

Writers Voice



Winter Edition #248 JUN 2015

QUARTERLY BULLETIN OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS NSW INC.

Short Story

Watershed

Victoria Norton

A MISTY, whispering spray settles on my face. I breathe in and out deeply, and open my mouth wide, then wider still. I taste the water on my tongue. I keep my face turned towards the spray until my mouth is full. As I gulp and swallow I sense something of essential tea-tree oils and the taste of pine needles shed from the overhanging trees on this side of the waterfall.

It's cool here, deep inside this forest. It is so removed from the city and the dreary country towns I've driven past on my way here—to my secret and sacred place. It's my hiding away place. It's my being in a totally earthy and joyful place, and has been for many years.

This national forest has many hidden and beautiful wonders. Its history is rich with tales of brave loggers and community builders; of family feuds and land rights claims.

I grew up with my siblings free-ranging on a farm. We ran, played and explored acres of space that was only defined by fences built from thick greying corner posts and long lines of rusting wires. My parents taught me that I was never lost if I had a fence-line to follow home.

On this hot, moist day in spring, the season that traditionally brings renewal and regeneration, small bracken ferns, tips coiled, invade the spaces between the moss covered rocks. Maidenhair ferns, a striking vibrant green, contrast against the brown humus that has collected in



Image/Stock

this sheltered place. The tremble and flutter of these multi-leaved ferns in the slight breeze is beautiful to watch. They hover in place on their black, hair-thin stems, like tiny green butterflies auditioning for a space flight, gravity-less and no longer earth-bound.

The tinkling of bellbirds blends with the burble of the water over rocks. They create something akin to a new age sound recording... not singing like whales in the ocean... yet still conveying a heart-warming connective earth music that has a relaxing effect on me. Sounds that are calming and consoling... I feel its pulse-like energy thrumming through the soles of my feet.

Life in the city is full of raucous sounds and harsh words that leave a lasting legacy. I don't want that anymore. I want clarity, peace and aloneness. Howard is so demanding. Always wanting, wanting and never just letting me be.

'I just want a beer,' he says petulantly.

'It's just a spliff,' he whines.

'It's just a hit of something,' he whinges.

Any drug, any filthy white powder reduced and doctored and then injected into muscles or veins... or snorted into one nostril at a time. It is never too much or too wrong for him.

I'm pivoting around in a circle, arms outspread, looking up and around at this thickest part of the forest. Tall timbers of grey-green pines were planted here for the benefit of a timber harvest for the future. Yet now the undergrowth is stymied, curtailed and even dead in places. Layers of needles, shed from the pines over time, muffle any footsteps and insulate the temperature. The toxins that the thin leaves exude inhibit the growth of the natural wild food plants and that in turn reduces the number of creatures who can feed here, and the chain reaction results in the local bird population having a reduced menu. *Poison comes in many forms.*

Whoosh! I look up.

The sky is filled with hundreds of currawongs. Their songs of joy loud and declarative as if it was pre-arranged that they be sung at an eisteddfod just for me.

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QUARTERLY COPY DEADLINES:

15 AUGUST, 15 NOVEMBER, 15 FEBRUARY, 15 MAY

FAW NSW Inc. State Council: Biannual Delegates Meetings

Next meeting: Saturday 7 November 2015. Hosted by EUROBODALLA FAW—details next issue. The Executive Committee and Branch Delegates meet the first Saturday of May and November each year. Minutes are mailed to each Branch Secretary.

General Membership and Subscriptions

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

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

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

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

Writing Fellows

FAW Writing Fellows are listed here: <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>. Your request will then be passed to Alan Russell (phone 02 9680 3374) <Alan_Russell@internode.on.net> for action.

Public Fund

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

FAW Manuscript Assessment Service

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

State Council News

Fellowship of Australian Writers NSW Inc.
Financial Summary Year Ended 31 March 2015

	2015			2014		
	WORKING ACCOUNT	AWARD TRUST ACCOUNT	TOTAL	WORKING ACCOUNT	AWARD TRUST ACCOUNT	TOTAL
INCOME						
Advertising			0.00	204.00		204.00
Affiliation	16,691.00		16,691.00	19,208.00		19,208.00
Affiliation - Isolated Writers	1,931.00		1,931.00	2,023.00		2,023.00
Book Sales	2,415.15		2,415.15	4,618.00		4,618.00
Competition Entries	752.00		752.00	1,514.00		1,514.00
Donation	30.00		30.00	74.00		74.00
Interest	820.00	1,702.08	2,522.08	975.18	2,040.44	3,015.62
Luncheon/Raffles	1,970.00		1,970.00	2,669.00		2,669.00
Miscellaneous Income	1,011.54		1,011.54	36.00		36.00
Writing Fellows	50.00		50.00			0.00
TOTAL INCOME	25,670.69	1,702.08	27,372.77	31,321.18	2,040.44	33,361.62
EXPENSES						
Advertising & Publicity	150.00		150.00	275.00		275.00
Audit Fees	300.00		300.00	495.00		495.00
Book Supplies			0.00	5,021.50		5,021.50
Bulletin *	18,775.30		18,775.30	12,915.67		12,915.67
Capital Items <\$400			0.00	85.00		85.00
Early Bird Award	50.00		50.00	50.00		50.00
Filing Fees	52.00		52.00	51.00		51.00
Functions & Luncheon	2,200.00		2,200.00	2,277.00		2,277.00
Insurance	1,965.59		1,965.59	2,349.26		2,349.26
Judging Expenses	530.00		530.00	852.00		852.00
Petty Cash	1,103.15		1,103.15	874.98		874.98
Rent	57.20		57.20	85.80		85.80
Repairs & Maintenance			0.00	245.00		245.00
Sundry Expenses	74.79		74.79	311.20		311.20
Telephone			0.00	285.49		285.49
Workshop Travel & Accommodation	900.00		900.00			0.00
(Public Fund)						
Prizes		2,400.00	2,400.00		950.00	950.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	26,158.03	2,400.00	28,558.03	26,173.90	950.00	27,123.90
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	\$ (487.34)	\$ (697.92)	\$ (1,185.26)	5,147.28	1,090.44	6,237.72
REPRESENTED BY						
Working Accounts	27,645.06	1,118.07	28,763.13	27,262.40	3,518.07	30,780.47
Public Fund Account	61.46		61.46	931.46		931.46
Term Deposits	24,284.48	55,742.52	80,027.00	24,284.48	54,040.44	78,324.92
ACCUMULATED FUNDS	51,991.00	56,860.59	108,851.59	52,478.34	57,558.51	110,036.85

* Bulletin 2015 = 5 issues; Bulletin 2014 = 3 issues

State Council News

From the President

GREETINGS TO all Members and especially any new Writers who may be reading *Writers Voice* for the first time.

Thank you to the various people who have mailed or phoned me to say how much they enjoy our Bulletin and what an excellent job our Editor Ken Driver, our editing committee and the printers do. *Writers Voice* is a very professional publication and I am always proud to give visitors or interested parties a copy.

Special Luncheon Guest

I am so excited to be able to introduce Australian author, poet, songwriter and performer **Jim Haynes** as our special guest at this year's **FAW Awards Luncheon**.



Jim Haynes

Many will have heard Jim on Sydney radio or at Literary Festivals; you most certainly would have seen his best-selling books in bookstores around Australia.

You are in for a fabulous afternoon of laughs and music with Jim so make sure you do not miss out on being at our Awards Luncheon on **Saturday 14 November**. [More about Jim—p13].

I do urge members not to miss our annual luncheon—in particular those from outside Sydney—we would love to see you all there. We have lots of fun, awards presentations, judges' comments, guest speaker, raffles, lucky door prizes and the yummiest 3-course buffet you can get anywhere.



At the FAW NSW Annual General Meeting, May, 2015:
[Clockwise from left]: Mei-Ling Venning, Yvonne Sorensen, Sylvia Vago, Johan Luidens, Colleen Parker, John Egan, Stefania McDonald, Pip Griffin, Cate Plink, Helen Luidens (partly obscured), Trevar Langlands and (centre) Maureen Kelly. [Not in photo]: Helen Armstrong, Rosie Toth.

Make it your special end of year gift to yourself and you CAN bring a friend; you do not have to be a Member of FAW to come to our Awards Lunch... it's open to all. Booking details next issue.

Thanks to our FAW Committee

I take this opportunity to thank all my wonderful Committee members and associate members for all their excellent work over the last year.

I have had a marvellous year as President and do enjoy meeting different people, visiting Branches and attending their literary events. We have such an enthusiastic lot of people in the FAW and we must be very thankful for their dedication.

I want to thank Barbara Simmons our Webmaster for the expertise she has brought to the FAW NSW Website over past years, despite illness and family problems.

Carolyn Cash is on top of the Isolated Writers group within the FAW and I really do appreciate the work she does with such relish.

Thanks to Helen and Johan Luidens who always step up when I ask, and to Kay Bakon, who is handling the work of both Treasurer and Membership Registrar skilfully.

Our marvellous Secretary Maureen Kelly is so efficient, I am so impressed.

Outreach Coordinator Colleen Parker—now a Vice President—has done wonderful work in regional

areas and especially her contribution in putting together the FAW 'Go to' help book for Writers, *Unlock The Writer Within*. It has been a really good seller... have you got your copy?

Good to have Stefania McDonald on board and her new ideas. Cate Plink handles Competitions plus Publicity but is relishing the work load and has everything buzzing along well.

Out and About

On Thursday 21 May, I hosted a talk by Brisbane author Nick Earls at Campbelltown City Library, as part of the Sydney Writers Festival program.



Author Nick Earls with 100.3FM arts presenter and FAW NSW State President Trevar Langlands.

Nick is the author of at least 19 books, two of which have been made into films. His current novel is *Analogue Men*.

Trevar Langlands, State President

Letters to the Editor

Let's Share Ideas in Branch Reports

I'd normally agree with David Mathers, Bankstown FAW ('Branch Reports' Mar 2015) that "a good report is a short one." And I've been guilty of writing some of the longest. Perhaps, though, we should use the Branch Reports to focus more on writing tips, workshop ideas, programs, good websites and contacts. In other words, useful stuff for writers to share. Some of the reports do mention these things and we all benefit from cherry-picking from them.

