benjamin:

2 Tanka in *Gusts*, 19, Summer 2014;

rengay with Yvonne Hales, 'Quiver' in *Kokako* 21;

rensaku, 'Fragments', with Jan Foster in *Ribbons*, Volume 10:2, Spring/Summer 2014;

tanka prose, 'Sister Isabella', September issue of *Haibun Today*;

poem, 'Dictionary' shortlisted in ACU Literature Prize 2014 and published in Chapbook, *Language of Compassion*, ACU;

memoir, 'Spider Face', published in *Zinewest'14 Anthology*.

### Beverley George:

Gave a haibun workshop at Limestone Tanka Poets retreat, convened by Kathy Kituai, at Yass;

1 tanka published in English and Chinese on *NeverEnding Story One Man's Maple Moon* Aug 2nd;

edited *Windfall: Australian haiku issue #3* for Blue Giraffe Press;

tanka workshop for NWG New Writers Group Parramatta; reading of *Araki and the Dreamcatcher* at Wheeler Heights School, in company with Pam Bayfield;

2 haiku in 6th Yamadera Basho Memorial Museum anthology 2014 [Japan];

2 tanka in *Ribbons* 10 (2) 2014 [USA];

article, 'The Structure of Tanka,' first published in *Blithe Spirit* 24 (2) 2014 [UK]; republished as Article of the Month on the *Haiku New Zealand* website <[www.poetrysociety.org.nz/haikunews](http://www.poetrysociety.org.nz/haikunews)> [NZ];

review and background paper of the first translation into English of *Tsukiyo Sōshi* by Kurita Chodō published in the British Haiku Society journal *Blithe Spirit* 24 (3) 2014 pp. 65-71 [UK]; republished as Article of the Month on *HaikuNZ* October 2014;

rengay 'Cooling Sand' with David Terelinck published *Kokako* 21 2014 p.24;

rengay 'Silver and Grey' with Simon Hanson published *Kokako* 21 2014 p.26 3;

haiku *paper wasp* Spring 2014;

haibun 'Empty Boxes' (1) published in *One Hundred Gourds*;

tanka sequence 'Kumano Kodō' published bilingually in *The Tanka Journal* [Japan] 45 2014 p. 18;

review 'The Prism of Mokichi' published *The Tanka Journal* [Japan] 45 2014 p. 29-30;

4 haiku and an Honourable Mention in the Nagoya City Board of Education Award Spring 2014 published in *Kō* 29 (4) Autumn-Winter 2014;

2 tanka in *Gusts* No. 20 Fall/Winter 2014;

2nd prize and a Highly Commended in the Katikati Haiku Competition 2014 [NZ];

readings (2) with Dawn Bruce of tanka and haiku at Rubinos restaurant, Willoughby, 28 August 28 and 10 September, 2014.

### Richard Hagerty:

2nd place, Sept. Eastwood/Hills in-house poetry competition;

3rd place, October Eastwood/Hills in-house modern short story competition.

**Philippa Holland:**

3rd place, Mudgee Valley Writers 14th Biennial Competition, Novice Category for her short story, 'The Story of Prella's Bag—A Therapeutic Tale';

winner, Eastwood/Hills FAW monthly short story competition.

**Artelle Lenthall:**

Short story, 'The Sorrowful Star' published in *Zinewest'14 Anthology*.

**Margaret Longhurst:**

Highly Commended for a poem entered in the Blacktown City Mayoral Literary Competition;

podcast: poem recitation, Blacktown City Library;

poem acknowledged by Inverell Historical Society.

**Carmel Summers:**

Poem, 'Little Bat' published in *Zinewest'14 Anthology*.

**David Terelinck:**

1st place, Kitchen Sink tanka competition at the Limestone Tanka Poets retreat in Yass, June 2014;

3rd place, 2014 TSA international tanka competition;

1 tanka in *Ribbons* Vol 10, No 2, 2014;

1 tanka sequence, 'Margin Notes' in *Ribbons* Vol 10, No 2, 2014;

launched *Conversations in Tanka* by Amelia Fielden, Jan Foster and friends at Hornsby Library, 21 September 2014;

blurb written for the back of *Conversations in Tanka*;

Sakura award in the international section of the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival;

regay with Beverley George, 'Cooling Sand' in *Kokako* 21;

regay with Carol Judkins, 'Wolf Moon' in *Kokako* 21;

2 tanka in *Gusts* 20;

1 tanka in *red lights*, Vol 10, No 2, June 2014;

regay with Beverley George, 'Scars that Heal' in *red lights*, Vol 10, No 2, June 2014.

**EUROBODALLA FAW**

**Dianne Wiggins:** Commended, Mudgee Valley Writers Competition for her story, 'Family Business'.

**Judy Turner:** Short-listed in the November FAWQ Toowoomba Writers Festival Literary Prize and her story included in the anthology; Judy was also commended for her story 'The Old Brownie Box' in the FAWNS Super Short Story comp, Memoir section.

**Margaret Barlow:** Poem accepted for an anthology on 'Spring' to be published by U3A.

**Stafford Ray's** novel, *Cull* was launched on November 27 by Moruya Books. Climate change, refugees, energy costs and population pressure are woven into a tale of international intrigue and conspiracy. More details in 'Members Bookshelf' [back page].

**Mike Robinson** and **Tony Maynard** have published an anthology entitled *Absorbing Yarns*, which includes 90 short stories and poems. 50% of each sale will go to cancer research.

**Suzanne Newnham:** Interviewed on radio to promote her new book, *Ethics of a Psychic Healing* and has launched her own website <[suzanne-newnham.com](http://suzanne-newnham.com)>.

After entering an international competition on "transformational stories", Suzanne was selected to work with a group of writers, based in the US, and held a Q&A session with them via weblink.

**HUNTER FAW****Louise Berry:**

Poem accepted for the 2014 Central Coast (Henry Kendall Poetry Award) anthology.

**Jacqueline Cook:**

Two poems, 'Driving down the highway at 6am towards the city' and 'Fear of jellyfish' in the Catchfire Press Anthology *Watermark*;

Runner-up, 2014 Little Red Tree International Poetry Competition for her poem 'Variability' which was subsequently published in their journal.

**Jan Dean:**

Short story 'Nasho' and two commended poems in *Watermark*;

tanka accepted for *Eucalypt* 17;

poem 'Palace Jive' accepted for the 2014 Central Coast (Henry Kendall Poetry Award) anthology.

**Zeny Giles:**

'Fruit of the Sea', an article in *Watermark* dedicated to Jackie Jools, long-term Treasurer of Catchfire Press and caterer extraordinaire, who died in 2013.

**Eileen Dillon-Smith:**

Poem 'Taffeta Moire' won first prize in *Watermark* (Catchfire Press).

**Gail Hennessy:**

Three poems in *When the Moon is Swimming Naked*, Australasian Poems for the Chinese Youngster, Ed. Kit Kelen and Mark Carthew, (ASM Poetry Association of Stories in Macao, 2014) a bi-lingual publication in English and Chinese;

six poems in *A Slow Combusting Hymn* Poetry from and about the Newcastle and the Hunter Region, Eds. Kit Kelen and Jean Kent, ASM, 2014;

three poems and a short pseudo/memoir 'Water as Home' in *Watermark* (Catchfire Press); poem 'Blue Hydrangea' awarded second place;

tankas published in *Eucalypt* 16 and one accepted for 17, Ed. Beverley George; two haibun in *Contemporary Haibun Online*, October, Vol 10, No 3, Ed. Bob Lucky.

**Jo Tregellis:**

Commended poem based on the Children's Pool, Newcastle in *Watermark*.

**ISOLATED WRITERS BRANCH****Vickie Walker:**

'Aura of Uluru', 2nd place in the 2014 FAWNS Vibrant Verse competition;

1st place in *The Port Stephens Examiner* Literary awards for her story, 'The Best Medicine'.

