

Writers Voice



Autumn Edition #251 MAR 2016

QUARTERLY BULLETIN OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS NSW INC.

Short Story

COUNT DOWN

Dorothy Simmons

IN MELBOURNE Jail, the hangman lies awake. Not time to get up yet. Yawning, he rubs his dead eye, heaves himself on to his side and squints up at the notice tacked to his door. 11.11.1863. Today. Mansfield Murders.

Three for the drop, and one of them a woman. A woman. First time, or first he's heard of it. Stringing up a tart! He scratches his balls. Tasty looking piece, too. For the other kind of drop. But there again, handsome is as handsome does. All the same in the end, under the skirt. Or under the hood. Hanging a woman, though. They must be worried, bringing the time forward and all. Might be worth an extra bob or two.

Time to get up.

Six o'clock. Pale slivers of light finger the grey blanket, climb the grey cell walls. Today. It's today. I suck in my breath, hold it, count to sixty. How many seconds, how many minutes does it take to die? I touch my neck and wince. My collar bone still aches. And I think, it'll ache for the rest of my life.

'Not much of you', Matron Gee said when she came to take my measurements. 'You'll be quick.'

How quick is quick?

Not unkind, the Matron. Not like in the courtroom, not like the rows of angry faces, from the judge frowning down to that goggle-eyed clerk at the front table taking off his spectacles

and rub, rub, rubbing them like he was trying to rub me out of his sight. He'd be Davie's age, that clerk: probably walking out with some nice girl. Not some Jezebel; not some Elizabeth Scott.

Julian Cross. David Gedge. Elizabeth Scott. Guilty. Guilty. Guilty as charged of the murder of Robert Scott. Bob. My husband.

Elizabeth. That would be me. Not Betsy Lockett, not any more. No more bonny Betsy Lockett...

To be hanged by the neck until dead.

How quick is quick?

Time. Marking time, keeping count, tick tick tick; as if you could actually stop it or start it. One second, two seconds, three seconds, same as all those years ago, rolling and pitching in that ship's dark hold. Counting seconds: one, two, three: ten, twenty, thirty, forty, sixty: one minute. Start again: one, two, three: but there'll be no starting again this time. No more adding, no more subtracting, no more times tables.

Davie. Dear Davie.

It might be sunny outside. Sunny Australia: not like Twickenham. There, it was rain outside and in, streaming down the window pane like the whole world was bawling... until Ma dabbed her eyes with the dish cloth, sniffed and shoved me away.

'Give over, Betsy. No use crying over spilt milk. Or George Fitzwater. Call Annie and Louisa. Sarah too.'

New Zealand, that was the go. The colonials were crying out for women, Ma said. Not fine ladies, none of your airs and graces; just ordinary, decent women with their wits about them. They couldn't get enough of us, Ma said. They've had enough of me, Ma.

She'd already booked our passage. Two days out, and Dr. White made her ship's Matron, gave her an apron and the keys to the medicine cupboard. Told you we'd do well, she said, jingling them over our heads. Me and Annie and Louisa joined hands and skipped ring-a-ring-a-rosy, a pocket full of posy, a-tishoo, a-tishoo...

The three of us took it in turn to mind Sarah, run messages, fetch and carry whatever needed fetching

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QUARTERLY COPY DEADLINES:
15 MAY, 15 AUGUST, 15 NOVEMBER, 15 FEBRUARY

FAW NSW Inc. State Council: Biannual Delegates Meetings

Next meeting—Annual General Meeting: Saturday 7 May 2016 (see *Notice p3*).
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: <fawnsww.org.au/membership/writing-fellows/>. The broad criteria for this class of membership, are that the applicant should have had a substantial body of work published and should normally have been a member of the FAW for at least two years. A committee of the State Council adjudicates on each application, which should be forwarded to the Registrar of Writing Fellows, FAW State Council, C/- Hon Sec. 22 Promontory Way, North Arm Cove NSW 2324. The application should:

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

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

Distinguished Service Award

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

Guidelines for assessing recommendations for Distinguished Service Awards:

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

ISBN

Members requiring their FREE ISBN (one number per publication) should, 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

From the President

GREETING TO all Members for this wonderful new Year of 2016, I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

I enjoyed our last *Writers Voice* publication—thanks to Ken and Wayne for their excellent work.

Book Launches

Congratulations to Mavis Gunther on the launch of her book *One and One Make Five*; look for my review in this edition.