It'd be great to see other branches' programs, reasons why they recommend particular workshops (plus contact details for the presenters) and favourite websites and blogs on writers' tools. Blogs are particularly useful as they are generally short, focus on one idea and can form the basis of in-house workshops and regular meetings.

I'm not suggesting longer Branch Reports, but until more of the branches have websites of their own, *Writers Voice* remains the place to share our ideas, expertise and information.

It would probably mean abbreviating some of our 'social' news, and just using the Literary Achievements and Members Bookshelf sections for the various literary successes.

What do others think?

Rosie Toth, Eurobodalla Branch

Image: iStock



48 Hours of Sheer Terror

NORTH ARM COVE has survived the recent storms. When they hit us on the evening of 20th April, we were literally fearing for our lives! I have never been so frightened. The cyclonic winds were beyond description. Huge trees were falling all around, bringing down or uprooting more trees as they fell, downing power lines, falling across cars, blocking the roads and landing across people's homes. Some people left the Cove on the second day, too frightened to stay.

Thanks to the tireless work of the SES and Essential Energy, who worked under extreme conditions, (one SES volunteer having to be airlifted out from our helipad), the power was restored sooner than other areas.

To be without power meant that for days we were without water, heating, cooking and sewerage; we had to use buckets to flush the loo—that's if you were able to source water from your tank. Luckily for me, my dogs' water bowl is huge (a small paddling pool) so they had to share!

Phone lines were down, no mobile connection, no contact with family and friends—frightening for all concerned. At time of writing, some residents were still waiting for their phone lines and Internet to be re-connected some three weeks later.

We have been more fortunate than other areas in the Hunter, some people losing their lives and homes to the floods—just horrendous. I appreciate there are parts of Australia that get hit by cyclones often but it doesn't lessen the terrifying fear we were all experiencing.

Fortunately our hall at North Arm Cove was undamaged so our writing group will continue this month. Maybe our homework should be titled '48 Hours of sheer terror'?

Elizabeth Deane, North Arm Cove FAW

FAW Branch Reports

CENTRAL COAST FAW

IT'S MONA BRAND time again for our Branch. This is the Central Coast Writing Award which is held biennially for a story of a maximum \$2000 words. No entry form is required, and Helen or Johan Luidens will be happy to reply to any request for information: <helen.johan@hotkey.net.au>.

I presented a mini-workshop on the rather vexing subject of 'Showing without Telling'. We all agree that this can be a difficult concept, but the group was kind enough to assure me that my talk was helpful.

No new members have found their way of late to the rather charming conference room at the Royal Hotel in Gosford. The hotel is quite old and has a charismatic appeal to us, especially those who, like Carol, rather specialise in creepy old crime stories, invariably set in ancient hotels or boarding houses.

While in the upper floors, one can imagine oneself in the nineteen twenties; downstairs in the dining room where we lunch after the meetings, all is modern.

Our President will shortly be off travelling to visit Johan's family in his home country. We will miss having Helen at the helm; she keeps our members informed on State matters and is tireless in her role at encouraging emerging writers. And of course, Johan who is our literary officer and helps us to keep our writing up to scratch. As vice president, I will endeavour to keep order during the meetings and as deputy literary officer, diligently run my red pen over the recalcitrant word or phrase.

Best wishes to all the branches.

Pat Lindsay

EASTWOOD/HILLS FAW

It's been another busy and fruitful month for members of Eastwood/Hills branch as we gathered to learn about three completely different aspects of writing. In March, Laura Davis and I put together a workshop on Writing for Children which produced some engaging, enchanting and enjoyable pieces of writing

for children aged 7–9 or 10–12. As someone who was hesitant to do a workshop at all, I can now highly recommend to all members of writers groups the benefits of doing one, from clarifying ideas in your own head to having fun once the nerves have been placed firmly in the background, to the opportunity of seeing firsthand the joy other members get from successfully stepping out of their comfort zone to tackle something new.

In celebration of the 100th year commemorations of ANZAC Day, Anne Howard lead an extremely interesting and moving workshop on Early 20th Century Poetry. This of course, was heavily influenced by the events of the time especially WW1 and gave a real insight into the politics, motivation, sentiment and occurrences of this incredible period of our history.

Finally, May saw us exploring the increasing role Social Media is playing in the life of writers especially those seeking publication for their work. Author Janni Nell, spoke to us about the multitude of possibilities when building an Author Platform, concentrating, however on the big three of blogging/vlogging Facebook and Twitter. We even had a go at writing our own promotional tweets. Janni could not emphasize enough the importance of reading and understanding the T's and C's when beginning to use any form of social media as a writer. She also wisely suggested keeping separate writing and personal social media accounts.

We have some interesting workshops coming up in the next quarter and guests are very welcome to attend for \$5—or \$6 when we have a guest speaker. We meet at 1.30pm every first Saturday of the month.

The **June** workshop, 'Poetry in Collaboration...' was facilitated by Carmel Summers.

July Workshop: 'Writing from the heart', Susanne Gervay (guest).

August: Presentation Afternoon for our Literary Competitions—results will be published on the Eastwood-Hills FAW website <hillsfaw.webs.com>.

September: Critiquing, no workshop.
Artelle Lenthall

EUROBODALLA FAW

Great news! We're very excited that Stafford Ray's enviro-political novel, *CULL* has been chosen by its publisher as one of its five best books of the year to be presented to the Melbourne International Film Festival. Each publisher is given the opportunity to pitch books they consider have movie potential to movie producers. This is sure to be a boost for him to finish the other two novels he's working on.

Occasionally we start our meetings with the equivalent of 'pencil sharpening': 10 mins of short burst writing. Here are some of the ideas we've used, with often hilarious results...

- a 26 word story, each word in alphabetical order
- a poem entirely of questions
- a 100 word story without repeating any word
- write for 5 mins about a topic (eg. the ocean) and repeat without using any of the words used the first time
- a conversation which starts with one word and an extra word is added each time.

After that, it's onto the reading of our prepared stories to the rest of the group. Every alternate meeting, instead of a short critique after each one, we hear them all, then divide into small groups armed with printed copies of the stories by the 4 or 5 members of the group and provide a more in-depth critique. We seem to enjoy both methods so will be using this plan for the rest of the year.

Our big event for the year, apart from hosting the **FAW State Conference** this November, was the launch of our new anthology, *FLIGHTS OF FANCY*, scheduled to take place at the Bateman's Bay Writers Festival on the June long weekend. Already available as an ebook, with 21 authors celebrating 21 years of the Eurobodalla branch, it was launched by Debbie Richardson, a prolific author and one of our members. Debbie, writing as D L Richardson <www.dlrichardson.com>, has now had her novels picked up by professional publishers.

Rosie Toth

FORESTVILLE FAW

The Forestville FAW had our AGM in March with all executive positions filled and some new members welcomed to the committee. Our President, Maureen Fries who does a great job inspiring members, was re-elected to serve another year.

We welcomed Amanda Hampson to our April meeting. Amanda is the author of *The Olive Sisters* and *Two for the Road* as well as two nonfiction books, *Battles with the Baby Gods* and *Take me Home*. Amanda teaches both fiction and autobiographical writing. She gave an informative talk on 'How to Edit Your Novel' and 'Character Building,' giving practical exercises to do during her workshop.

Author, Pam Bayfield, has published her 10th novel. *The Doug Nolan Story* is about a navigator on the Catalina aircrafts in WWII. It gives an account of Doug's hazardous assignments which kept allied convoys safe from enemy attack and tells of his dangerous mine laying missions into enemy harbours.

Beatrice Yell, Catherine Smith and Crys Smith, our esteemed poets, have had several tanka poems published. In May they were off to Canberra to attend the launch of 'All You Need is Love,' a tanka anthology edited by Amelia Fielden.

We meet at 2pm on the third Saturday of every month at the Forestville Community Centre.

Mary Ann Napper

LAKE MACQUARIE FAW

The new year got off to an interesting start at our first meeting in February. President Terry Colling led the group through some exercises focussing on our creative sides. We each wrote a short story, in a very limited time frame, in which the challenge was to include as many things as possible from a list we were given. Surprisingly we almost all came up with credible and enjoyable stories, and included all items. It was an interesting challenge to be asked next to record some of our favourite games, activities and dreams from childhood. We then discussed how we might keep more of these dreams alive in our grown-up creative selves.

At the request of members our March meeting was given over to a discussion about some of the more technical aspects of writing: tenses and active/passive voice. Jan Mitchell led us through what we needed to know and lightened what could have been a dry topic with humour. We finished with another challenging writing exercise about... rhododendrons! This elicited several great creative pieces.

The Newcastle Writers Festival, which ran over the weekend of 20, 21 and 22 March, was a great opportunity for our group to offer an insight into how a writing group works and, especially, the value of a critique group. A panel of members, led by Terry, hosted a presentation at the Festival. They outlined how the group worked, gave some personal comments members had offered, and led an informal critique-type exercise. At our next monthly meeting in April we were also able to hear more about other presentations at the Festival—once again a great event on the writing calendar.

Sarah Allen, Director of Happy Agency, was our guest in May. She gave a very engaging presentation on how we can use social media (in particular Facebook) to promote our literary works and ourselves as authors. We gained useful insights on creating our own 'author brand'.

Pam Garfoot

LAMBING FLAT FAW

Members of the Lambing Flat (Young) FAW Writers Group have welcomed interested new writers this year. It is wonderful to see our numbers growing each meeting! We enjoyed a brief synopsis of all members' interests at recent meetings, plus discussed writing blogs/web logs and our new webpage which has been under construction. Check out <fawyoungnsw.wix.com/creative-writers>.

Prepared pieces are read at each meeting, with much discussion and enthusiasm within the group. Members are invited to write for a particular subject set monthly for the next meeting, or any topic they choose. We are a talented group, with

many varied subjects and writing techniques being shown by members.