**Stefania McDonald:**

Her family story in Cowra was included in *Australia, A New Country—A New Life*, published by the Cowra Historical

cont. next page...

# Literary Achievements

## Isolated Writers

*cont. from previous page*

Society, with stories of migrant life journeys. The book is available at the Cowra Visitor Information Centre, or through the Cowra Historical Society, which can be contacted via the 'Contact Us' page at <[www.cowratourism.com.au](http://www.cowratourism.com.au)>.

Stefania is featured in the photo spread of an article in the *Cowra Guardian*, 'Cowra Migrant Camp: a new life for 20,000 people'—about the Ukrainian Women's Association celebrating their 65th Anniversary in Cowra. View it online: <[www.cowraguardian.com.au/story/2681035/cowra-migrant-camp-a-new-life-for-20000-people-photos/?cs=593](http://www.cowraguardian.com.au/story/2681035/cowra-migrant-camp-a-new-life-for-20000-people-photos/?cs=593)>.

### Carolyn Cash:

Writing, presenting and producing weekly online radio show, *Right Royal Roundup* <<http://rightroyalroundup.com.au>>. So far, over 1,000 people like the *facebook* page, with some help from the British Monarchist League. (Likes have more than trebled in one day!) There are now over 500 followers on Twitter.

## LAKE MACQUARIE FAW

### Pam Garfoot:

Short story 'Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun' published in *Hunter Professional Arts Magazine*;

book, *Making them real: finding a Queensland past*, co-authored with Elizabeth Conway, awarded Family History Book for 2014 from the Queensland Family History Society.

### Tony Lang:

Had a children's story book, *Magic mist* published (author Tony Lang, illustrator Helen Marshall);

delivered a talk about writing children's books at St Andrew's Anglican Church Wahroonga.

### Helen Marshall:

Illustrated children's story book, *Magic mist* (author Tony Lang, illustrator Helen Marshall);

*Who ate the cake*, a children's story, published as an e-book and on Amazon.com (author Victoria Norton, illustrator Helen Marshall).

### Jan Mitchell:

Article on The Sydney Writers Festival 2014 and a book review of *The Luminaries* by Eleanor Catton, published in *Hunter Professional Arts Magazine*.

### Victoria Norton:

Distinction for Writing Poetry unit of Associate Degree of Creative Writing, with plans to begin Bachelor of Arts majoring in writing next year; two poems selected for *Northerly*, the magazine of the Northern Rivers Writers;

short story, 'Beatrice fed the ducks on Monday' published in *Fiction break favorites*, Summer 2014, and in *Writers Voice*, March 2014;

children's story, *Who ate the cake*, published as an e-book and on Amazon.com (author Victoria Norton, illustrator Helen Marshall);

short story, 'The Glimmer Man' published on ABC Radio National's *Pocketdocs: I met a stranger* competition.

short story, 'The story of little blue bear' published on <[shortfictionbreak.com](http://shortfictionbreak.com)>.

## LIVERPOOL FAW

### Rick Vincenti:

Short story, 'The Runabout' in *FreeXpresSion* July 2014;

Poem, 'The Price of Freedom' in *FreeXpresSion* Aug. 2014;

short story, 'Madge and Will' in *FreeXpresSion* Sept. 2014;

short story, 'From The Fingers of Babes' in *FreeXpresSion* Nov. 2014.

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# Book Reviews

## Born To Fly: Living with Autism

Mary Ann Napper

MY RECENT radio guest was Mary Ann Napper, a member of Forest FAW. It was so nice to have an FAW member on the show and to be able to chat about her book *Born To Fly: Living with Autism*.

This is a novella based on the methods and life of Cath McCarthy, a mothercraft nurse with experience taking care of emotionally detached children.

In 1958 Mary Ann Napper's autistic 12 year old twin brother Johnny

was sent to live in Queensland with Cath, a mothercraft nurse. Cath had done some work with emotionally withdrawn children but Autism was unheard of and medical authorities failed to acknowledge her treatment methods.

But Mary knew different. She spent school holidays visiting Johnny and saw the benefits of McCarthy's work, which was ahead of its time.

Many years later Cath gave Mary Ann a copy of her unpublished manuscript, 'The Life History of an Autistic Child'. Mary Ann joined the FAW and was inspired to write the novella.

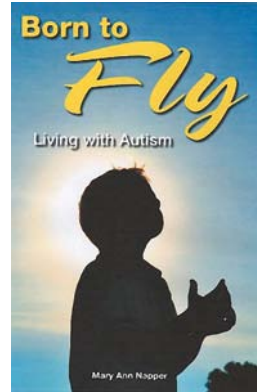
Set in 1949 *Born to Fly* is a dramatised event. The story is about Jamie, given little hope for improvement. Names and ages have been changed but methods and responses have not. It is told as essentially a journalist interviewing Ms McCarthy.

It's a most inspiring book and one which will enthrall the reader.

The book is available via the author's website <[www.bornstofly-livingwithautism.com.au](http://www.bornstofly-livingwithautism.com.au)> or contact her by email <[maryannnapper@bigppond.com](mailto:maryannnapper@bigppond.com)>.

ISBN: 978-0-9923174-0-9 (paperback). Published April 2014, 160 pages. Available soon as an Ebook.

**Reviewed by Trevar Langlands**



## Paint Peels, Graffiti Sings

Jan Dean

*Why do people lament decay  
and crave constant renewal?  
While paint peels, graffiti sings  
the wonders of evanescence.*

An excerpt from *Wonder* by Jan Dean



Paint Peels, Graffiti Sings  
Jan Dean

The genesis of *Paint Peels, Graffiti Sings* was a 2012 competition for a chapbook length collection of unpublished poetry suitable for translation into Mandarin. It will be available in December 2014 as part of the popular *Flying Islands ASM* (Macau) Pocketbook series which produces small books suitable to carry in a purse or pocket. These pocketbooks provide a taste of the style of individual authors at a nominal price. The book contains a page of English followed by a page of Mandarin continued throughout. The

Mandarin Chinese characters called Hanzi are beautiful, so favourite poems could be photocopied in both languages and framed.

The original title was difficult to translate and the second choice would have had bad connotations for people in mainland China. After further suggestions *Paint Peels, Graffiti Sings* was mutually agreeable.

The collection ranges from jocular to serious and explores hidden aspects of life beginning with clowns, performers who appear happy yet often hide troubled lives. While the majority of poems are free verse other styles are included. For instance 'Facial Paralysis in the Year of the Cow' is a string of connected tanka, short poems of restricted syllables like little songs, originally Japanese. A selection of prose poems includes 'The Morning After' and 'Framed'. 'Alfhol, Home of the Elves' is a pantoum, playful and inventive. An interest in varied styles corresponds with attention to disparate themes, yet the overriding theme is art. 'Mermaids at Maningrida' and 'Big Red' are responses to Australian paintings.

'The Chinese Angel' and 'Mechanical Bird' convey the colour, texture, light and sound of a particular time and place, while flights of fancy take readers to unknown areas such as 'Eternal Life'. Subjects move from individual souls to concerns like the environment and global warming, and conclude with Artemisia Gentileschi, an important Italian artist from the 17th Century, who is credited with being the first woman to support herself by her paintings. Her imagined dying thoughts reflect the emphasis on art as a repeated topic, echoing.

The author Jan Dean, a former visual arts teacher, lives in the Hunter Region. She was the first female president of Poetry at the Pub, Newcastle and has won numerous awards. As the current president of Hunter FAW she is widely published. Her full-length collection *With One Brush* (IP) was shortlisted for the 2008 Mary Gilmore Award.

*Paint Peels, Graffiti Sings* was translated by Ruby Chen and Karen Kun who live in Macau. Many explanatory emails were exchanged before and after the three met in 2013 at Markwell, via Bulahdelah NSW at the Australian home of the series editor Professor Kit (Christopher) Kelen.