It was with pleasure that I also accepted an invitation to launch a new book by Anya Nielsen at the Sydney Russian Club just before Christmas.

We are both members of the Russian Club so it was a lovely surprise to launch the book, having known Anya for some time and being able to really recommend it as I had the chance to pre-read.

Anya's book is titled *An Unexpected Fork in the Road: From Cairo to Nicosia and Jerusalem*, her second book in publication. We had a lovely afternoon and it was nice to have some FAW Members attend as well, an interesting experience for their first time to visit the Russian Club. Nice to see Stefania from our FAW Committee present on the day and also Poet Margaret Ruckert.

My review of Anya's book is also in this edition of *Writers Voice*.



Trevar Langlands on air at 2MCR 100.3FM Macarthur Community Radio.

Promoting books proactively

BOOKS IN HOMES Australia was formed in 2001. They have delivered over two million books to schools, creating a positive response to book ownership in Australian schools as well as outside Australia.

They have role models who go to schools and give a talk to students. I was very honoured to be asked to be part of this program. I was asked to give a short talk on books to 300 students at Claymore Public School, Campbelltown.

I said to students, we all have tablets, e-readers, laptops etc but how many of you still love books as I do... Well!! the sea of hands that went up was wonderful. I took along a couple of school books over 130 years old (Geography and History books) and said these books were used by students over a hundred years ago! And books are still here.

I love my books and there is nothing so good as holding a real book. I helped give out free books to the school and was presented with a school cup. I believe I will be doing more of the same in the future. I think books still have a future despite the dire things people say... I see books read on trains and planes as well as e-readers... and lots of books being published every week. The students I spoke to give me much hope for books into the future.

Fellowship of Australian
Writers NSW Inc



Notice of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, May 7, 2016

Sydney Mechanics School of Arts
1st floor, 'Lawson' room,
280 Pitt Street, Sydney at 10:00am

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

All State Council positions will be declared vacant at the meeting and new officers will be elected for the 2016/17 year. All branches are entitled to have two delegates attend and vote at this meeting or their proxy votes may be mailed.

Any member who wishes to nominate a candidate for office must complete a nomination form.

Nomination and Proxy forms may be found on the BACK of your bulletin's ADDRESS SHEET.

Nominations are sought for:

PRESIDENT
VICE PRESIDENT
HON. SECRETARY
HON. TREASURER/MEMBERS' REGISTRAR
GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS (3)

Nominations will only be called for from the floor if there are insufficient written nominations received.

Nominations must be made in writing, signed by two financial members and the proposed candidate.

Forms and proxy votes to be sent to:

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

– to be received no later than April 30, 2016.

For further information, phone the Hon. Secretary, FAW NSW Inc on 0417 403 720 or email <honsecretary@fawnsw.org.au>

Out and About

Sad to hear of the loss of Beryl Dundas of Blue Mountains FAW. Beryl was fun loving and a valuable member.

Branches have been active the last twelve months... Port Macquarie with workshops and publications; Lambing Flat with their beautiful writing competitions; Liverpool and their anthology; and special congratulations to Mudgee for their Readers Festival, their 4th year. This is a great effort from Members and what a coup to have Ramona Koval from the *ABC Book Show* attending.

Other branches I am sure can get some background pointers to plan their own Festivals. I was most impressed with the line up of guests over the two days.

Thank you to the *Young Street Poets* for inviting me to their Christmas Party at Rozelle. It was great to catch

cont.next page...

State Council News

From the President

cont. from previous page

up with Hilarie Lindsay and other members of Sydney City as well.

For a small area, Stroud is remarkable with their book publications of the late Peter Uren and his "classic bike workshop" series, and members' movie trips.

Sutherland Shire has a great success with their *Writers Unleashed Festival* presenting some really interesting guests and workshops. Thanks to Lyn and her Members—they also have a new venue which sounds really good.

I attended Wollondilly Christmas meeting and party and also Richard Bell's book launch. Always have a great time with the Wollondilly crew.

I love hearing about Branch activities; must say Wyong is also very active with Mavis Gunter's new book and Shirley Goodbar's

book *Kaleidoscope*. Welcome also to Shirley Goodbar as our Poetry Editor for *Writers Voice*.

My condolence to family and friends of Ellis Campbell. Ellis was so well known for his poetry and as a winner of so many competitions. He will be long remembered.

I really must say congratulations also to Valerie Parv who was honoured in the 2015 Queen's Birthday Honours. Valerie is now a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) and very well deserved for her Literary work and involvement.