Our president Ted Webber has been extremely busy recently making connections, by meetings with Scott Howie from Eastern Riverina Arts Council, Dr Rae Luckie for the Australian Society of Authors, and Janice Ottey from South West Regional Library, to discuss ideas for our writers' group.

Our AGM was held on Monday, May 11. Re-elected for the coming year were Ted Webber as president, Clare Brown as secretary, Carrie Hay as treasurer and Joan Dwyer as writing competition co-ordinator. President Ted thanked all members for the great efforts and promotion of the group, which especially showed in the wonderful response to last year's writing competition. Appreciation was expressed to Ted for all his hard work during the past year to promote our group—writing letters, getting sponsorship and organising meetings. His efforts have contributed greatly to the profile of the group within the community.

This year's Cherry Festival Writing Competition will see several changes, with the closing date a month earlier than normal. More details in the next *Writers Voice*.

A workshop has been organised by our local library at Young, 'How to get started as a writer', to promote writing in the community. Member, Valerie Parv will be the 'Writer in Residence' at the library on July 28 for two sessions.

Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings and share their love of writing. For more information, please contact president, Ted Webber on 6382 7728 or 0459 707 728.

Marie Myhill

LIVERPOOL FAW

At our February AGM the following Positions were accepted:

President, Rick Vincenti;
Vice President 1, Peter Pike;
Vice President 2, Toulia Pappadam;
Treasurer, Vindu Maharaj;
Secretary, Lydia Vincenti;
Catering Officer Vi Cochrane;
Publicity, Officer Rhonda Rice.

cont. next page...

FAW Branch Reports

Liverpool

cont. from previous page

We held the last two 'Open Poetry and Writing' evenings of the summer season in February and March. The first was very poorly attended. The final night however, was a success, especially considering various difficulties encountered with venue, etc. Regardless we decided to postpone plans for the next round until a better venue is found and more publicity undertaken.

We are busily submitting and selecting work for our anthology, to be published later in the year. The anthology team is working tirelessly to bring everything together and be ready for the publisher in October, and the launch in November. No mean feat!

We look forward to Workshops through the year to help us on our way to better writing and possibly individual publishing. We are fairly small in numbers but our enthusiasm grows as time goes by. We look forward to a year of opportunities and successes.

Rhonda Rice

MACARTHUR FAW

In her recent talk, Karin Daley, author of *The Olympic and the Titanic—more than sisters?* had us all at sea arguing about what really happened to the *Titanic* over a century ago. Karin outlined her research methods and told us about interesting people she had interviewed, all-in-all providing us with a lively afternoon's entertainment. Some of us had the further pleasure of chatting with her over coffee after the meeting. There was a good roll-up for the talk, with a number of visitors in attendance.

Our smart new business card, designed by Margot Shugg, has been distributed to members. Suitable for wallet or purse, it carries a brief description of our activities, along with a contact number. We will now have an effective way of dealing with casual enquiries.

As we discuss our work we are often led back to the writers who influenced us. At our last meeting, discussion returned to *The Narrow*

Road to the Deep North by Richard Flanagan, a number of us having read it in the meantime. Reference was also made to the passing of Terry Pratchett, with interesting commentary by Robert Bee.

Since my last report, our Vice President, Victoria Chie, has sold another story to *Yours* magazine, this one entitled 'Cosmic Alignment'. This continues a long history of publication by Victoria, who is always keen to help others along the way. It is nice to know that this successful writer sometimes finds inspiration in our regular writing exercises.

This month, Pauline Twemlow and Margot Shugg visited Wollondilly FAW to attend author, Richard Harland's, workshop, 'The Art of Story Telling', which was described as "a very informative talk and an enjoyable afternoon".

In the meantime, our bi-monthly in-house competition continues with the latest winner being long-term member Paul Phillips with his excellent story, 'The Cruel Planet'. Discussions are being held with our Wollondilly neighbours with a view to swapping entries for judging.

Last year, we instituted the idea of presenting a handsome certificate of appreciation to colleagues who have made a valuable contribution over the years. At our May meeting the award was presented to Robert Bee,

a member of the Macarthur Branch since 1996. With his wide-ranging interests, writing talent and ready wit, Bob has been an inspiration in every way.

Inkblot, our in-house bulletin edited by Margot Shugg, plays an important part in keeping our group together. Featuring news of coming events and competitions, as well as writing-related articles, it also invites contributions. It is good to see members expressing themselves through its pages.

Bernard Russell Smith

MUDGE VALLEY WRITERS

Kevin Pye was awarded the Midwestern Regional Council Senior Citizen of the Year 2015 Award at Club Mudgee during the Senior's Week Luncheon. We all felt very proud of him. Kevin has launched his 8th book of poetry on 8th May. Congratulations Kevin.

Our busy year has also started with two excursions, following in the footsteps of Henry Lawson and Banjo Paterson.

Mudgee Valley Writers FAW is 29 years old. To celebrate, we met at the site of Henry Lawson's childhood home for our April meeting, and then moved to Eurunderee School. The school and surrounding areas feature in many of Henry's works. The President of the Site Trust gave



The Mudgee Valley Writers group gathered in the footsteps of Henry Lawson at Eurunderee School to celebrate the group's 29th anniversary. L to R: Pamela Meredith, Joy Hibberd, Ann Milligan, Miriam Bates, Kevin Pye, Jill Baggett, Joan Taylor, Bob Campbell.

us an informative talk on the history of the school and on Henry and Louisa Lawson. He then left us to enjoy our poetry readings, stories, and a song from Bob. We read many of Henry's works and some of our own. Nostalgia was helped by damper and syrup, pikelets with rosella jam, scones and sweets.

Mudgee Probus Club invited us to join them on a bus trip to Yeoval, where we visited the Banjo Paterson Museum.

Jill Baggett

NORTH SHORE FAW [FAWNS]

Our office bearers for 2015 were chosen at the FAWNS AGM in March: President, Len Hume; Vice President, Richard Brookton; Treasurer, Victor Lamba; Secretary, Vera Zegarac.

The meeting expressed its gratitude to Maria Encarnacao who has been our President for the last 4 years and who has filled many other roles in FAWNS for some years before that. Maria has resigned from the executive but will continue as a member of the Branch. Congratulations to a worthy President.

We have decided not to hold our literary competition in 2015, but plan for its return in 2016. The competition has proved very popular in the past, and at this stage we intend to keep the same format—

a Super Short Story competition and a Vibrant Verse competition. Keep a look out for our return on the FAWNS website <<http://sites.google.com/site/fawnorthshoreregional/>>.

FAWNS is undergoing a rejuvenation. It is quite noticeable that over the last few months more and more writers have been contacting us asking to attend our meetings. This has resulted in increased membership, and has also caused a change in Branch dynamics. For many years most members have been focussing on poetry, but now prose writing has made a comeback to the Branch. This change is not solely due to new membership. Some of our older members have recently retired from FAWNS, and of course the nature of any writing group reflects the interests of its members. Our new members are supporting the Branch well, and have brought a new vigour to the meetings.

Richard Brookton

PARRAMATTA FAW

Parramatta branch has been meeting for some years in the Darug room of the Parramatta Library, however, due to renovation work on the Library, from July 2015 we will be moving to the Rita Tebay room on the ground floor of the Civic Building, which is just across from the Library. We are looking forward to the move, as the

room is more accessible for those of us who find the Library steps a bit of a chore each month.

In April we held our AGM with our president Lisel Herrmann being returned once more, and Esther Bartulovich taking over the duties of Secretary.

Over the past year we have welcomed several new members, and our meetings are filled with lively discussions. There are usually two readings from each member on subjects set as homework each month. Members may also do a reading for critique if they wish.

Cate Plink

PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS

Firstly I would like to thank Ken Driver for coming to our April meeting on Anzac Day—it was so nice to meet him in person. Ken is helping us develop a web site for the PMH branch. It is just as well I was not asked to do this as we would have been lost in cyber space forever if I had been... LOL. Thank you greatly Chief.

The Anzac day meeting produced some very interesting if sometimes sad tales of WWI when members told family stories from yesteryears.

It has been a very exciting three months for us here in Port Macquarie as our Life Member Gwen Rees-Hopton became an FAW Writing Fellow and Connie Jones was made a Life Member. These two dear ladies

cont. next page...



Port Macquarie-Hastings FAW Life Member Gwen Rees-Hopton (centre) receives her FAW Writing Fellow Award from President Brian Tolagson and branch Secretary Colleen Parker.



Long-time Port Macquarie member Connie Jones accepts her Life Membership certificate.

FAW Branch Reports

Port Macquarie-Hastings

cont. from previous page

well deserve their awards and are much loved by all of us here in Port Macquarie.

We also welcomed as new members Hazell Sellers and Angela White in March.

We had a very successful stall at the Senior Expo at the Port Macquarie Panthers Club in March from which we gained two new members and sold fifteen of our members' publications.

We were very privileged to have Deb Hunt the bestselling author [recently seen on *ABC Morning Show*] as a guest at our February meeting this year. A charming and clever writer with much to offer on writing, publishing pitfalls and life in general.

Member Deb Deasey is putting together a *Youth Arm* and although it is still in embryonic form it is developing nicely. More on that soon.

In July, Port Macquarie-Hastings branch will celebrate its 37th year.

At our June meeting we are hosting a workshop with Dr Rae Luckie as our guest speaker. Rae will be covering: 'Life Writing From The Senses—Linking Poetry and Prose, an introduction to Haiku and Prose Poetry'. It is to be a 6-hour workshop where the public may attend at a small fee.

Joie Black

PORT STEPHENS FAW

Our speaker for the March meeting was our very own Peter Golden, poet extraordinaire, who told us of his many achievements with the Mattara Festival Newcastle and Raymond Terrace. He read some of his poems in a perfectly presented and motivated talk on poetry using colour as an emotion, also the theme for our homework. It was a good start to the year and much appreciated Peter.

I think poetry will play a bigger part in our group this year as Peter Golden was elected as President at our April AGM, with Noel Wathen elected as Vice President and Penny Lane elected as secretary/treasurer. Congratulations to you all. I stepped

down as president and Annette Jones stepped down as secretary/treasurer, still staying as tea lady. Thank you Annette for all your good work. I felt sad but assured our group is in good hands. To celebrate our new committee we gathered for lunch at the Salamander Tavern.