## The Stages of a Dream

Gwen Rees-Hopton

Gwen is to be congratulated—not only for producing this valuable historic book but also for her life-long interest in all things musical. Perhaps her Welsh ancestors had a lot to do with the fact she was an accomplished musician, singing teacher, actress, writer, director and many other successful attributes—as well as being a busy wife and mother.

Gwen has dedicated her above book to Terry Gould (now deceased) and those who shared his dream. Terry's dream for the future was to give the community of Port Macquarie its first real live theatre and to showcase the local talent and amateur thespians.

Gwen has recorded the memorable moments depicting how Terry's dream was achieved. **The Players Theatre** exists today providing audiences with first class entertainment.

From humble beginnings in 1962, shows were held in church halls; obviously the back-row seats had many disadvantages such as not being able to see or hear the actors. And now in 2014 one man's dream has reached its full potential. The audiences have tiered and comfortable seating, actors have a stage to perform their best with an orchestra pit below, the lighting and sound effects are modern and in the foyer refreshments are available.

Gwen has written a delightful record of the actors, musicians, and the tireless workers who gave their time and effort to assist Terry in every STAGE of his dream. Contained in the book too are photographs, copies of newspaper articles, programmes, lists of productions, cast members and a few humorous tales of what happened behind the scenes.

*Reviewed by Doreen Bolton,  
FAW Isolated Writers*



# Literary Achievements

## Liverpool Branch

*cont. from page 20*

### Rhonda Rice:

Poem, 'Little by Little' in *FreeXpresSion* Sept. 2014.

### Vindu Maharaj:

Short story, 'The Revolving Basket of Roses' in *FreeXpresSion* Nov. 2014.

## MACARTHUR FAW

### Victoria Chie:

Short story, 'The Bungee Clock', accepted for publication by *Yours* magazine.

### Margot Shugg:

Third collection of short stories published, entitled *Chuck the Train Dog*.

### Paul Phillips:

Winner of Macarthur in-house short story competition, with 'The Cruel Planet'.

### Bernard Russell Smith:

Highly commended, Port Macquarie-Hastings FAW Open Writing Competition, with a story entitled 'Mary Comes Home'.

### Robert Bee:

In *The Port Stephens Examiner* 2014 Short Story Awards, Most Highly Commended for 'Shadow of Doubt' and Commended for 'Invalid Password'; self-published (via Photobook) an illustrated children's book, *Lary Luna's Holiday*.

## MOOCOBOOLA FAW

### Vicki Harrold:

Sonnet 'The Face in the Mirror' published in *Once Upon A Sonnet: Sonnets by Today's Poets*, edited by Judith Rodriguez, Melbourne Shakespeare Society.

### John Egan:

Poems 'Goddess' in *The Mozzie*, July; and 'Vibrant' in *The Mozzie*, August 2014;

Poem 'Kings Cross, Victoria Street' Highly Commended in the Shoalhaven All Poetry Competition;

Poem 'Stop' in *The Write Angle* #48;

Poems 'Rain at Midnight', 'Sunset', 'At Dusk', 'Silence' and 'And Yet', all from *Lines Continue Forever*, published in *Beyond The Rainbow* #75, along with a review by Nathalie Buckland of that book;

Poem 'Bombo' in *Seeking Horizons*, South Coast Writers' Anthology 2014;

Poem 'At Berry Station', First Prize, Yarram Short Story and Poetry Competition 2014;

Chapbook *Reworkings* published by Ginninderra Press, Port Adelaide SA;

Poem 'Andromeda' in *The Mozzie*, September 2014;

Poems 'Red Roses', 'Silence' and 'At Dusk' in *Valley Micropress*, September 2014;

Poem 'Contentment' Highly Commended in the 2014 FAW Tasmania Poetry Prize;

Poems 'Haunted' and 'On Late Finals' in *Positive Words*, October 2014;

Poem 'Goddess', 3rd Prize, Ipswich Poetry Feast;

Poem 'Morning Arrivals', 2nd Prize, Port Macquarie FAW Writing Competition.

## MUDGEY VALLEY FAW

### [MUDGEY VALLEY WRITERS]

### Bob Campbell:

Poems, 'Hilltop – for Ric', 'William Street' and 'We the Troubled Bards' published in *The Mudgee Guardian*.

### Kevin Pye:

Play, *Joe Wilson's Courtship* shortlisted for Bathurst Shorts and Mudgee Shorts; poems, '1815–2015' and 'Write Away' published in *The Mudgee Guardian*.

### Jill Baggett:

Short story, 'A Royal Refugee' published in *The Mudgee Guardian*;

play *Storm Shelter* and Musical *Elise Eloise* performed in Mudgee Shorts;

stories 'The Silver Minnow' and 'When Spike Came to Stay' in *ABC Open*.

## NORTH ARM COVE FAW

### Bob Bush:

Entertained Tasmanian tourists at Pokolbin, September 2014, selling his poetry CD as well as books; shared his bush poetry with Rathmines Ladies Probus, September 2014.

### Lee Clayton:

Performed her musical compositions at a September concert held at Adamstown.

### Elizabeth Deane, Maureen Kelly, Trish Parnell and Ron Stewart:

Appeared in *The Taxpayers Waltz*, a three-act comedy written by English author Peter Coke for five performances during October 2014.

### Kerryan Griffin:

Convened, on behalf of Great Lakes Council, a story-telling workshop at Tea Gardens and Bulahdelah, Nov/Dec 2014.

### Olly Griffin:

Poem 'Old Bones' published in *Myall Messenger*, 3 Sept. 2014.

## PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS FAW

### Ray Evans:

Launched his intrigue novel *Storai* at Port Macquarie Library, 11 Sept. 2014.

### Brian Tolagson:

Poem, 'The Dread of Captain Logan' accepted for publication in the annual *Bronze Swagman* anthology organised by Winton Bush Poets (Qld); e-published *World Geography, The British Isles*, 21 August 2014.

### Bessie Jennings:

2nd Prize, Vibrant Verse competition, August 2014, for poem 'Letters From The Front'.

### Debbie Deasey:

Invited speaker for the *1st Global Emergency and Trauma Nurse Conference* at Dublin, Ireland, 18–21 September.

Topic: PhD results of 'National Study of Australian emergency nurses: Care of the older person in the ED (COPE)';  
abstract printed of 'Care of the older person in emergency (COPE): an Australian study on ED nurses attitudes and knowledge towards older people' in *International Emergency Nursing*, Oct. 2014, Volume 22, Issue Four;  
literature review accepted and on early view, *Australasian Journal on Ageing*, for the topic: 'Nurses' knowledge of ageing and attitudes towards older persons influencing therapeutic interactions in emergency care settings: A literature review'.

**Frank Urban:**

Presented a PowerPoint® talk on 'Australia's Convict Explorers and Landscape Artists' to the 42nd ANZMaps Conference in Auckland, Sept. 2014.

**Don Horne:**

2nd Prize in FAWNS Sydney 'Flash Fiction 2014', for 'This Disappearing Life'.

**Tom McIlveen:**

Highly Commended, Port Macquarie-Hastings Open Competition, Rhyming Verse, for 'Jimmy'; and Commended for 'If Ned Had Been An Anzac', 'The Breathalyser' and 'The Dairy Breed', Oct. 2014.

**Janice McLachlan:**

2nd prize, Port Macquarie-Hastings Open Competition, Short Story, for 'Wollangatti Caves', Oct. 2014.

**Barbara Westwood:**

1st Prize, Port Macquarie-Hastings Open Competition, Free Verse, for 'Broken Vase'; and Commended for 'Wild Strawberries', Oct. 2014.

## SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS FAW

**Gabrielle Calov-Stewart** has just brought out her *Collection of Poems 2014* in time for Christmas giving.

## SUTHERLAND FAW

**Helen Armstrong:**

Published article for the consumer group 'Treatment Fads through the ages', Part 1, talking about scientific research; Part 2 'The Weird Stuff', outlined the way fads and fashion affect our lives;  
facilitator of Writers Breakfast for Bundeena Maianbar Art of Living Festival, 16 March.

**Antoinette Conolly:**

Published *Alien Wizardry* which is the sequel to *The Cauchemar Trilogy*, in 2014.

**Elizabeth Klein:**

Published book, *Firelight of Heaven*, from the *Bethloria* series, published by Wombat;  
guest speaker at Writers Breakfast for Bundeena Maianbar Art of Living Festival, 16 March;  
presented the *World Building and the Fantasy Series* at Writers Unleashed Festival, 2014.

**Frank McGuire:**

Highly Commended for Essay/article, 'The Word Lingers On', in *FreeXpresSion*, April 2014;

article, 'Searchlights' published in *Positive Words* magazine, Oct. 2014;  
article, 'Malaprop' published in *Freelance Quarterly*, Sept. 2014;  
short story, 'Royal Visit 1954' Highly Commended in FAWNS Competition.

**Julianne Miles-Brown:**

A presentation about the Writers Unleashed Festival was given at the Caringbah Library with Walter Ellis.

**Joyce Noble:**

Published a news haiku for *SMH* (online), April, 2014.

**Elaine Staples:**

Short story on Radio 2NBC 90.1 FM, reading 'A Design Fault'; also an interview, 'Why I am a writer, motivation etc.' with Ray Burgess, March 2014;

short story, 'Jacaranda' published in *FreeXpresSion*, April 2014;

short story, 'A Design Fault' published in *Positive Words*;

poem, 'Pink Petals' published in *Positive Words*;

poem, 'The Reluctant Housewife' published in *Positive Words*, Sept. 2014;

self-published booklet, 'A Memoir of School', in-house audience;

Hurstville Discovery Writers Members Award for Short Story, 'Bloomin' Jonquil', Oct. 2014;

commended for short story, 'The Rooster Murders', Hurstville Discovery Writers Literary Awards, Oct. 2014.

**Lynn Sutherland:**

Press Releases for Lionesses Club, and Writers Unleashed Festival;

FAW membership information published in *The Leader* for 'What's on in the Shire'.

**Jodie Wells-Slowgrove:**

Published two children's books, *Daisy's Secret* and *Daisy Takes Charge*, released in August and published by Penguin;  
guest speaker at Writers Breakfast for Bundeena Maianbar Art of Living Festival, 16 March;

guest presenter at the Writers Unleashed Festival, 2014, with 'Manuscript to Publication'.

**Kurt Ulmer:**

Published ebooks have now reached 50,000 downloads; Novel alone is 12,000 downloads.

**Gwen Willats:**

Poem, 'The Chase' in *Writers Voice*, Sept. 2014.

## SYDNEY CITY FAW

**Pip Griffin:**

Poem, 'Tea Gardens 7am' in the anthology *A Slow Combusting Hymn: poetry from and about Newcastle and the Hunter Region*, edited by Kit Kelen and Jean Kent, published 2014 by ASM and Cerberus Press and launched on Saturday, 9 August 2014 at the Lovett Gallery, City Library, Newcastle, NSW.

## WOLLONDILLY FAW

**Vince Morrison** received an FAW Distinguished Service Award at the Annual Awards Luncheon in Sydney.



# Competition Results

## RESULTS: FAW NSW ANNUAL WRITING COMPETITIONS 2014

### The FAW Walter Stone Award for Life Writing

Julie Weatherburn for  
*Swimming Across Myself*  
[Judge's Report page 25].



Julie Weatherburn

### The FAW Jean Stone Award for Poetry

Caroline Glen, Sunshine Coast, QLD for  
'West for Wonder' [reprinted opposite].

### The FAW Hilarie Lindsay Young Writers Poetry Competition for Australian School Students

**Section 1: Years 10, 11 & 12**  
(No award given).

**Section 2: Years 7, 8 & 9**  
Lewis Orr, Scotch College Perth, WA for 'Regret'  
[reprinted page 26].



Sakalaia Soakai

**Section 3: Years 5 & 6**  
Sakalaia Soakai, Whalan  
Public School, NSW for  
'Sounds in the Night'  
[reprinted page 26].

**Section 4: Year 4 and Under**  
Malina Johnson, Kamaroi Rudolf Steiner School,  
Belrose NSW for 'Learning Swimming'.

### The FAW Branch Newsletter Award

Lake Macquarie FAW for *MacMuse*,  
edited and published by Linda Visman.

## PRIZEWINNING POEM

Winner: 2014 FAW Jean Stone Poetry Award

### WEST FOR WONDER

Here, the plains, hammered flat grass,  
hand over hand  
to the horizon's curved thread;  
its shrubs, sewn in isolation,  
scrubbed in hunger, thirst, dry digestion.  
Winds catch and carry grandfather fibres.  
They sing as they swing:  
'We are old, but happy, free.'

We leave the car, stand still,  
and from the hush of our bodies,  
ask questions of our lives.

Our words drawl raw across the plains'  
listening ears; the remote land  
of long wisdom that can mend us,  
patchmake our attitudes, ideas;  
then the slow reply; maybe doleful,  
maybe soulful, maybe with the gambling  
glue of enterprise. We accept. Don't speak;  
continue to drive the plains' straight roads  
near camps of discrete hills,  
crouched like armies, cowering, waiting,  
then they come, the many,  
tumbled by a river forest  
in companionable disorder;  
fresh-foliaged thrones for homes.

We step from the car onto the cast  
of leaf-dry, leaf-mushy floors.  
From full lips, our voices press  
against timber and the curtsying of leaves.  
We again ask opinions for our lives.

Leaves toss possibilities one to another.  
They are busy, forget; return  
to listen to the gossip of birds.

Caroline Glen © October 2014

## RESULTS: ALICE SINCLAIR MEMORIAL LITERARY COMPETITION 2014

### POETRY

*First place:* 'Ambrose, a Brother Dead before his Time',  
Claire Bell  
*Second Place:* 'Leaving', Gavin Austin  
*Commended:* 'A Hypochondriac on the 9.24 to Central',  
Peter Miller.

### SHORT STORIES

*First place:* 'A Dark Car Waits', Jennie Herera  
*Second Place:* 'The Most Unlikely Person', Edith Speers  
*Commended:* 'Sheriff of Dawes Point', Bernard Russell-Smith  
*Commended:* 'Edith the Cat', David Berger  
*Commended:* 'The Caretaker', Sheila Drakely.



This is an extract of the speech given by competition judge Dr Rae Luckie at the FAW Awards Luncheon in Sydney, 15 November 2014...

### Judge's Report : FAW Walter Stone Award

IT HAS been a pleasure and privilege to judge the 2014 Walter Stone Award for Life Writing. My only regret is that the majority are extracts—and I was frustrated so many times getting to the end and simply longing to know *what happened next*.

According to the Australian Dictionary of Biography, Walter Stone was an obsessive collector of books. He printed and later published *Southerly* and contributed articles to it. He played a role in the establishment of the Chair of Australian literature at the University of Sydney which GA Wilkes took up in 1962.

I'm also an obsessive collector of books and in *Wilkes' Dictionary of Australian colloquialism* I found a letter written in 1988 from GA Wilkes to Paul Knobel Esquire:

Dear Mr Knobel: Thank you for your list of Australianisms, which I have not seen. I've passed the *Southerly* contribution on to Associate Professor Webby, who is now the editor. Yours, GA Wilkes.

There is a note that the list was from 'Australia a Travel Survival Kit'. Elizabeth Webby became Chair of Australian Literature and judged this prize for many years, and Walter Stone's legacy has continued to support life writing.