I had the chance to see some movies over holiday time and really enjoyed *The Danish Girl*, a great cast and a tragic true story of love and sexual identity. I do hope some of you got to see *The Dressmaker*, an excellent cast and a real hoot from a story by a real Aussie author. Good to see another early Australian novel being adapted to the screen.

Those who recall Hazel Phillips being our luncheon guest a few years back may like to know I spent a lovely day with Hazel at her Gold Coast home over New Year. Loads of laughs and talk. Managed to get a selfie.

Trevor Langlands,
FAW State President



Trevor and old pal Hazel Phillips take a selfie. Hazel's poodle Beau gets in on the act as well.

From the Secretary's desk

A NEW year and a **new venue** for our May and November State Meetings.

For many years the State Council meetings have been held at the City of Sydney RSL in George Street, however, unfortunately, due to a change of strategy by the club 'reducing their room hire exemption offers' we can no longer be accommodated at the club. Our thanks was conveyed to board members for their great support of the FAW over the years.

So, we move on!

The Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts (SMSA) has happily agreed to us hiring space at **280 Pitt Street** in future. So, our first meeting at SMSA will be the **Annual General Meeting** to be held **May 7, 2016** commencing at 10am.

I do encourage all branches to send along a delegate or two and maybe one of these delegates would like to nominate for a position on the committee?



Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts building, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney.

Image source: smsa.org.au

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD HONOUR ROLL



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

*Deceased

The committee has been thrilled with the exposure given to the FAW by firstly, Isolated Writers convenor, Carolyn Cash—a dab hand on Facebook—publicising the organisation and, secondly, the very notable increase in contact with the FAW via the internet. Since the unveiling of the new website following the work carried out by *Writers Voice* editor Ken Driver, enquiries have been gathering momentum' in an extraordinary way.

In a week where I received more than the usual number of phone enquiries, I carried out my own survey asking each caller how they found my contact number? Each caller responded, 'On your website,' one caller commenting they found it very informative and easy to navigate around.

The work of the new webmaster, Wayne Jarman, has contributed greatly to this very welcome use of communicating and gathering information about the FAW via the internet.

Competition secretary Cate Plink who, unfortunately, is not enjoying the best of health at present, wishes to remind members that should they require any information about competitions sponsored by *branches*, would they please direct their enquiries to the branch in question.

To close, there is nothing more joyful for me than working with a great committee led by Trevar Langlands. I love the contact either by phone, email or personally meeting branch members and am always available to help in any way should you need assistance.

If you feel you would like to join the State Council, nominate and come along to the AGM where a warm welcome awaits you.

Maureen Kelly OAM
Hon. Secretary



Winners of the 2015 Hilarie Lindsay Young Writers Short Story Awards, **Hazel Law** (Group 2, left) and **Chinmai Saha** (Group 3). Read their Award winning stories in this issue, pages 18 and 20 respectively.

Children's Writing Programme

Vice President

THE FAW Management Committee receives many requests for information, which was the impetus for us to publish the resource book, *Unlock The Writer Within* and we are pleased when we can assist. One such enquiry to our November General Meeting was for some information on conducting a **Children's Writing Programme** outside of school hours.

We are indebted to Jan Tolley who conducted one such excellent programme in the Sutherland Shire for over 30 years and now in retirement has graciously shared her guidelines with the FAW for both a Junior and a Senior programme, at my request.

The package includes General Guidelines: which consist of facts to consider when setting up such a wonderful opportunity for children who love to write; things like suitable venue, length of class time, topics appropriate as prompts, helpers' roles, how music, books, photos, everyday objects can be utilised and having them see some of their work published in various forms.

Along with the Guidelines are two packets of 'examples' of the children's work (A) Junior level is Primary school and (B) Senior level is Secondary school. Each group meets for 90 minutes. Jan used the 3 hour slot after school: 4.00pm–5.30pm for juniors and 5.30pm–7.00pm for seniors. Saturday mornings would also be appropriate but each branch would have specific reasons for selecting their class times. Jan also kept to the school terms, thereby allowing breaks for everyone.

At the recent Management Committee meeting, we decided this valuable information should be made available to all branches on request to the Hon. Secretary, either directly or through the 'Contact Us' link on the website <www.fawnsw.org.au> and a fee of \$25 for the packet. The programme will be mailed to the Branch Secretary who can make it available for the branch members.