As a small group—with the date changed due to local flooding—a few members interested in self-publishing went on a tour of WHO Printing, a Newcastle company, for those in the process of writing, or planning to write a book. After morning tea we went on a tour of the factory to see what happens to a book once it is written. I am sure the outing is the motivation we need to write our own book.

Port Stephens FAW Branch has been an active group since we began in September 2002. Now in our thirteenth year we are still going strong and proud of our many achievements over the years... a film titled *Inlet Port Stephens* and five printed books, *Write Waves 1* and *2*, *Time and Tide*, *Anything Goes* and *Ripples*. All with locally based content, and with good sales, we see as a pretty good effort. Now we move forward with a positive approach to poetry or prose, and perhaps more outings. I believe we have a year full of surprises.

Christine Gregory

SHOALHAVEN FAW

As always, our Shoalhaven FAW meetings have been fun, entertaining and stimulating. At our May meeting our guest speaker was Allan Baxter. Allan has become a successful author of fantasy, horror and science fiction genre books. He is an excellent speaker and was very generous with his advice on writing and publishing. We all walked away from the meeting feeling inspired and energised by his words of wisdom.

Chere Le Page

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS FAW

FAW Southern Highlands held its AGM on Saturday March 21 at which the following were elected: President Ken Challenor, Vice-President

Brian Haydon, Secretary Barb Angell, Treasurer Kathryn Litchfield, Committee Member Greg Tome.

The new committee immediately identified the need for a concentrated new membership drive as top of its agenda for the coming year. There will be a new postal address, meanwhile inquiries are welcomed on 0417 192 055.

Barb Angell

STROUD WRITERS FAW

In 2011 Stroud Writers jumped the gun (cliché and pun) for the Anzac centenary commemorations by publishing *Battlefields & Homefires: untold stories*. This publication was a cooperative venture between Stroud Writers and local artists presenting different aspects of warfare from the Boer War to the war in Afghanistan. For 2015 we have reduced the price of *Battlefields & Homefires* to \$10. There are a few copies left, so if you wish to purchase a copy to donate to a local school, please contact us.

Like so many of you, Stroud Writers participated in events surrounding Anzac Day. At our recent Anzac Service, a tree was donated by our Writers as a more lasting memorial to commemorate those men and women who represented Stroud and the surrounding district. Sharon Burke wrote a number of historical articles for Stroud's Anzac Display. She wrote about some of Stroud's WWI men and women. Sharon further complemented the articles by compiling/creating a DVD of Stroud's WWI soldiers and nurses, which included photos of them, their stories and music from the time. For the Raymond Terrace Anzac Day Ceremony, Peter Uren wrote an oration. This was well received.

Most of the talk in our district, is centred upon the recent storms and floods which beset us. They have provided inspiration for topics to write about: a cathartic exercise for many residents. The presenter of *ABC Open* requested Peter Uren to contribute a written account of his experience of being without power for several days.

Constant sales on Amazon of Peter's self-published books about *The Old Mechanic* are heart warming—a much needed boost for his writing career.

Elizabeth Bradhurst continues to be a superb editor of the bi-annual newsletter of *Friends of St John's Inc.* The Friends work towards the restoration and conservation of the iconic historic church, the surrounding buildings and grounds.

Several members are engrossed in completing extensive manuscripts, chapters of which are shared at meetings. We all benefit from the suggestions, comments and corrections that are offered. Tracey Jones entertains and fascinates us with her amazing imagination. Sci-fi is a difficult genre in which to write believably.

Over the coming months, we plan to involve local schools in a writing competition. It is some years since we have invited the schools to participate in such a programme.

[A Round Table Effort]

SUTHERLAND FAW

I had the pleasure of attending the FAW NSW AGM on May 2 and meeting our delightful State President, Trevar Langlands, the hardworking committee members and delegates from Eurobodalla and Wyong Branches to name a few. Apart from the official business of the election and meeting, it was worthwhile to meet and network with other delegates, as we all agreed that sharing ideas would enrich our branch activities.

Our Sutherland meetings have been well attended considering the many commitments and overall busyness of our lives. Our monthly guest speakers have been great for bringing new perspectives to the writing process and attracting visitors who could be potential members. This was evident with two guests attending our March meeting, with guest author and member Elizabeth Klein who talked about the importance of writing structure and ways to plan a non-linear plot. The focus was on how to hook the reader by starting from the complication or

vantage point and then going back to the beginning of the story. We were given popular fairy tales, and working in pairs, re-wrote the plot from a significant moment in the story while the rest of the group had to guess the name of the fairy tale. We had a lot of fun with our partners, rewriting the plots to create a different take on the storyline.

We were back at Sutherland Library for our April meeting and had five visitors attend the meeting including the Cultural Liaison Officer for Hurstville Council. Our guest author was Lee-Anne Walker who as Lee-Anne Levy has published a series of YA novels. She is currently editing her adult SF/speculative novel for publishing. She talked to us about the trials and tribulations of publishing her manuscript and about the key elements of writing fiction. On characters... you have to care about them. Being flawed is generally beneficial but you still have to like them. On Dialogue (has to sound real) and using sensory imagery... do it in as few words as possible.

When editing, Lee-Anne's motto is, "when in doubt, leave it out". She gave us three writing prompts to use as a starting point for fiction, and there were certainly some creative interpretations from members and visitors alike. We were so engrossed in the workshop that one hour turned into two before afternoon tea.

I was overseas for our April meeting, and Frank Maguire, our Vice-President enthusiastically stepped in to facilitate and also run the workshop. Frank shared a boxful of resources with the group which included a range of writer's magazines, textbooks and references on writing. He talked about patterns in writing, referencing pithy sayings from classic authors like F. Scott Fitzgerald—alliteration, assonance and parallelisms. He also talked about writing motive and complication in a screenplay, and writing yourself into a corner.

To attract a more diverse membership, we are looking at ways of improving our website, and creating a social media profile on

Facebook, Twitter and blogspot, and creating another more informal meeting in the evening. Preparations for our *Writers Unleashed Festival* to be held on November 14, are well underway and some exciting writers have already been booked for presentations. We also run a 500 word Picture Book competition, opening on 18 May, with the winners announced at our Festival. Further details will be posted on our festival website soon. <www.shirewritersfestival.weebly.com>.

We encourage our members to take an active role in the group and to share writing ideas and activities or offer suggestions for future workshops. The group can only thrive with everyone's input!

Sylvia Vago

WOLLONDILLY FAW

Our AGM was held in March 2015. All members of the committee stood down. Olivia Mulligan who had been secretary and had done such a wonderful job in the position contributing so much to the branch, announced she would not be standing for re-election this year due to other commitments. She will still be attending meetings and helping any way she can.

The new committee are... Narelle Noppert is President, Rosemary Peters Vice President, Andrew Renella Treasurer, Sandra Reynolds Secretary, Vince Morrison Publisher and Editor, Yvonne Wooldridge Publicity Officer, Sue Southwood Librarian and Glorya Gray Tea and Coffee Facilitator.

The weekend of 11–12 April was a very busy time for the branch with involvement in events on both days.

On 11 April *IlluminArte* Picton was held. One of our members, Sue Southwood was involved in organising this event. It is estimated 15,000 people attended the day which included Market and Information stalls, the Picton Music Harvest Festival, a Lantern Parade and the *IlluminArte* highlight being a number of Picton's most iconic buildings being turned into canvases for digital artists (like a small version of *Vivid*).

cont. next page...

FAW Branch Reports

Wollondilly

cont. from previous page



Wollondilly FAW member Sandra Reynolds at the Picton IlluminArte Festival.

Wollondilly branch of FAW participated in the event by having a stall in the Wollondilly Council Hall to promote FAW and the branch. There was a lot of interest shown in the FAW and we are hoping to have at least one new member at the next meeting, largely as a result of this event. Other people from out of this area also enquired and took information and may hopefully contact branches near them to join.

On 12 April we had a very interesting guest speaker when Richard Harland spoke on 'The Art of Storytelling'. A very interesting and enjoyable session. Twenty-six people attended this talk including members, ex members and members of the general public; a few whom found out about this event from our stall at *IlluminArte* the day before.

Wollondilly FAW meets the second Sunday of the month, however for May with Mother's Day being our usual meeting day, we met on the third Sunday for that month only.

Sandra Reynolds

WYONG FAW

Wyong Writers has gained two new members in the last quarter; unfortunately though, Marcia has resigned due to other commitments with her music group and we wish her well.

Mandy Byrne's play was read by actors at the Gosford Anglican Church Hall. The play's full potential was not shown due to the previous days' cyclonic weather conditions causing flooding that prevented some actors from attending. Those actors who made it to the hall were given extra parts at the last minute and, unfortunately, the meaning of the play suffered a little as a result.

Mavis Gunter, our Secretary, also had a play accepted to be read on May 22 at the Anglican Church Hall, Gosford.

Our *Scribblers* group continues to meet on a Monday afternoon with up to six to seven members participating each week as well as following up online. It is indeed a positive experience for all members.

Margaret Young



Wollondilly FAW members busily prepare for a talk by guest speaker Richard Harland (back to camera).

Book Reviews

Australia's Best Unknown Stories and The Best Australian Sea Stories

Jim Haynes

It's so difficult to write a review about Jim Haynes' books, because there are so many and they are all so interesting and enjoyable. And there are dozens of them! About trucking, sports, the bush and many more.

Let me focus on two for today...



Australia's Best Unknown Stories is a great read about things we do not know and things we can never be too sure of.

Let me tempt you with a little from the index... The great zig-zag... How two heroes swapped planes... The enemy we were never told was there... The poet time forgot... The Red Baron's Aussie send off; plus tales and verse from Lawson, C. J. Dennis, Colin Newsome, Rod Quinn—and of course from Jim himself—Someone pinched our firewood. A great collection of tales from the past... in 1949 you could be an Aussie citizen if your father was born here (not mothers); if you were British and lived here, of good character—and being white helped a lot.