This year there were eleven entries, each opening a window into a particular era—collectively they form a collage of Australian life from the arrival of the second fleet to the present time.

Overall the standard was high and many of those that did not reach the short list are worthy of publication.

*Seven League Boots* was the autobiography of 'Daddy Long Legs' a professional stilt walker and entertainer who travelled Australia; *Father's Stroke* a moving memoir that ended with the memories embedded in objects in the house. *Grandpa's Grand* was structured around pianos in the narrator's life and the impact of music. *The Man who Built Kindergartens* traces the life of Horace Tribe, a renowned architect who designed the Lady Gowrie Child Care Centre in Carlton.

At times I was moved to tears by the ongoing mental anguish wrought by childhood sexual and physical abuse; of incarceration in mid 20th century mental institutions, and elated by the strength and courage of those who documented these events. For many, it is evident that the writing process itself has been cathartic. There is a whole body of autobiographic research related to this aspect of life writing.

Now to the three works that were short listed:

In reading and studying autobiographies over the years, men and women tend to have distinct approaches, the men focussing on events and facts, the women writing about feelings and personal relationships. As author Nigel Krauth wrote: "... the trouble is, the culture persists in saying that [men] don't have a right to express those feelings. Feelings of softness, inner turmoil and love... [these are] still generally considered unmasculine".

We are all aware of the treatment of unmarried mothers who were forced to give up their children mid last century but *Daughter of my DNA* (a monograph) is

the first work I have read about 'forced adoption' from a father's perspective. Also documenting legislative changes, it is an important work.

In the memorable *Get a Trade Son* the reader follows the narrator's dream to become a journalist. It was a pleasure to read—the work begins with memories of the dunnyman to the realisation of that dream. I have no doubt it will be published. It was the only work that at times made me laugh out loud.

The final work shortlisted and winner of the award was *Swimming Across Myself*. In this work swimming is a metaphor for life. **Here is a short extract:**

We're on the harbour side of Manly so the water moves like a bear in a zoo enclosure—contained, dozy and deceptively calm. Small waves overlap each other at the water's edge as they claw for new sand. The tide is receding and the higher sand is damp. As each new wave meets receding water, the edges roll around each other in a rope of smooth, circling sand, only to be overwhelmed by the next wave. It's serene, rhythmic and inevitable. The waves make me think of the muscle in Jordan's leg. The Peroneus Longus muscle. The one that wouldn't let go.

A paved walkway leads from Ocean World around to Manly Wharf. It passes the waterworks, the art gallery, timber seats, Norfolk palms, and a gentle hill of green lawn. Perhaps they are here, these children, to read the illustrious catalogue of names, embedded on plaques in the pavers along this 'pathway of Olympians and Paralympians'. The earliest name I recognise is Andrew Boy Charlton from the Paris 1924 Olympic Games. The pool where I swim is honoured with his name. I wear flippers to feel like I move through the water more like him than like me when I swim.

Between this path and the ocean is a drop of around four feet to the sandy beach. The pathway is littered with pigeons, seagulls, exploring travellers, locals and their leashed dogs. The deep groan of an arriving ferry from Circular Quay underscores voices, a radio, and the gentle lap of the water.

Exquisitely written, the reader is drawn into the narrator's life—of life in Sydney, Whyalla and Melbourne, through the initial mystery and eventual diagnosis of her son's illness—and the effects on life and marriage.

*Swimming Across Myself* is indeed an original, creative and inspiring work of literary excellence that also captures a sense of historical place in Australia.

#### Dr Rae Luckie

Coordinator, Graduate Diploma in Education,  
University of Wollongong

Rae Luckie's most recent contribution to life writing is 'Writing Through Grief' in *Stories of Complicated Grief: A Critical Anthology* edited by Eric D. Miller, NASW Press Washington 2013.

#### References

Krauth, Nigel. (1997). 'Towards a happy ending'. In *Daughters & Fathers*, edited by Carmel Bird, St Lucia: University of Queensland Press.

Wilkes, GA. (1978) *A Dictionary of Australian Colloquialisms*. Sydney: Sydney University Press.

## Regret

Blade clenched deftly twixt finger and thumb,  
Plunging and parrying to the combative hum,  
Every stroke of the quill was a thrust of the sword,  
A lunge finding home and an enemy floored.  
But also his morals were engaged in this fight,  
His soldier's dignity, his pride-ridden might,  
For the parchment was a canvas on which he etched a sad tome,  
Of sorrow, and tragedy, dislocation from home.  
For his time as a soldier rendered him far apart,  
From family and all that was close to the heart.  
And when the battle was lost a schism was rent,  
In mind, and memory, his soul truly bent.  
He ran far from those memories, instead to this place,  
Where those like him dwelt, those with wreckage to face,  
He hid there in silence, but his hurt rang out loud,  
And his heart grew twisted in misery's shroud.  
And now, on his deathbed, he sought to repair,  
His kinship with family, the rupturing affair,  
That racked him with guilt every time he thought,  
Of his daughter, his wife, and the pain he'd wrought.  
So he swung his quill to the battle hymn heard,  
Drawing enemy blood with every proud word.  
For the ink ran true on the dusty marked paper,  
Depicted and portrayed by the point of his rapier.

With shaky gasps and ailing arm,  
The words ran like blood from the tiring palm.  
Now the seal of the scroll drew a last, staggered breath,  
And he turned, with a smile, to the coming of death.

Lewis Orr

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Winner: Hilarie Lindsay Young Writers  
Poetry Competition—Section 3

## Sounds in the Night

Two creepy black and yellow eyes stare at me  
through the darkness  
And a mysterious noise echoes loudly above all  
other sounds of the night  
I freeze, still as a statue  
The night is suddenly frightening  
A shadow on the wall grows  
Bigger and bigger  
The floor boards creak and groan  
And still the shadow grows  
Then, two whiskers and a ball of fur as white as  
snow, peek around a corner  
Mr Pinkie, my cat.

Sakalaia Soakai

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## The Veranda Committee and the White Cliffs Loose Ladies Craft Group (+ 1 Man)

*cont. from page 1*

At two o'clock the hall was opened for viewing by the public. Most of the population of the town, except the veranda committee, managed to find the time to look at the entries during the afternoon. Many other people had travelled into the tiny town for this festival as well, and the committee began to hope that their efforts might reap some rewards. The U-Beaut-Ute had been towed from where it had been standing, and created much amusement, with its glamorous driver and her little dog.

"What the hell did they go and do that for? Bloody idiots," muttered the veranda committee to each other.

Seven o'clock arrived and people began to pour back into the hall for the official opening, and the judging results. Speeches were made and the winners were announced. The overall winner was a popular local photographer, and there were many works that received highly commended awards as well, including a short film by two young local girls, called Hidden Faces.

As soon as the opening event was over, an army of willing helpers, including some of the 'Loose Ladies' took over. Dismissing the exhausted Festival Committee, they cleaned and tidied the hall and kitchen with maximum efficiency. Satisfied that their work was done, they closed up and went home.

The next day was again a strenuous one for the Festival Committee. The hall was open from mid-morning until late afternoon. Again people came to view, even some who

had been the previous day. Once the hall closed the swarm of helpers moved in and set up the tables and chairs for the evening concert.

The concert was so well attended that it became 'standing room only'. The magician Adam Mada, proved very popular, as did the performance artist whose work was auctioned off for a very generous sum to a local business. The local ladies who bravely donned exotic costumes, and performed an interesting piece for 'wearable art', received loud acclaim. Outside, the veranda committee were still muttering into their beer about damn foolishness.

Sunday morning saw the final event of the Festival, as the Committee and their helpers prepared breakfast for all who wanted. The veranda committee saw no reason not to favour this event with their presence, and happily tucked in to sausages, bacon, eggs, pancakes, toast and coffee.

Next morning, the committee finally rested from their labours, satisfied with the outcome which had seen costs covered and a small profit made. It had taken months and months of hard work from all of them, but the sense of a job well done overwhelmed them all.