NOTE: The Working with Children checks will be a requirement to be involved in this programme. The details can be located at the website <www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/check>.

If your branch takes up this wonderful opportunity to share our love of writing with children, we would love to hear from you later in the year.

FAW Branch Reports

EASTWOOD HILLS FAW

HERE WE are again on the road to publication or just writing for enjoyment; either way I hope we all remember it's not a freeway and take some time to stop and see the 'sites' along the way, for example, Eastwood/Hills new website <hillsfaw.wordpress.com>. Thanks and congratulations to our webmistress Alice Suttie for our bright new easy to navigate site where anyone can easily find out what we've been/are going to be up to.

On that topic, what have we been up to? As always, as a group at this time of the year: not much. Although, if you examine our achievements you'll see what busy little bees we've been individually; with in-house competition placings, wider paid and unpaid publication and even having a go at blogging in my case. I'd love you to check it out at <journeygirlontheroadtopublication.wordpress.com>. That is not to say that we have done nothing as a group. Since the last *Writers Voice* we have had a meeting with accompanying workshop and a wonderful evening of delicious cuisine, camaraderie and delightful literary offerings under the always gracious and entertaining, Laura Davis as MC.

We arrived back in February 2016 fresh and ready to write and were not disappointed as Beverley George expertly eased us back into poetry with a workshop on Terse Verse. Beverley provided us with many opportunities to write and share these somewhat more manageable forms of the genre. We tackled limerick, tetractys and cinquain and were introduced to Sijo—a three line, 44–46 syllable poem which can tell a story, examine an idea or express an emotion.

Artelle Lenthall

EUROBODALLA FAW

I've just spent a month in Europe, specifically France, Spain and Portugal. You're probably wondering what this has to do with an FAW report. As I write I'm trying to hold onto the rich cultural experience that

it was. All that history, architecture, scenery, language, food and other aspects of culture that make it so different to our experience on the south coast. Of course, I've been aware of this on other trips, but perhaps because I'm part of a writing group now I notice more, including all the quirky stuff. There would seem to be plenty of fodder for writing, not travelogues, but ideas that shoot from particular experiences. Using photos to jog the memory to create a journal might be a starting point. I'm looking forward to giving it a go.

A big thank you to our Vice President, Vicki Mennie, for designing our day group's 2016 program. You can check it out at <eurobodallawriters.org>. We continue to run 2 day groups and one night group a month. The latter has just completed a combined novel titled *Alien Zoo*. Some recent successes for two of our day group members are listed under 'Literary Achievements' in this issue.

We've picked up a few new members over the last year and it is wonderful to have their contribution to our group. Everyone has such fascinating stories—bring it on!

Rosie Toth

FOREST FAW

Our Christmas party was a low key but jovial event held in our meeting room at the Forestville Community Centre. Members feasted on an array of finger food and sparkling wine while sharing Christmas jokes, stories and poems.

We have welcomed three new members and look forward to their contributions and fresh ideas.

Two of our poets have already commenced the New Year with success. Both have had Tanka poems published in *Ribbon* and Haiku poems published in *Windfall* magazines.

There have been expressions of interest in our Short Story competition. Details were advertised in *Writers Voice*, summer edition 2015 on page 23. The closing date is April 30 so there is still time to enter. We look forward to receiving a flood of entries. This is the first time our

group has held a competition and we hope to make it an annual event.

We have some exciting writing activities planned for 2016 and we are looking forward to a productive and fun year.

Mary Ann Napper

HUNTER FAW

As it is the beginning of the year, we have very little to report apart from a successful AGM in December when positions were renewed. These are, President: Luciana Croci, Secretary and Treasurer: Christine Brotherson, Assistant Treasurer: Louise Berry.

In February we had a planning meeting for 2016. We continue to meet at The Junction Hotel at Hamilton at 10am on the first Wednesday of each month.

I have decided to include a brief history of our long-standing writers' group written by past president Jan Dean... [see page 11]

Luci Croci

ISOLATED WRITERS BRANCH

We are hoping 2016 will be a fantastic year for Isolated Writers.

However, we regret to say the *Postal Round Robin* has been discontinued due to the lack of submissions and the rising cost of stamps.

Thank you to Margot Shugg for her hard work with running the Postal Round Robin for many years.

Meanwhile, Brian Armour continues the *Electronic Round Robin* for a few participants each month, and it is a fantastic way to receive feedback on your work. Often others can pick up on spelling, typos, grammar and punctuation and suggestions on rewording.