Jim's other book from his many I am really fond of is *The Best Australian Sea Stories*. I just love this book of history, drama and surprise. It mesmerises me because there is always a surprise each time you pick it up. The mystery of the Mahogany ship—Matthew Flinders' wife waiting nine years for his return; notes from Mark Twain and a dazzling mix of human achievement and tragedy.

I cannot recommend this book too highly, it's a delight and an education as well. It's about the sea, the people that sailed it, loved it, hated it, swam it, wrote poems and tales about it. It's a trip in time and so hard to put down. Look for it in your bookstore. Jim is published by Allen and Unwin.

Reviewed by Trevar Langlands



Jim Haynes

About the Author

A professional entertainer since 1988, **Jim Haynes** has recorded for Festival, Sony and ABC Music and has had many songs in the Country Music Charts, including a number one with 'Since Cheryl Went Feral' and a national hit with 'Don't Call Wagga Wagga Wagga'. He won the Comedy Song of The Year award four times, toured his own show for many years and also toured as part of the Slim Dusty Show.

The Story of Australian English

Kel Richards

I recently interviewed author Kel Richards on my radio show concerning his new book *The Story of Australian English*.

Kevin Barry "Kel" Richards is an Australian author, journalist and radio personality. Kel is an all-round entertainer as well as an author and his familiar voice has been heard around Australia on many radio shows and productions.

He has written a series of crime novels and thrillers including *The Case of the Vanishing Corpse*, *Death in Egypt* and *An Outbreak of Darkness*.

As Kel has worked on both ABC and Commercial Radio I was delighted to have the chance to speak with him, and this new book is just so fascinating it will bring back memories of Aussie English and slang you have long forgotten.

It's a book you can pick up any time and get not just pleasure—but knowledge as well—about our land and its language. Available in all major bookshops in paperback or as an e-book online, this is one I think would be especially handy for many of our writers when looking for real 'Oz' words in their story.

I found it to be one of those books to keep handy, where you can always pick it up and look at interesting words and their history.

Published March 2015. ISBN: 9781742232317

Reviewed by Trevar Langlands



Kel Richards. Image courtesy of Macquarie Media Network Pty Ltd

Jim has written over 20 books and compiled and edited the definitive *Book of Australian Popular Rhymed Verse* in 2009 and later the largest collection of Verse for *Aussie Kids* in 2011.

He has also released many albums of his own songs, verse and humour.

Jim is our special guest at the annual FAW Awards Luncheon on Saturday 14 November 2015.

Poets Voice

PETTY TYRANT

Petty tyrant

dwelling in a hot house tower

of small vocabulary

culturally endorsed

on unearned power

drunk

calling the telling hour

by synchronicity

affected esteem

people of honour and valour
or not

measuring others
by mediocrity

our hopes to die or flower

living standards linked critically

no more

as end-game plans collide

to your limit-ability
by your definition

every situation,
every attempt to dis-empower

do not accept this unreason-ability

Do not be controlled nor defined.

contains mutability

Annette Brown, Blue Mountains FAW

The above experimental poem can be read conventionally from top to bottom, line by line, or it can be read in the separate columns downwards—David Berger, Poetry Editor.

This Anzac Day poem was presented to the Governor-General of Australia [see Literary Achievements North Shore FAW page 19]...

The 25th of April

The 25th of April
this day is mine
but not mine alone
this day is yours
but not yours alone
for it belongs
to the sons and daughters
of all wars
for all time.

© *Michael Burdett, FAWNS*

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.

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>.

Please provide your name and FAW branch.

Short Story

Watershed

cont. from front page

On the other side of the waterfall, scrubby heath plants fill the gaps between the native grasses, some with purple fruits, some with flowers of bright yellows and oranges, and some with fluffy petals in pinks and reds. Flannel flowers dance in bright white skirts and wave on long stems as if asking to be chosen and marked on my dance card. The vibrant red colour of the abundant waratahs in full bloom match the flash of the red under-tails of the black cockatoos that swoop across the waterfall, playing under the water spray. Ah, September is my favourite month.

Distracted, I slip on the slimy, bright green threads of algae at the water's edge. Arms spread akimbo and feet madly grappling for purchase, my heavy-soled leather hiking boots sink into sludgy, sticky mud and entrap me.

'It's best you do as I say,' he growls.

'Why do you wind me up?' he says.

'It's only a small bruise,' he excuses.

As I struggle I inadvertently make a deeper pit for my buried feet. I give up on the effort. Some forces are

Looking for a book illustrator?

THE AUSTRALIAN Society of Authors (ASA) has launched its redesigned *Style File* website, located at: www.thestylefile.com

The Style File is a showcase of some of Australia's most talented book illustrators, featuring author-illustrators, cartoonists, graphic novelists, editorial illustrators and cover artists.

Easy site navigation features allow you to browse illustrators by name or by speciality. Images are organised according to subject, style, intended audience and media/technique. Browse portfolios featuring acrylic, watercolour, gouache, montage, pen and ink, collage and other styles. Browse images intended for all ages from baby to adult, fiction, non-fiction, educational and editorial.

For enquiries about *The Style File*, contact Jacqui Dent, ASA Communications Officer, on (02) 9211 1004 or jacqui@asauthors.org.

too strong to fight against. I just sit down, exhausted, in the mud. Soon my jeans are soaked. I take off my boots, struggling with the knots, now soaked and swollen tight by the water. I throw them behind me up onto the bank.

As I rinse and clean the mud off my clothes, I smell the putrid odour released from the dark, airless, previously undisturbed soil layer under the water. Decay in such a sweet setting is uncomfortable to confront. It reminds me what I have left behind, at home in that demanding city.

I move across from the shallow cloying edge, to the deepest pool of water, and then on again to the stream of the clear flowing waterfall. Fresh, clean and shiny bright, the tiny waterfall droplets sparkle, hiss and moisten the air. This little spout is insignificant, not much more than the spray from a large household showerhead, and yet it brings with it a feeling of vitality—cleansing me from the putrid stench of my entrance at the pond's edge.

The temperature is so much cooler in here, the air so much fresher—I sense the dose of an ozone hit. Is there an electrical storm to follow? I step further into the centre of the pool, and remove my clothes... tops and bottoms. There is no-one here to watch or judge.

I float—arms spread. Body up. Body down. I dive, in a twist, in a deep, deep dive. I leave my awful life in the city behind. *I know I'll never get the outcome I want.*

I hold my breath and try to touch the bottom of the pool.

I exhale and test myself... one, two... thirty! Up I come. *I know my husband will always lie to me.*

I can drink this sweet water, but the clarity is odd—not quite clear, not quite opaque, but a tinted, light shiny brown in colour—like weak billy tea in a camper's white enamel mug. It is not cold, not hot, more the temperature of a baby's bottle tested on the inner elbow, and that is how I feel now... as if I've regressed to an earlier childhood stage where there is no fear, no worry and no conflict.

I'm trying to think of reasons to go home.

I move back to the waterfall, facing upwards and receiving the full fall of water against my body with joy, abandon and relief. My eyes are gently closed, my lips are held softly together, and I begin to feel all my body systems integrate with the temperature and liquidity of the water under this thin yet steady waterfall. I lose the ability to tell the difference between solid, liquid or plasma states and I become one with the water. My breathing doesn't matter anymore.

As I feel my body dissolve into the liquid that surrounds me, I am at once intricately linked, ultimately important and full of a never-ending genuine connectedness with the earth, with life and my loved ones.

I lie back and relax deeply into the water. I can finally envisage the fence-line that will lead me back home. □

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 Snel
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	

*Deceased

Roundup

Port Macquarie Visit

Writers Voice editor Ken Driver was in Port Macquarie in April and attended the branch meeting of Port Macquarie-Hastings FAW. It happened to be on Anzac Day afternoon, and after attending the morning commemorative service at the Town Green cenotaph with his wife Bev and hosts Colleen and Doug Parker—along with thousands of town folk—Ken was welcomed at the 1.00pm FAW meeting.

Being a public holiday, several members were not present. Of those who were, attendees acknowledged the Anzac Day Centenary by reading extracts from family memorabilia of ancestors who served or had first-hand experience of world war conflicts, and we heard about the history of the Laurieton monument.



At the Port Macquarie-Hastings branch meeting, 25 April 2015.
L-R [rear]: Michael Walter, Tom Pearson, Ken Driver, Debbie Bayliss, Brian Tolagson;
[front]: Joy Bilish, Colleen Parker, Connie Jones, Gwen Rees-Hopton,
and [inset] Joie Black, who took the main picture.

The Society of Women Writers NSW

Upcoming Literary Morning Tea Events

Venue: Dixon Room, State Library of NSW, Macquarie St, Sydney

Time: 10 am for 10:20am

Cost: \$35 for non-members, \$40 for SWW members. Workshop \$30 for members and \$40 for non-members.

Details and updates: <www.womenwritersnsw.org>

Bookings by 10am on the Monday prior to each event—text 0403 177 208 or email: <swwlunchbooking@gmail.com>

JULY 08 2015 (AGM)

Workshop: Cat Sparks, 'Crafting the Story that Sells'

Member Talk: Suzanne Gervay, 'Writing across mediums and the world: The Journey of the I Am Jack Books'

Guest Speaker: Alana Valentine, 'Writing the Real'

AUGUST 12 2015

Workshop: Jill Bruce, 'Telling the Truth! Non-Fiction Writing.'

Member Talk: Dr Maria Hill, 'Researching the Anzacs in Salonika in deepest, darkest Macedonia: 1915-1918.'

Guest Speaker: Lisa Shanahan, 'Dragons, Pirates, Bears and Chooks: the Magic of Picture Books.'

SEPTEMBER 09 2015:

90th ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON

Presentation of 90th Anniversary: National Writing Awards for Non-Fiction, Short -Story and Poetry.

Presentation of certificate and awards to past presidents and long serving members.


Guest Speaker: Jessica Rowe AM (author, journalist, media personality & patron of the Mental Health Council of Australia).

OCTOBER 14 2015

Workshop: Judith Beveridge, Two Great Tools of Poetry: Image and Sound.'