The veranda committee sat looking at the quiet town. "Well, it's over at last," one of them said.

"Yeah, seemed to bring a lot of people in," another one remarked.

"Maybe not such a bad idea, but why in hell did those silly women put all that wool about the place?"

□

# Writing Competitions

Closing Date 31 May 2015:

## EASTWOOD/HILLS FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS LITERARY COMPETITION 2015

All Categories Open Theme.

### Category 1: Short Story

Maximum 3,000 words. First Prize \$200, Second Prize \$100

### Category 2: Poetry

Includes all forms of poetry except Bush Poetry (see Boree Log competition). Max 80 lines per poem. First Prize \$150, Second Prize \$50.

### Category 3: Memoir

Max 1,500 words. First Prize \$150, Second Prize \$50. For the purpose of this competition Memoir means an incident from one's own life and experiences.

### Category 4: Pauline Walsh Award for Short Short Story

Max 800 words. First Prize \$100, Second Prize \$50.

**Entry Fee:** \$5 per entry or \$20 for 5 entries (cheques or money orders in AUS\$ payable to: Eastwood/Hills FAW. Do not send cash in the mail).

### Conditions of Entry

- Each entry must be accompanied by a **signed entry form** which can be found on the Eastwood-Hills FAW website <[hillsfaw.webs.com](http://hillsfaw.webs.com)>
- TWO copies of each entry required.
- Entries to be typed on one side of A4 paper. Short stories and memoirs to be double-spaced. Poetry can be single spaced.
- Where an entry is more than one page, all pages should be stapled together.
- **No name to appear on manuscript.** Pages to be numbered, with a short title of the entry on top or bottom of each page. Entries will be numbered for judging.
- The decision of the judges is final. Winners will be notified by mail and announced in *Writers Voice* and our Presentation of prizes will be at an event on Saturday 1st August, 2015.
- Entries will be destroyed after prize presentation.
- Entries not meeting all competition conditions will not be judged and entry fee will not be refunded.
- Closing Date is 31 May 2015.

Results and Judges' comments will be published on the Eastwood/Hills FAW website <[hillsfaw.webs.com](http://hillsfaw.webs.com)> as soon as possible after the presentation. Please only enclose a business-sized S.S.A.E for Results and Comments Sheet if you have NO access to our Website.

Send entries with completed entry form and fee to:

Competition Secretary,  
Eastwood/Hills FAW  
PO Box 4663  
NORTH ROCKS NSW 2151

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

Closing date 31 May 2015:

## EASTWOOD/HILLS FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS BOREE LOG AWARD FOR BUSH VERSE 2014

*Father Patrick Hartigan (1872–1952) was ordained in 1903 and served in various positions, including twenty seven years as parish priest at Narrandera. Writing under the pseudonym John O'Brien he published two volumes of poetry: Around the Boree Log in 1921, and, posthumously, The Church at St Mel's. He is fondly remembered for poems such as 'Said Hanrahan' and 'The Old Bush School'. He is buried in North Rocks near Parramatta.*



Image: Wikipedia

**First Prize:** \$100 plus a trophy and certificate. Certificates awarded for Highly Commended and Commended entries.

**Entry fee:** \$5 per entry (cheques or money orders in AUS\$ payable to: Eastwood/Hills FAW. Do not send cash in the mail).

### Conditions of Entry:

- Each entry must be accompanied by a **signed entry form** which can be found on the Eastwood-Hills FAW website <[hillsfaw.webs.com](http://hillsfaw.webs.com)>
- TWO copies of each entry required.
- Ballad to be written in perfect rhyme and metre, with maximum 80 lines, and an Australian bush theme.
- Entries to be in English, the original unpublished work of the entrant and not to have won a cash prize in another competition.
- All entries to be typed on one side of A4 sized paper.
- No name to appear on manuscript. Pages to be numbered with a short title of the entry on top or bottom of each page.
- The Judge's decision is final. The winner will be notified by phone and published in The Australian Bush Poets' Association Newsletter and *Writers Voice*. Presentation of prize will be at an event on 1st August 2015.
- Entries will be destroyed after results are announced.
- Closing Date is 31 May 2015.

Results and Judges' comments will be published on the Eastwood/Hills FAW website <[hillsfaw.webs.com](http://hillsfaw.webs.com)> as soon as possible after the presentation. Please only enclose a business-sized S.S.A.E for Results and Comments Sheet if you have NO access to our Website.

Send entries with completed entry form and fee to:

Competition Secretary, Boree Log  
Eastwood/Hills FAW  
PO Box 4663  
NORTH ROCKS NSW 2151

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

# Roundup

## Writers' Unleashed a Great Success!

THE SIXTH annual *Writers' Unleashed* festival proved to be both entertaining and nurturing for all the participants and presenters alike. Fifteen writers of all differing genres and readership gave enthralling presentations that gave insight into the road to publication and improved writing skills.

The keynote speakers for this year were Judy Nunn and Bruce Venables who spoke on the importance of location, and also the writer's own knowledge and understanding of that place. Judy spoke about the evocative smell of a sugar mill in full operation and how she used this to set the scene for her most recent novel.

Picture Book writer Frances Watts and illustrator David Legge gave delightful ideas to the audience about the collaboration process between author and illustrator to produce award-winning children's books. Jan Latta shared exciting tales of her experiences when travelling to remote regions in Africa and Asia to photograph endangered animals which she produces in her children's books.

Sutherland FAW Branch's own Jodie Wells-Slowgrove gave an insightful look at the involved process once the manuscript is accepted to when it is published. Another of our members Lizbeth Klein showed the detail required in developing different worlds in fantasy. Jodie has been published by Penguin with children's fantasy series in the Australian bushland, whilst Lizbeth has a YA fantasy series published by Wombat.

Liane Moriarty gave us her stimulating ideas in the writing process itself. Fiona McFarlane explained her journey as first time published author. Crime writer P M Newton gave knowledgeable insight into rewriting your work and what's involved, which is critical for many emerging writers.

The talented Jaclyn Moriarty revealed her development of characterisation. She said "Give them secrets that the world doesn't know about them." She used Isaac Newton as an example of how to do this. Kaz Delaney hooked us into YA romance and how to develop YA characters. Kylie Fornasier showed us the best way to incorporate historical facts into your fictional works and make it relevant for today's audience.



Members of the *Writers' Unleashed* Committee and author Jodie Wells-Slowgrove. L to R: Pat Strong, Jodie Wells-Slowgrove, Lynn Sutherland and Julianne Miles-Brown.

Other valuable speakers included Kathryn Coughran who discussed biography and memoirs. Also Stella Tarakson showed us how to utilise technology and boost your profile on line as a writer. These talks gave fabulous ideas to expand upon, setup and research into helpful tools for the writer.

The publishing consultations were as popular and beneficial as ever. There was a balance of both editors for children's, YA writing and adult writing. This year we had Heather Curdie from Penguin Publishing and Sue Whiting from Walker Books for the manuscripts aimed at children and YA. For the adult writing we had Beverley Cousins from Random House and Emma Rafferty from Pan Macmillan. All those who booked into these sessions received valuable help towards publication from the editors, who shared ideas to improve the manuscripts.

Our national Picture Book Writing Competition awards were presented in the morning break. The winner this year was Trudie Trewin from Queensland, 2nd prize went to Brenda Gurr and Kym Langfield won 3rd prize, both from Victoria.

There were many networking opportunities for everyone to grab some insight into the writing process and give some thoughts on their own writing journey. Copies of the authors' books were available from our bookseller Bloomin' Books from Caringbah and tables were available for independent booksellers.

There has been fabulous feedback from attendees, both beginning and experienced professional writers, as well as the presenters themselves who had an enjoyable day. The organising committee of the Sutherland Branch of FAW look forward to organising this fabulous event in 2015!!