Fellow participants can pick up on anachronisms, especially if you're writing a historical novel too.

I found the Electronic Round Robin very helpful with critiquing my historical novel, and I thank Brian, Jim, Marilyn, Vickie and Elizabeth for their patience and feedback. I hope other members participate and will find the Electronic Round Robin very helpful too.

See p31 for Brian's ERR email address for submissions; **note also, my new 'fawnsw' email address (p2).**

I wish everyone the best with their writing endeavours and success.

Carolyn Cash

LAKE MACQUARIE FAW

Members were delighted to learn that the group's longest serving member, Rina Robinson, had been awarded a Distinguished Service Award following recommendation by the Executive Committee. Rina was unable to attend the FAW NSW annual luncheon to receive her award. However, State Secretary Maureen Kelly made the presentation of Rina's award at our annual Christmas gathering. Rina is a founding member of LMFAW who has been active in the group for many years. She was Vice President for two years and has held various other positions on the Executive Committee. Rina is still an active writer, having written books, novellas, poems, children's stories and much more over the years.

Member, Carol Heuchan, has published her fifth book *Petunia and the pony*, a delightfully funny and award-winning poem illustrated by Canadian Ben Crane.

Recently there was competition success for some members. Kristen Mair was a finalist in the *Newcastle Herald* Short Story Competition again this year, with her story 'Thy youth in twain'. Her shortlisted story was specially mentioned by the judges.



Rina Robinson

Pam Garfoot was also a finalist with 'A matter of respect'. Pam was awarded Highly Commended in the *Port Stephens Examiner* Literature Awards 2015, for her story 'After the chase'.

Kristen will this year be undertaking a Graduate Certificate in Screenwriting at the Australian Film, Television and Radio School, having achieved great results in the Advanced Diploma in Screenwriting for Television course during 2015.

Pam Garfoot

LIVERPOOL FAW

We held our Election for Office Bearers at the February Meeting. We had an extremely busy 2015, much time and effort being put into the compilation, editing and printing of our anthology. Well, we finally published it—'Roaring Silence'—quite a challenging experience and a resounding success to crown it. All behind us now, and off to a new year of successful ventures.

We will not be holding our Summer Open Poetry and Writing evenings this year. We will look at resuming in 2017. This year, we will once more be holding workshops to increase our writing skills and will invite other FAW groups to attend.

We hope to attract more writers to expand our numbers this year. We look forward to a fruitful time in the months ahead. Some of us hope to self-publish our work, and that is an exciting time for all. I think it encourages the rest of our members to increase their productivity.

Rhonda Rice

MACARTHUR FAW

2015 ended on a happy note with our Christmas party, held in November at the Campbelltown RSL Club. Organised by Secretary, Pauline Twemlow, the occasion was a great success, with trivia, delicious food and decorations all adding to the festive atmosphere.

It seemed like no time before January rolled around we were back at our first meeting for the year. Finances were found to be in good order and notice given of the

General Meeting, scheduled to take place in February. With all committee positions up for election, members were encouraged to put themselves forward. Then it was down to writing:

An exercise entitled 'The Most Interesting and/or Useful Invention of the 20th or 21st Century' set pens in motion with responses as varied as the zipper, the reversing rocket, the personal computer, an improved insulin needle for diabetics and, on a more abstract plane, Einstein's Theories of Relativity. It was interesting, also, to hear what colleagues had been reading during the break. Authors ranged from Terry Pratchett to Herman Melville. There followed a lively discussion of movies that people had seen during the holiday period, with *The Revenant* and *Youth* high on the list; a nice follow-on from an interesting article that Margot Shugg had written in the January issue of our in-house bulletin *Inkblot*, describing her love of reading, as well as books she had read during 2015.

In an effort to attract new members, Campbelltown Library has agreed to display copies of our business card in its Community Notices display. As a registered community group, we have a strong connection with the library which has been very helpful to us in the past.

Continuing the library theme, State President, Trevar Langlands, informed us that, beginning in May, he will be hosting a series of author talks as part of the upcoming Sydney Writers Festival. He also told us about a visit he had made to Claymore Primary School during Book Week. When he asked the students who liked books, he was met by a sea of hands.

Robert Bee's one-act play *2201—A Space Idiocy* was well received in its November 28 performance at the WINGZ Playwright Festival, To Boldly Go Competition. Bob was delighted to hear the audience responding to the dialogue in the way he had intended. We look forward to hearing about further successes.