Member Talk: Susan Ramage: 'Kokoda Secret'

Guest Speaker: Felicity Pulman, 'Writing other times and other places from Australia.' (inaugural winner of the SWW Di Yerbury Writers' residency in UK.)



You are invited to celebrate the

90th Anniversary

of the Society of Women Writers NSW

Wednesday 9 September 2015
10.00am - 2.00pm
Dixson Room, State Library of NSW

Guest Speaker
Jessica Rowe AM
Author, journalist, media personality
and patron of the Mental Health Council of Australia

*Be part of the most important networking
event for Women Writers in 2015!*

Cost: \$70 members | \$75 non-members
(includes Luncheon)
Book Now at www.WomenWritersNSW.org

Literary Achievements

EASTWOOD/HILLS FAW

Carolyn Alfonzetti:

Poem 'The Dragon Kite' reprinted in *The School Magazine*.
1st Place for short story in Eastwood/Hills FAW March Monthly Competition on Writing For Children.

Beverley George:

Rengay with Kirsty Karkow and Maria Steyn in *Red Lights* 11 (1) January 2015, p.50.

Launched Ron Moss's book of haiku: *The Bone Carver*.
Snapshot Press [UK] at the Allport Library and Museum of Fine Arts, Hobart (February 20th 2015).

Co-judged (with Ron Woollard) British Haiku Society Tanka Awards and Anthology (UK).

Presented workshop on haibun at Eastwood/Hills Fellowship of Australian Writers.

Co-judged (with Ron Moss) Haiku Poets of North Carolina annual rengay competition [US].

Haiku 'fireside knitting' published bilingually (Chinese and English) in *Neverending Story: Butterfly Dream* March 3, 2015.

2 tanka in *paper wasp* autumn 2015.

Wrote article for Member's Choice Tanka The Tanka Café, and tanka published in *Ribbons* vol.11 no.1 Winter 2015 [US].

Rengay 'Driftwood' with Kent Robinson and rengay 'Private Tunes' Kirsty Karkow (US) and Maria Steyn (South Africa) published in *Kokado* 22 2015 (NZ).

Article 'Haiku and the Seasons' first published in *Five Bells* 15 (1) 2007-08, republished in Serbian and English in *Haiku Reality* vol.11 no.19 Winter 2014.

2 tanka in *Gusts* 21 2015 [Canada].

Eight tanka poems translated into Arabic by Ali Znaidi appeared on April 22, 2015 in the electronic Arabic cultural newspaper, *Qaba Qaosayn [At Two Bow's Length]*, (Jordan).

Rengay with Kent Robinson in *Mariposa* #32 2015 [US].

Honourable Mention for haiku Kaji Aso Studio International Haiku Competition 2015 [US].

Richard Hagerty:

1st Place for 'Taking Stock' in Eastwood/Hills FAW February Monthly Competition on Haibun.

Helena Hamilton:

Highly Commended for short story 'A Snitch in Time' in Eastwood/Hills FAW March Monthly Competition on Writing For Children.

Philippa Holland:

Highly Commended for short story 'Apollo' in Eastwood/Hills FAW March Monthly Competition on Writing For Children.

Anne Howard:

Letter published in *Medical Observer* Magazine.

Very Highly Commended for entry in Eastwood/Hills FAW February Monthly Competition on Haibun.

Commended for short story 'Emily's Quest' in Eastwood/Hills FAW March Monthly Competition on Writing For Children.

David Terelinck:

3 tanka in *GUSTS* 21, spring/summer 2015.

Tanka sequence, 'Tinselled with Dust', in *The Tanka Journal* [Japan] No 46, 2015.

2nd place in the 2014 San Francisco International Rengay Contest with 'A Spill of Moonlight' written with Carol Judkins (USA)—to be published in upcoming issue of *Mariposa*.

4 tanka in the anthology *All You Need Is Love*, edited by Amelia Fielden, 2015.

1 haiku in *A Vast Sky: An Anthology of Contemporary World Haiku*, edited by Ross, Kato, Tauchner & Prime, 2015.

Julie Thorndyke:

2nd Place for Toby's Ashes in E/H FAW March Monthly Competition on Writing For Children.

EUROBODALLA FAW

Publication of the group's latest anthology, *Flights of Fancy*, which contains 49 stories and poems by 21 of the group's authors. [See Bookshelf back page].

Suzanne Newnham has been offered a regular column in the online publication, *PNP Authors*, where she will be conducting a Q&A on living with chronic pain.

ISOLATED WRITERS BRANCH

Carolyn Cash:

Won a session with Literary Agent Alex Adsett regarding her historical novel, and flew up to Bundaberg.

Carolyn is still writing, presenting and producing her weekly online radio show, *Right Royal Roundup* <rightroyalroundup.com.au>. So far, now over 5,800 people "Like" the Facebook page, and over 700 followers on Twitter.

Cynthia Rowe:

2 haiga 'I never offered' and 'second time' published in *A Hundred Gourds* 4:2 March 2015.

Haibun 'The Heist' published in *Presence* #51.

Haiku published in *Presence* #51.

13 haiku published in *Paper Wasp* vol 21(1) autumn 2015.

2 haiku published in *A Hundred Gourds* 4:2 March 2015.

Reviewed *Mountains Plains Sea* by Duncan Richardson, review published in *A Hundred Gourds* 4:2 March 2015.

Tanka published in *A Hundred Gourds* 4:2 March 2015.

Haibun 'Ma Vie en Rose...' published in *Haibun Today* March 2015 issue.

4 haiku published in *Creatrix* #28 March 2015.

2 tanka published in the anthology *All You Need Is Love*.

'Last ferry' haiku published on *NeverEnding Story* and translated into Chinese by Chen-ou Liu.

Haiku published in *A Vast Sky* anthology.

Issue co-editor of *paper wasp* Vol 21 (1) autumn 2015.

Judged Eastwood/Hills FAW Pauline Walsh short story award.

2 haiku, 1 tanka, haibun 'Secrets' published in *Kokako* #22.

cont. next page...

Literary Achievements

Isolated Writers

cont. from previous page

Cynthia Rowe:

'War memorial' haiku Honorable Mention in the Jane Reichhold International Prize category 2015 ukiahHaiku Festival, to be published in a printed book with the other winning entries.

Issue co-editor of *paper wasp* Vol 21 (2) winter 2015.

10 haiku published in *paper wasp* volume 21(2) 2015.

2 haiku published in *The Heron's Nest* Volume 16 2014.

Reviewed *The Bone Carver* by Ron C. Moss.

LAKE MACQUARIE FAW

Pam Garfoot:

Published in March/April 2015 issue of *Hunter Professional Arts Magazine*: short story 'Midnight Swim'.

Published in May 2015 issue of *Queensland Family Historian*: article 'Mt Morgan's finest head to Gallipoli' (co-authored with Elizabeth Conway).

Carol Heuchan:

Published in March/April 2015 issue of *Hunter Professional Arts Magazine*: story 'Having Fun: but missing you Aussies'.

Jan Mitchell:

Published in March/April 2015 issue of *Hunter Professional Arts Magazine*: book review 'The Narrow Road to the Deep North' by Richard Flanagan.

To be published imminently: book *Crossings in Realitas* (book launch at the Coastal Cruising Club of Australia on Thursday June 18th).

To be published May/June issue of *Hunter Professional Arts Magazine*: book review 'Scandi-Noir' review of *Spring Tide* by Cilla and Rolf Börjind (translated from the Swedish by Rod Bradbury).

Victoria Norton:

Published in March #247 edition of *Writers Voice*: short story 'Doppelgänger'.

Published in *Junoeseq* literary journal, issue 3, February 2015: short story 'The Cockie's Mother and the Hired Hand'.

Published in March/April 2015 issue of *Hunter Professional Arts Magazine*: poem 'Autumn' and short story 'War Wounds'.

Role on panel of five judges for *The Write Practice* Short Story Competition 2015.

To be published in Issue 2, 2015 of *Hunter Professional Arts Magazine*: short story 'Watershed'.

LIVERPOOL FAW

Toula Pappadam:

Book "*Oh MY!*" *Said the Fly* published in August 2013.

Rick Vincenti:

Short Story 'The Runabout' was placed in the top 100 in the Seniors Week Short Story Competition run by NSW Seniors Card.

Self-published a short story 'The Mystery of Charter Flight 329' and available from Liverpool FAW and *FreeXpresSion*.

Lydia Vincenti:

Judged the Short Story Section of *FreeXpresSion* Literary Comp. 2015.

Rhonda Rice:

Highly Commended for poem 'The Last Night' in *FreeXpresSion* Literary Competition 2015.

3 poems 'Epitaph on an Airman's Grave', 'Mateship' and 'Mother and Child' published in *FreeXpresSion* April and May 2015.

Poem 'The Dawn Service' published in *YOURS* magazine special Anzac edition April 2015.

Poem 'To My Mum' published in *YOURS* magazine May 2015.

MACARTHUR FAW

Paul Phillips:

Winner of in-house writing competition with a story titled 'The Cruel Planet'.

Victoria Chie:

Short story titled 'Cosmic Alignment' accepted by *YOURS* magazine.

MOOCOBOOLA FAW

John Egan:

Poems, 'Petersham Park' in *Positive Words* Feb 2015 and 'Guns', 'Differences' and 'Autumn to May', March 2015.

Poems, 'At Berry Station' and 'After Rain' in *The Write Angle* #50, Feb/Mar 2015.

Poems, 'Smile' in *The Mozzie*, Jan/Feb 2015 and 'Reverence - Pavillion Mountain', 'Frog Hollow' and 'Petersham Park' April 2015.

Poem 'Birdsong' in *Beyond The Rainbow* #78.

Poems, 'An Old River', 'Thunderstorm', 'Facade' and 'For Caroline Byrne' in *Valley Micropress* Jan/Feb 2015, New Zealand.

Poem 'The Artist' in *Positive Words* April 2015.

Poem 'Change of Seasons' Highly Commended in the Adelaide Plains *Climate* Poetry Competition.