**Julianne Miles-Brown**

*Writers' Unleashed Co-ordinator*



Editor Panel Talk. L to R: Emma Rafferty (Pan Macmillan) Beverley Cousins (Random House), Sue Whiting (Walker Books) and Heather Curdie (Penguin).



Heather Curdie (left) presents the second place award to Brenda Gurr in the national *Writers' Unleashed* Picture Book Writing Competition.

# Book Review:

## The Narrow Road to the Deep North

Richard Flanagan

WINNER OF the Man Booker Prize for 2014, *The Narrow Road to the Deep North* has 467 pages in my paperback edition, published 2013 by Vintage Press. It is written in five sections, with numerous chapters short and long.

This is an immense book by a master of words. Though I found it difficult to get into initially, I soon got into the rhythm of the story being related and could not put it down.

Strange, even seemingly inconsequential, events from the early chapters of the book are not resolved till the end of the story, so one needs to stay with it!

The protagonist, Dorrigo Evans, was born in Tasmania about 1914, the youngest in a large family. Scholastically, he did well, studied medicine to become a surgeon, and an officer in the Australian Army. Dorrigo's war journey passed from the Middle East, Syria, Damascus, Palestine, and Cairo. He became a Japanese Prisoner of War (POW) and in 1943 was sent to Burma. Time on the Thai-Burma Railway was spent endeavouring to protect the many men in his care and to relieve their suffering.

This is a sad tale of starvation and the slavery of well over 9 thousand Australian service men forced to work on the railway (the Line). Here a map would have been helpful.

There are vivid descriptions of savage beatings of emaciated men, monsoons and deep mud, dreaded diseases like cholera, beri beri, pellagra, tropical ulcers, malaria, scabies, dysentery ... and lice. There were no beds and comforts in that place.

Though the descriptions are horrific, they certainly are vivid, raw, and ugly... just as indeed it would have been. The spirits of the Aussies is evident throughout.

Characters are introduced early on: Amy, Ellen, Darky Gardiner, Jack Rainbow, Hendricks, Bigelow, and Kes, and the Japanese Nakamura, and Fukahara.

The dialogue is occasionally difficult to follow since there were no inverted commas nor italics. The words just flowed.

The plot has many threads woven through this story, shuttling back and forth, sometimes almost too quick to follow. However, that was very pleasant in retrospect and kept my interest. It is a woven fabric of wonder, all threads tied and tidy.

The fanaticism of the Japanese for their god-like Emperor and his glory which enabled them to inhumanly deprive the prisoners of food and medicines, demand super human efforts and cause abject suffering and untold deaths, is incomprehensible to us. The Speedo meant no rest but put on speed to get the railway finished despite disease and malnutrition. We believe it did happen and Richard Flanagan has captured the whole.


On his return to Australia from the War, Dorrigo married Ellen and they had 3 children but his true and only love was Amy. His countless adulterous affairs bored him.

The latter parts of the book are post-war philosophizing accounts of Japanese, and Australians trying to resume their lives, bury the past, and be considered decent and trustworthy.

This is an exciting novel, an epic covering the life, loves, literature, disappointments and torments of one man among many. A worthy recipient of a prestigious prize.

*Reviewed by Pat Allen,  
Blue Mountains FAW*





**THE HEART OF MACARTHUR**

**Macarthur Community Radio 100.3 FM**  
Arts & Entertainment

**Trevor Langlands presents:**

- Music • Interviews with authors and personalities • Poetry
- Book and Movie Reviews.

**On air every Wednesday, 12 noon to 4pm**

Live stream online: <[2mcr.org.au](http://2mcr.org.au)>



# Branch Meetings and Contacts

## **BANKSTOWN WRITERS**

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

## **BLUE MOUNTAINS FAW**

**1st Sunday – 1.45 to 4.45 pm**  
Springwood Court Function Room,  
133 Macquarie Rd, Springwood.  
*Enquiries:*  
David Berger (Pres.) 02 4759 2438  
<isdafrog@bigpond.com>  
PO Box 125, Springwood 2777

## **CENTRAL COAST FAW**

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

## **BONDI WRITERS**

**3rd Sunday – 2.00 pm**  
Theory Room, Waverley Library,  
32-48 Denison St., Bondi Junction.  
*Enquiries:*  
Frankie Dowling 0422 090 868  
PO Box 701 Bondi Junction 1355  
<www.bondiwritersgroup.org.au>

## **EASTWOOD/HILLS FAW**

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

## **EUROBODALLA FAW**

**1st & 3rd Wednesdays—9.30 am  
and 1st Tuesday 6.30–8.30 pm**  
Temporarily at Moruya Golf Club,  
Evans St, Moruya.  
*Enquiries:* Rosie Toth 02 4473 6474  
<rosieandtib@bigpond.com>  
*Web:* <www.eurobodallawriters.org>

## **FOREST FAW**

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

## **GREAT LAKES FAW**

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

## **HUNTER FAW**

**1st Wednesday – 10.15am**  
Dining Room of Sydney Junction  
Hotel, Beaumont St., Hamilton  
*Enquiries:*  
Eileen Dillon-Smith (Sec.) 4928 2116  
or Jan Dean (Pres.) 4954 9895

## **LAKE MACQUARIE FAW**

**2nd Saturday – 1.30 to 4.00pm**  
Multi-purpose Centre  
9 Thorn Street, Toronto.  
*Enquiries:*  
Linda Visman (Pres.) 4975 4448 or  
Jan Mitchell (Sec.) 0429 987 195  
<lakemacfaw2@gmail.com>

## **LAMBING FLAT (YOUNG)**

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

## **LIVERPOOL FAW**

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

## **MACARTHUR FAW**

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

## **Fellowship of Australian Writers NSW Inc.**



ABN 59 557 152 715

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

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

**Facebook:** <[www.facebook.com/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 (*listed here*) or by contacting the FAW NSW State body (*as above*).

## **MOOCOBOOLA FAW**

**3rd Thursday – 1.30 pm**  
Gladesville Library  
Pittwater Road, Gladesville.  
*Enquiries:* Vicki Harrold 9878 3005  
PO Box 427, Gladesville 1675  
or John Egan 9799 3077 or  
4464 1719

## **MUDGEY VALLEY FAW**

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

## **NORTH ARM COVE FAW**

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

## **NORTH SHORE FAW**

[FAWNS]  
**3rd Sunday – 1.00 pm**  
Willow Park Community Centre,  
25 Edgeworth David Ave, Hornsby.  
*Enquiries:*  
Maria Encarnacao (Pres.),  
35 Eyre St, Smithfield NSW 2164 or  
Richard Brookton (VP) 9744 1567  
<[fawnorthshore@gmail.com](mailto:fawnorthshore@gmail.com)>  
*Web:* <[sites.google.com/site/  
fawnorthshoreregional/](http://sites.google.com/site/fawnorthshoreregional/)>

## **PARRAMATTA FAW**

**2nd Saturday – 12.30 pm**  
Top Floor, Parramatta Library,  
Darug Room, Civic Place,  
Parramatta.  
*Enquiries:*  
Lyn Leerson (Sec.) 9639 8394  
<[lynlew@optusnet.com.au](mailto:lynlew@optusnet.com.au)>

## 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:

Rachel Palmer (Pres) 6586 1080  
or Kerry Buchanan 6582 1226  
PO Box 67 Port Macquarie NSW 2444

## PORT STEPHENS FAW 3rd Thursday – 10.00 am

Tomaree Library, Salamander Bay

Enquiries:

Christine Gregory (Pres.) 4982 2004  
<gregorywrite@bigpond.com>

## SHOALHAVEN FAW 2nd Saturday – 10.00 am

Meeting Room, Arts Centre  
Berry St, Nowra (next to Library).