Congratulations to Barry Flanagan on winning our latest in-house short story competition on the theme of

cont. next page...

FAW Branch Reports

Macarthur

cont. from previous page

'A Gift'. Barry's entry was entitled 'That Special Penny'.

A significant event: In commemoration of the Gallipoli Centenary—April to December 2015—Graham Smith has launched a book of poetry entitled *McDonald's Empire*. A very talented writer, Graham has had work published in prestigious literary magazines. We wish him every success in this new venture.

It will be interesting to see what 2016 brings; a few surprises, no doubt; but one thing we can be sure of: the wide variety of writing that will continue to flow from the pens (more likely, PCs) of our enthusiastic members.

Bernard Russell Smith

MUDGEY VALLEY BRANCH

This year Mudgee Valley Writers is 30 years old, so we want to make it a special one.

We are looking forward to the Norman McVicker Inaugural Youth Award occupying our group for the next couple of months. Entries have been received from all over Australia and we are looking forward to seeing the final results announced when the judging process is complete.

We have a workshop planned for June exploring Visual Literacy and the making of Photo Books.

Our fortnightly column, 'The Ink Spot', continues in *The Mudgee Guardian* for the 6th year. Our members contribute, but also other local writers with submissions of short stories or poems.

Jill Baggett

NORTH ARM COVE FAW

Members set their 2016 program at the first meeting for the year held in February which was also attended by two 'possible' new members. They have been invited to attend three meetings no charge and then apply to join. If they do become members it will be a nice boost to membership

figures, which are, to say the least, very healthy!

The North Arm Cove branch will continue sponsoring short story writing competitions for local primary school students at Karuah and Tea Gardens Public Schools. Both schools have invited members to be involved in writing programs during 2016. Karuah School has invited two members to talk to students about the guidelines relating to writing poetry while Tea Gardens will again welcome members to attend the school and help with students' short story writing. Members really relish this involvement as we all know 'our youngsters are the writers of the future!' [see 'Sharing your expertise with youngsters', page 16—Ed]

At the close of last year, in my capacity as Hon Sec of FAW NSW Inc, I spent a very pleasant afternoon attending Lake Macquarie FAW's Christmas party where I presented Rina Robinson with her well-deserved Distinguished Service Award.

'Fellowship' in writing was also appreciated by members who met up with Port Stephens FAW members prior to Christmas who travelled over by ferry from Nelson Bay to Tea Gardens. Everyone enjoyed the hotel's hospitality, the lunch and the camaraderie associated with meeting new friends and renewing friendships with many North Arm Cove members they have known for a number of years.

Long may 'fellowship in writing' continue!

Maureen Kelly

NORTH SHORE BRANCH [FAWNS]

2015 ended on a high for FAWNS. Hornsby Shire Council's Festival of the Arts was held in November, with one of the highlights being the broadcast on 2HHH 100.1 FM of the FAWNS radio play *The Developers* in front of a live audience. The program went to air at 7.30pm on Saturday 28th November from the Beatrice Taylor Hall at Wallarobba Arts Centre. Actors from the local dramatic

arts centre, Stepping Out Theatre, participated in the performance.

The FAWNS annual Christmas get-together at the Blue Gum went off with a bang to cap off the year.

At our first meeting for 2016 four visitors attended with a view to becoming new members. It is heartening to know that our website enquiries and our rapid response system to emails can be so encouraging to would-be members.

Richard Brookton

PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS

Hi to all our fellow FAW writers and a Happy 2016.

Well two thousand and fifteen was an up and down year for us but none the less it was a productive one. Even though several members were unwell during the year most are up and fighting fit now, we are most happy to say.

Now with our first meetings of the year under our belt we are looking forward to another exciting year. At our January meeting we welcomed two new prospective members and, at time of writing, we are expecting yet another two prospective members at the February meeting.

Tom Pearson launched his second book in December, *Almost an Ordinary Life*—[see *Achievements section and Bookshelf this issue*]—and Gillian Scott's first novel *Threads of Time* was passed around for members to review. Tom is hoping to write yet a third book in the future.

Our end of year luncheon at Lighthouse Beach was a roaring success and a marvellous time was had by all. As a Christmas memento one or two pieces of each member's work were made into a book as a gift for each member. This proved to be a really great little collection and was much enjoyed by us all.

We thank our Secretary Colleen for this nice idea.

Our plans for this year are looking exciting too with some interesting people coming as speakers.