Poem 'Two Young Soldiers' in Graeme Lindsay *When Anzac Day Comes Around*, Hobart, 2015.

Poem 'Anchored in the Chi'n Huai River' Commended, Woorilla Poetry Prize 2015.

MUDGEY VALLEY WRITERS

Miriam Bates:

Poem 'Boys Day Out' Highly Commended in Seniors Week Competition.

Joy Hibberd:

Poem 'A Camping Trip Delayed' Commended in Seniors Week competition.

Kevin Pye:

Poem 'Sing A Song of Mudgee' First in Seniors Week Competition.

All Aboard, 8th book of traditional verse launched by TV personality Ken Sutcliffe.

Two poems published in new international Cricket magazine *Between Wickets*.

Jill Baggett:

Short Stories published in *ABC Open*.

Pamela Meredith:

Short Stories published in *ABC Open*.

NORTH ARM COVE FAW

Garry Boyd:

Three poems published in the *Myall Lakes Messenger* (Poets Corner), titles 'Twenty Years', 'On Loneliness' and 'Don't Get Angry'.

Bob Bush:

Shared poetry from his book *From a Bush Poet's Pen* with audiences at Adamstown Lions Club, Morpeth Men's Shed, CWA Clarencetown, St James Morpeth, Wallsend Baptist Seniors and Rathmines/Wangi Probus Club.

NORTH SHORE FAW

[FAWNS]

Len Hume's first novel *Three Friends* has been published on Amazon Kindle.

Michael Burdett's Anzac Day poem was presented to His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, who responded, "While I do not have a role in determining the content of the various ceremonies that I will attend on ANZAC Day, I will keep your poem in case a suitable opportunity arises to read it."

[The poem is reprinted under 'Poets Voice', page 14—Ed].

PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS FAW

Tom Pearson's book *My name's Jennifer and this is my story* is a charmingly different book written through the eyes of his little pet dog.

Gwen Rees-Hopton was awarded as an FAW Writing Fellow.

Connie Jones was awarded a life membership of Port Macquarie-Hastings FAW.

SHOALHAVEN FAW

In April, **Jennifer Dickerson** had a successful launch of her new book *Quirky Verse* at the Shoalhaven City Arts Centre in Nowra. This latest poetry book is a delight to read and is illustrated by her son, Sam Dickerson. Jennifer says: "As a child, I wrote poems and verse to amuse my sisters and I became the class clown with my poems. I hope these verses entertain and give the reader as much pleasure as creating the book has given my son, Sam, and me". Jennifer's written work includes *Against the Tide*, a biography of her husband, artist Robert Dickerson; *Chiaroscuro*, a collection of poetry; and work in *Tangents*, a poetry collection by the Kitchen Table Poets.

STROUD FAW

Elizabeth Bradhurst:

Editor and writer of the Newsletter *Friends of St John's Inc*.

Sharon Burke:

DVD produced for Centenary of Anzac Display, Stroud.

Biographical pieces for Centenary of Anzac Display, Stroud. Historical articles published monthly in *The Pioneer*, R&R, Stroud.

Susan Filson and Dianne Foster:

Facilitators and overseeing *Storytelling in the Great Lakes* exhibition.

Margaret Lang:

Storytelling in the Great Lakes short story selected for a regional touring exhibition.

Peter Uren:

Oration 'Centenary Of The Gallipoli Landing:

25 April 1915–2015' at Raymond Terrace Anzac Day Commemorative Service.

Memoir '136 hours' published on *ABC Open*.

SUTHERLAND FAW

Antoinette Conolly:

Antoinette's five novels including *The Cauchemar* Trilogy were promoted at an International Book Fair in London.

Elizabeth Klein:

Won the Seal of Approval from the Literary Classics Book Awards and Reviews for her second novel in the *Bethloria* series.

Elaine Staples:

Poem, 'Sounds of Life' published in *Positive Words*.

Lynn Sutherland:

Gave a lecture at Australia-wide symposium: 'Dressing and being dressed'. Men & Women in Clothes: on Memory and Wearing. Cultural Studies Department, University of Sydney, 20 February.

With **Prudence Black**, edited a transcript of an interview for Gender and Cultural Studies which will be published for the journal *Cultural Review*, Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Ultimo, Sydney.

Press Releases for Lioness Club.

WYONG WRITERS

Mandy Byrne:

A one act play read by actors at Gosford Anglican Church Hall.

Mavis Gunter:

Play accepted for reading at the Gosford Anglican Church Hall.

Margaret Young:

An item on the theme 'What gets your goat...' accepted by Hunter Writers Centre for its blog competition.



Writing Competitions

Closing date 30 June 2015:

**SOCIETY OF WOMEN WRITERS NSW
90TH ANNIVERSARY
NATIONAL WRITING COMPETITIONS
Poetry | Non Fiction | Short Story**

The closing date for this series of competitions has been EXTENDED to 30 JUNE 2015 to allow even more women writers to participate in this grand occasion.

In an historic first, to celebrate women and their writing, all three competitions are inspired by the theme: 'Giving Women a Voice'.

Write about...

- Women and their place in the world, as mothers, daughters, grandmothers, friends.
- Their humour and courage; their many journeys in the past, the present and the future.
- An event or circumstance facilitating female agency
- A woman acting positively in the interests of women
- A landscape significant to women: rural, regional, urban, wilderness
- An event—large and involving many, or small and intimate—either historic, contemporary or future that resulted in women's voices being heard
- The action of another person or people, resulting in...
- Women stepping, standing out, no matter the genre.

Be part of the adventure as the Society of Women Writers proudly celebrates its 90th anniversary as the oldest literary association in Australia, by writing the stories of women: 'Giving Women a Voice'.

Be in it! Submit your stories, poems, and essays in the writing competitions so that your voice can be part of this historic journey. <www.womenwritersnsw.org/competitions/>

Closing date 31 August 2015:

**2015 MONA BRAND AWARD
SHORT STORY COMPETITION**

Fellowship of Australian Writers Central Coast

1st prize \$200, 2nd prize \$100, 3rd prize \$50.

Maximum 2000 words, open theme.

No entry form needed. \$7 entry fee.

Closing date 31 August 2015.

Conditions of entry:

- Entries must be typed in English, using one side of A4 paper, double spaced in standard typeface of 12pt minimum with generous margins.
- Title of entry and page number to appear on each page of manuscript. No names or addresses to appear on manuscripts. A separate cover sheet must be attached listing the title of the entry, author's name, address, telephone no and email address. Also word count.
- Entries must be original work, must not have won a cash prize or been published for payment at closing date of competition.

- Copyright remains with the author. Entries will not be returned.
- The judge's decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- If you require a copy of the results, send a standard DL sized stamped self-addressed envelope with your entry.
- Cheques and money orders to be made payable to: The Fellowship of Australian Writers (do not abbreviate). No other form of payment will be accepted.

If you would like an individual judge's appraisal, send an extra \$10 with your entry and self-addressed envelope.

Send entries to:

The Convenor, Mona Brand Competition
5/15 Bogan Road
BOOKER BAY NSW 2257

Enquiries to Helen Luidens on 02 4363 2627 or email <helen.johan@hotmail.net.au>

NORMAL COMPETITION CONDITIONS

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

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

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



Fellowship of Australian
Writers NSW Inc.

Closing date 31 August 2015:

**FAW NSW 2015 HILARIE LINDSAY YOUNG WRITERS
SHORT STORY COMPETITION
FOR AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL CHILDREN**

Entries are sought in the following categories:

SECTION 1: Years 10, 11 & 12 Up to 2500 words. Prize \$150

SECTION 2: Years 7, 8 & 9 Up to 2500 words. Prize \$150

SECTION 3: Years 5 & 6 Up to 1500 words. Prize \$100

SECTION 4: Year 4 & under Up to 1500 words. Prize \$50

Entrant's name must appear on the entry form **ONLY**.

The entry fee is \$2.00 (please note that entries that do not include the fee will be disqualified).

Entries to be typed on A4 paper, double spaced in 12pt font. Entries may be sent as a PDF or Word document to <compconvenor@fawns.org.au> (preferred method).

Email must contain the entry, the entry form, and a copy of the direct deposit receipt.

The details for Direct Deposit are as follows –

BSB: 082-936 **Account No:** 17238-9833

Account Name: Fellowship of Australian Writers.

Please use the competitor's name and the competition as the payment details (ie J Doe Hilarie Lindsay), and attach a copy of the receipt to the entry form.

Where the contestant does not have access to email, then the entry may be mailed to the Competition Convenor at the address on the bottom of the entry form. Payment may be made by Cheque, Money Order, or Direct Deposit. Cheques and Money Orders are to be made payable to FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS.

Entries must be student's own work, unpublished and not having won any competition at time of entry. Normal Competition Conditions apply [see page 20].

Closing date for the competition is **31st August 2015**.

Prizes for Sections 1, 2 and 3 will be presented at the FAW NSW Annual Presentation Luncheon on 14 November 2015. Section 4 will be presented at the winner's school.

Results will be published in *Writers Voice* and on the FAW NSW website. Please note that hand-written entries will not be able to be published.

ENTRY FORMS can be downloaded from the FAW NSW website <www.fawns.org.au> or by request to:

The Convenor
FAW Hilarie Lindsay Young Writers Competition
C/- 5/15 Bogan Road
BOOKER BAY NSW 2257

For more information:

Email: <compconvenor@fawns.org.au>

Phone 02 4341 1138/Mobile 0458 375 256.