Enquiries: Liz Carter

PO Box 154, Nowra NSW 2541  
<info@fawnswshoalhaven.org.au>  
<www.fawnswshoalhaven.org.au>

## SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS 3rd Saturday – 1.00 pm

The Henrietta Rose Room,  
Library, Bowral.

Enquiries:

Margaret Symonds (Pres.)  
<margsym@gmail.com>

## STROUD WRITERS Fortnightly Thursdays 9.00 am to noon

Stroud Library,  
Church Lane, Stroud.

Enquiries:

Dianne Foster 4994 5727  
PO Box 4, Stroud NSW 2425  
<stroudwriters@gmail.com>

## SUTHERLAND SHIRE FAW Last Saturday – 12.30 pm

Sutherland Library, Meeting Room  
(Ground Floor)  
30-36 Belmont Street, Sutherland.

Enquiries:

Sylvia Vago (Pres) 9501 2348  
PO Box 602, Sutherland 1499  
<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: Narelle Noppert (Pres.)  
0438 678 679 or Olivia Mulligan  
(Sec.) 0402 091 903

<wollondillybranch.faw@  
gmail.com>

## WYONG WRITERS 4th Saturday – 1.30pm

Wyong RSL Club,  
Cnr. Margaret St and Anzac Ave.  
Wyong.

Enquiries:

Mei-Ling Venning (Pres.) 4333 7489  
85 Oaks Road, Shelly Beach 2261  
<meilingvenning@hotmail.com>  
Web: <www.wyongwriters.org>

## The Fellowship of Australian Writers

### INTERSTATE BRANCHES

#### Victoria:

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

#### Tasmania:

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

#### Queensland:

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

## FAW ISOLATED WRITERS BRANCH

### MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES:

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

### MEMBERS' ACHIEVEMENTS:

The Editor, Writers Voice  
65 Barbara Boulevard, Seven Hills NSW 2147  
Email: <wveditor@dri-print.net.au>

### AFFILIATION FEES:

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

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

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

### ROUND ROBIN:

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

Please limit your submissions to:

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

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

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

#### Round Robin Closing Dates

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

#### Round Robin Submissions

POSTAL:

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

*Electronic Round Robin (ERR):*

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

**Brian Armour**, ERR coordinator  
Email: <astro123@optusnet.com.au>

# FAW Members' Bookshelf

MARGOT SHUGG

*Chuck the Train Dog*

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

MIKE ROBINSON & TONY MAYNARD

*Absorbing Yarns*

This book contains a collection of over 90 Short Stories and Poems for Adults on a multitude of topics. Written by the above authors for Eurobodalla FAW meetings over the last two years.

These are easy, readable items for quiet moments, with topics such as:

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

Available from the authors at Eurobodalla FAW, or from the Eurobodalla Writers' stall at Moruya, and other local Markets. Also available at local festivals. 220 pages, RRP \$20.00. All profits (50% of RRP) from sales of the book will be donated to Cancer Research.

PETER J. UREN

*Dominator in the Shadows*

*Dominator in the Shadows* is Peter J. Uren's second novel, and the sequel to his popular *The Old Mechanic*. Set three years later, it tells the story of two men who each have a dream to own their chosen motorcycle: one a Vincent Black Shadow, the other a Norton Dominator 99 650SS. The story again takes the reader through the process of restoring an old classic motorcycle. Along the way, they maintain, repair and service many classic British motorbikes. But the book is more than just about motorcycles; it is a story of the blossoming love between the boss's daughter and her "accidental hero", and the final realisation by the main character that material possessions are a poor substitute for what is really important in life. The book is available for sale by the author for \$18.00 plus \$8.50 postage within Australia. Contact the author on <[theoldmechanic1@yahoo.com.au](mailto:theoldmechanic1@yahoo.com.au)>. He still has copies of *The Old Mechanic* at \$15.00 or both books for \$30.00 plus postage TBA while stocks last. Both books are also available as eBooks on Kindle Reader through the Amazon website.

ANTOINETTE CONOLLY

*Alien Wizardry*

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

JEREMY GADD

*Under Centauri*

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

## RECENTLY PUBLISHED BOOKS FOR SALE

Please send details for inclusion in this section to:

Editor, Writers' Voice,

65 Barbara Boulevard, Seven Hills NSW 2147

The FAW Bookshelf web page address is:

<[www.fawns.org.au/bookshelf.html](http://www.fawns.org.au/bookshelf.html)>

PAMELA TRUSTRUM

*Everything Stops for Tea*

An older woman invites a lonely young man into her extraordinary home... A family gather to hear their lawyer read their wealthy grandmother's will... It is winter, clouds heavy with rain scurry overhead; in the deserted park a young woman sits alone on a bench... An engineer finds himself on a ship in a life or death situation... These and other stories are told vividly with humour, charm and a warm insightfulness. Comments from readers include: "this is not a book it's an entertainment"; "It made me laugh out loud on the train"; "It was very funny, I really enjoyed it"; "Write another one". Direct from author, \$20 incl postage in Australia. Email <[pamtrustrum@optusnet.com.au](mailto:pamtrustrum@optusnet.com.au)>

SHAWNA HARTLEY

*Unsung Heroes Cambodia: People and Projects Making a Difference*

About volunteers, for volunteers, by volunteers. Co-authored by Lee Anderson, Kerryan Griffin and Shawna Hartley. People from all over the world are helping Cambodia recover from the atrocities of the Khmer Rouge. This collection of 65 short stories celebrates these volunteers, providing inspiration and practical tips for aspiring do-gooders. It includes ethical considerations and direct links to projects. The diversity of NGOs, sharing their wealth of experiences, provides insight into 'voluntourism' that translates to every country. Combined with stunning photography that reveals an unusual perspective of Cambodia that made it a recent Amazon Best Seller in its category. Not-For-Profit, large format (A4), 168 pages, available for \$35 + shipping on <[www.unsungheroes.net.au](http://www.unsungheroes.net.au)> ISBN 978-0-0875545-0-5.

FAW NSW

*Unlock the Writer Within*

*Unlock the Writer Within* is a resource guide book developed by the Fellowship of Australian Writers NSW Inc, members, who share their successful writing techniques. This guide book is suitable for amateur and professional writers and covers over 100 genres. Short story, crime and romance as well as poetry, articles, memoir and family history. Ebook help and guidance, editing, punctuation and grammar explanations and exercises through to the publishing minefield which includes literary agents, query letter sample, copyright, ISBN and CiP and barcode requirements. It helps the writer deal with rejection and turn that negative into a positive. This guide book should be kept in the writer's office desk, on the home bookshelf for family access, gift it to students and in school libraries. Over 400 pages for just \$30 plus postage \$10. Order from the FAW Hon. Sec. Maureen Kelly, 22 Promontory Way, North Arm Cove 2324 <[honsecretary@fawns.org.au](mailto:honsecretary@fawns.org.au)>

MARY ANN NAPPER

*Born to Fly—Living with Autism*

Self-published by Mary Ann Napper, this novella is a fictionalised version of a true story. Set in Australia in the 1940s and 50s, when autism was unheard of, it gives an account of a child's journey from a state of feral wilderness into a world of communication. The author focuses on treatment interventions which she hopes will inspire people with autism, their families and perhaps health services to question their approaches to helping individuals with autism relate to their environment. It is a story of determination, courage and great warmth. ISBN: 978-0-9923174-0-9. \$23 (inc postage). 25% of sales donated to Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) Can be purchased online at: <[www.borntofly-livingwithautism.com.au](http://www.borntofly-livingwithautism.com.au)>.

CASSANDRA WEBB

*Adorable Alice*

Alice is adorable. With her arms tied in a knot, lips buttoned and eyes blindfolded, she explores her home in a different way every day of the week. See what Alice discovers. Illustrated by Michaela Blassnig. 32 pages. Available online <[cassandrawebb.com](http://cassandrawebb.com)> or in bookshops. \$24.99.



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