Our AGM this year will be at the March meeting.

Joie Black

SHOALHAVEN FAW

Our Shoalhaven branch meetings continue to be entertaining and stimulating.

At our January meeting, member and well regarded poet, Elaine Chin conducted a successful workshop on writing poetry. Thanks to Elaine, we all felt a renewed enthusiasm for poetry.

At our February meeting, member and Forensic Science teacher Juan Alvarez fascinated and informed us of the intricacies of Forensics and Biometrics (physical identification based on physical attributes). This was excellent information for all of our writers who are interested in crime writing.

We all walked away from both meetings feeling inspired and energised.

At our March 12 meeting, member Geoffrey Grocott was scheduled to share the information he gained before he self-published his book *Love, War and Motorbikes* in print and on-line.

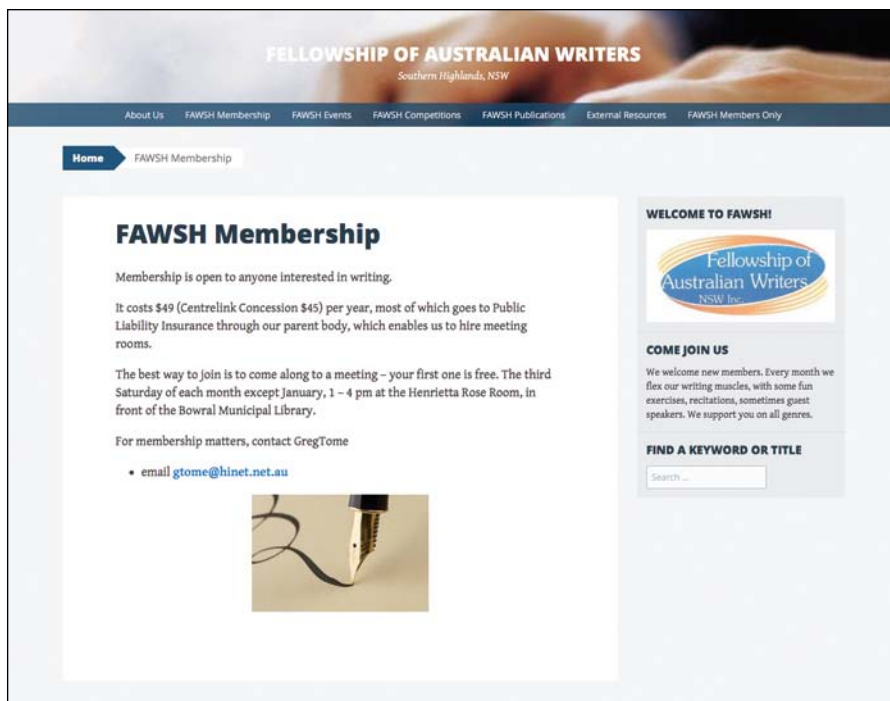
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SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS FAW

This year we are going all out to encourage the active participation of all of our members. Some of our people are currently unable to attend meetings because of ill health or family commitments. We are going to make it easy for them to get access to everything that we are doing at meetings. We will do this in two ways: through our Web Site and through the ordinary postal service for those without a computer. Nobody needs to be excluded because of an inability to make it to the meetings.

Our web site <fawsh.wordpress.com> has the facility to publish members' work for information and for assessment and we are making sure that everyone knows about it. Those without a computer are urged to send material to our webmaster Brian, who will publish it. The material should not be too long, maximum one full page. Any format is accepted from short stories, through poetry to criticism, magazine articles or what you will.

This year we are pursuing our Short Story Competition which will



The new Southern Highlands FAW website

initially be available only to residents of the Southern Highlands. We are making it open to people of all ages and the winners will be published in our next Anthology as well as winning cash prizes which are partly sponsored by Wingecarribee Shire Council. Our last Anthology has been a great success and only limited copies are still available if you are interested in buying! We owe a debt of thanks to our own long-time member Jenny Crozier who has now relocated to the Newcastle area. The next publication will be edited and compiled by me and I look forward to receiving members' contributions as soon as our launch is complete. Start working now. Watch out for full information later in 2016 and note that we are currently planning publication during 2017.