Closing date 25 September 2015:

FAW NSW MARJORIE BARNARD AWARD 2015
PRIZE: \$500

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY:

(Failure to comply with the following conditions will result in disqualification without refund)

- 1 The Award is for **Short Stories up to 3000 words**.
- 2 Entrants must be permanent residents of Australia.
- 3 Submitted entries must not have previously been published, nor be under consideration for publication, although may have been entered in other competitions but not won a monetary prize. Receipt of entry will not be acknowledged however.
- 4 Multiple entries are permitted, with a separate Entry Form per entry.
- 5 Entry Fee is \$10.00 per entry. Only one cheque/postal order/direct debit is required for multiple entries.
- 6 Cheques should be made payable 'Fellowship Aust. Writers'. *Please DO NOT post cash.*
- 7 The closing date is **25 September 2015**.
- 8 The submission should be emailed as an attachment to <compconvenor@fawns.org.au> as either a Word document, or a PDF. The entry forms, a copy of the direct debit receipt, Cover sheet and Title page, should also be included as attachments. Postal entries will be accepted, if the entrant does not have connection to email. They should be printed or typed on A4 sheets, in minimum 12pt font, on one side, double line spaced and the sheets firmly fixed together. **Hand-written text will be disqualified.**
- 9 The author's identity must appear on the **Entry Form ONLY**. **The author's name must NOT appear on either the manuscript or the title page.**
- 10 A separate cover sheet must be attached containing the title, word count, author's name, address, telephone number and email address (if available). **Only page No. and title of the entry is to appear on each page of the manuscript.**
- 11 The author retains copyright to all work submitted, although prize-winning entries or a precis must be available for publication in the Fellowship's bulletin *Writers Voice* and on the FAW NSW website. Unsuccessful entries will not be returned unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope of appropriate size and postage.
- 12 Entries must be original, creative and inspiring works which present to the audience an engaging work of literary excellence.
- 13 The judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- 14 FAW NSW reserves the right not to award any prizes if, in the judge's estimation, no entries of sufficient merit are received.
- 15 Other than stated here, Normal Competition Conditions apply [see page 20].

THE AWARD:

The Winner will be invited to the FAW NSW Annual Luncheon to be held in Sydney on 14 November 2015, for the announcement and presentation of the Award. Results will be published in the *Writers Voice* and on the FAW NSW website <www.fawns.org.au> ENTRY FORMS can be downloaded from <www.fawns.org.au> or by request to:

The Convenor
FAW Marjorie Barnard Award
C/- 5/15 Bogan Road,
BOOKER BAY NSW 2257

For more information:

Email: <compconvenor@fawns.org.au>

Phone 02 4341 1138/Mobile 0458 375 256.

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

Email: <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,

Cate Plink (Sec.) 4341 1138

5/15 Bogan Rd, Booker Bay 2257

Email: <cateplink@gmail.com>

Web: <[centralcoastfaw@live.com](http://centralcoastfaw.live.com)>

EASTWOOD/HILLS FAW

1st Saturday – 1.00 pm

Senior Citizens' Room, Cnr Farnell &
North Rocks Rds, North Rocks.

Enquiries: Carolyn Alfonzetti
(Pres.) 9869 2715

Email: <carolyn.alfonzetti@me.com>

or one of two Secretaries:

Laura Davis <lauraceede@yahoo.com.au> or Frances Moon

<mria55@yahoo.com.au>

Web: <<http://hillsfaw.webs.com>>

EUROBODALLA FAW

1st & 3rd Wednesdays–

10.30am to 2.30pm and

1st Tuesday 6.30–8.30 pm

McKay Centre, Page St, Moruya.

Enquiries: Rosie Toth 02 4473 6474

Email: <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.

Email: <lakemacqaw2@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@](mailto:lambingflatbranchfaw@hotmail.com)

hotmail.com>

LIVERPOOL FAW

2nd Saturday – 1.00 to 4.00pm

Dr Pirie Community Centre

Cnr Bigge & Moore Sts, Liverpool.

PO Box 4, West Hoxton 2171

Enquiries: Rick Vincenti (Pres.)

0404 496 776. *Email:*

<president@faw-liverpool.org.au>

or Rhonda Rice (Publicity)

<secretary@faw-liverpool.org.au>

Web: <www.faw-liverpool.org.au>

MACARTHUR FAW

3rd Sunday – 1.00 pm

Campbelltown RSL Club

(Jade Room), Carberry Lane.

Enquiries:

Pauline Twemlow (Sec.)

Email: <macarthur@fawns.org.au>

MOOCOBOOLA FAW

3rd Thursday – 1.30 pm

Gladesville Library

Pittwater Road, Gladesville.

Enquiries: Brian Rutter 9817 5508 or

John Egan 9799 3077 / 4464 1719

Email: <jeganjr@hotmail.com>

MUDGE 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

Email: <[thecovenews@exmail.](mailto:thecovenews@exmail.com.au)

com.au>

NORTH SHORE FAW

[FAWNNS]

3rd Sunday – 1.00 pm

Wallerobba Arts and Cultural

Centre,

25 Edgeworth David Ave, Hornsby.

Enquiries:

Len Hume (Pres.) 9477 3723 or

Richard Brookton (VP) 9744 1567

Email: <fawnorthshore@gmail.com>

Web: <[sites.google.com/site/](http://sites.google.com/site/fawnorthshoreregional/)

fawnorthshoreregional/>

PARRAMATTA FAW

2nd Saturday – 12.30 pm

Rita Tebay room, ground floor

of the Civic Building, Civic Place,

Parramatta.

Enquiries:

Esther Bartulovich 0407 076 699

PORT MACQUARIE- HASTINGS FAW

Last Saturday – 1.00 to 4.00 pm

The Mac Adams Music Centre

33 Lord Street, Port Macquarie

[behind the Players Theatre]

Enquiries:

Colleen Parker (Sec.) 6583 3997

or Joie Black 6585 3520

PO Box 67 Port Macquarie NSW 2444

PORT STEPHENS FAW

3rd Thursday – 10.00 am

Tomaree Library, Salamander Bay

Enquiries:

Christine Gregory (Pres.) 4982 2004

Email: <gregorywrite@bigpond.com>

SHOALHAVEN FAW

2nd Saturday – 10.00 am

Meeting Room, Arts Centre

Berry St, Nowra (next to Library).

Enquiries:

Barbara Simmons (Pres.)

Email: <[info@fawnswoalhaven.](mailto:info@fawnswoalhaven.org.au)

org.au>

Web: <[www.fawnswoalhaven.](http://www.fawnswoalhaven.org.au)

org.au>

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

3rd Saturday – 1.00 pm

The Henrietta Rose Room,
Library, Bowral.

Enquiries:

Ken Challenor (Pres.)

Email: <kch34564@bigpond.net.au>

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

Email: <stroudwriters@gmail.com>

SUTHERLAND SHIRE FAW

Last Saturday – 12.30 pm

Sutherland Library, Meeting Room

(Ground Floor), 30-36 Belmont St,

Sutherland. *Enquiries:*

Sylvia Vago (Pres) 9501 2348

PO Box 602, Sutherland 1499

Email: <[sutherlandshirefaw@](mailto:sutherlandshirefaw@gmail.com)

gmail.com>

Web: <sutherlandshirefaw.weebly.com>

SYDNEY CITY FAW

3rd Friday – 4.00 pm

Sydney Mechanics School of Arts,

1st Floor, 280 Pitt Street.

Enquiries: John Clarke 8920 8690

WOLLONDILLY FAW

2nd Sunday – 1.00 pm

Tahmoor Community Centre,

6 Harper Close, Tahmoor.

Enquiries: Narelle Noppert (Pres.)

0438 678 679 or Olivia Mulligan

(Sec.) 0402 091 903

Email: <[wollondillybranch.faw@](mailto:wollondillybranch.faw@gmail.com)

gmail.com>

WYONG WRITERS

4th Saturday – 1.30pm

Wyong RSL Club,

Cnr. Margaret St and Anzac Ave.

Wyong.

Enquiries:

Mei-Ling Venning (Pres.) 4333 7489

85 Oaks Road, Shelly Beach 2261

Email: <[\[hotmail.com\]\(mailto:hotmail.com\)>](mailto:meilingvenning@</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Web: <www.wyongwriters.org>

Fellowship of Australian Writers NSW Inc.



ABN 59 557 152 715

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

Internet: <www.fawnsww.org.au>

Facebook: <www.facebook.com/FAWNNSW>

ABOUT THE FAW

The aims of the FAW are:

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

Branch Meetings

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

The Fellowship of Australian Writers INTERSTATE BRANCHES

Victoria:

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

Tasmania:

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

Western Australia:

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

Queensland:

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

FAW ISOLATED WRITERS BRANCH

MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES:

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

MEMBERS' ACHIEVEMENTS:

The Editor, Writers Voice
65 Barbara Boulevard, Seven Hills NSW 2147
Email: <wveditor@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

EUROBODALLA FAW

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

CLARE BELL

Flights of fancy

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

My Australia

MARGOT SHUGG

Chuck the Train Dog

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

MIKE ROBINSON & TONY MAYNARD

Absorbing Yarns

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

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

Available from the authors at Eurobodalla FAW, or 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. Available from the author for \$18.00 plus \$8.50 postage within Australia. Email <theoldmechanic1@yahoo.com.au>. Peter 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*. Zachary travels again to the magical world of Cauchemar at the request of his friend Mactavish, who is now a wizard. The boy has made three previous journeys there but on the last occasion the ginger cat did not return with him to Earth. Cauchemar is threatened with extinction if an ancient prophecy is not satisfied. Alien assistance is required to complete the task and many difficulties have to be overcome. Zachary and his new companion, Taffy, have many friends who help: Magenta the witch, Bijou the dragon and Ulysses the unicorn (to name a few). Can they succeed in defeating the black magic of Malfactorius and save Cauchemar? 195 pages, appeals equally to girls and boys, requiring only that the reader has an active imagination. Available from the author for \$25 incl. p&p. <a.conolly@optusnet.com.au> or phone 02 9545 4553. See website <antoinetteconolly.weebly.com>.

RECENTLY PUBLISHED BOOKS FOR SALE

Please send details for inclusion in this section to:

<wveditor@fawns.org.au>

or mail to: The Editor, Writers' Voice,
65 Barbara Boulevard, Seven Hills NSW 2147

The FAW Bookshelf web page address is:

<www.fawns.org.au/bookshelf.html>

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>.

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>

SHAWNA HARTLEY

Unsung Heroes Cambodia: People and Projects Making a Difference

About 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> 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 \$12. Order from the FAW Hon. Sec. Maureen Kelly, 22 Promontory Way, North Arm Cove 2324 <honsecretary@fawns.org.au>.



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