There is a very active theatrical development Group in Bundanoon called the Crash Test Dramas. Every month a group of 10-minute plays get instant production on the stage of our excellent Memorial Hall, judged and critiqued by a professional guest and performed before an audience. The first Crash Test Short Plays were performed on Saturday February 6 at Bundanoon and Awards were given to our members Greg Tome for best play, judged by Michaela Bolzan, *Crumbling of the Cookie* which was also chosen as best play by the

audience. Our vice-president Brian Haydon also won a Development Award for his play *Pack Up Your Troubles*. Congratulations to both!

Dr Barb Angell

STROUD FAW

Our group has been celebrating the premiere of the film based on Elizabeth Bradhurst's winning entry of the Friends Of Great Lakes Library Writing Competition 2015. We were chuffed that *Not Just Books*, was the opening film at the Forster Film Festival. Film maker, Greg Smith, successfully captured the essence of the story. The actors, all amateurs, were outstanding.

It was also rewarding to have some recognition given to cultural activities in our community, by having a Local Arts Champion Nomination in the Australia Day Awards. For a small community it means a great deal. The importance of 'The Arts' is so often over-looked. You are extremely fortunate now-a-days if you live in an area where cultural activities are nurtured. On a daily basis, we are subjected to storytelling in all its forms: verbal, written, music, visually, or dance—but when financial assistance is requested... many creative people are prepared to share their talent for little or no recompense, and rely on

cont. next page...

FAW Branch Reports

Stroud

cont. from previous page

groups to provide critical assessment, encouragement and friendship.

Elizabeth Bradhurst is liaising with Stroud Road, Stroud and Booral Public Schools to give support for a writing competition to tie in with the local history segment of the curriculum. Our members will provide mentoring, judging and prizes.

Writing exercises (for those who need time away from larger writing projects) have included: the pitfalls of tautology; writing a 120 word précis of a 1200 word short story in the original style and not reveal the surprise ending; 700 words on the topic of 'Summer'.

At time of writing, we planned a one-day workshop 'The Long and Short Short Story' to be presented by Megan Buxton, offering ideas as to how to create memorable stories.

Susan Filson

WYONG FAW

Three new members joined our Wyong Writers group early in the New Year; Tony Armstrong, Pat Webb and Jan Forrester. At the AGM in December, our long-standing publicity officer, Margaret Young, stepped down and was replaced by Tony Armstrong. Everyone else continued in their respective roles.

Mavis Gunter gave a very informative presentation on the whys and wherefores of memoir writing. Her book, *One Plus One Makes Five*, was taken up by our local ABC Radio in an interview with her. An extremely enjoyable and interesting read for anyone. [See 'Bookshelf' page 32].

Member Margaret Young is currently undertaking a six week workshop with the Hunter Writers Centre which will cover flash fiction, poetry memoir and the short story and will report back to us in April.

Our weekly critiquing group, Scribblers, meets every Monday at 12.30 for three or four hours at a local Wyong venue, the Lunchbox Café, with a good turnout of between

five and ten. Scribblers also, now have a closed Facebook group. This is specifically for sharing information regarding critiquing. It is experimental at this stage.

Our February 27 meeting was a Critiquing day. Mandy, Jan, Elizabeth and Barbara brought work. Our in-house poetry competition was defined by the subject 'Nature'.

Below are some features of our upcoming meetings:

MARCH 19, 2016 (Note this is the 3rd Saturday not the 4th—change because of Easter): Focus of meeting will be the short story. Will members please bring notes from workshops and courses specifically on the short story form that they have attended. More details on the Wyong Writers website.

APRIL 16, 2016 (Note this is the 3rd Saturday not the 4th—change because of Anzac Day): Critiquing day. More details on our website.

We welcome visitors to our Club on any meeting day and they are asked to contact President Mei-Ling Venning on 0434 018 648 in case there may be changes to the proposed programme.

Don't forget to visit our website <www.wyongwriters.org>

Tony Armstrong, Publicity Officer

WOLLONDILLY FAW

Our Branch held a very enjoyable Christmas Party at Andy and Mary Renella's house at Bargo on the 13th December (*pictured below*). Most members were able to attend and we had the pleasure of having FAW NSW State President, Trevar Langlands as a guest.

The venue was excellent as was the food, drink and the conversation, part of which as would be expected, revolving around writing and books. It was a very enjoyable afternoon.

We are now looking at producing another Anthology later this year, it being a couple of years since the last one was published.

We had a well-attended January meeting, and at our February meeting we had a visitor, Anna who wrote about her difficult young years as a child in Germany during WWII, along with previous member from some years back, Lena, who shared a lovely poem with us called 'A Storm Brewing'.

Work is underway to publish a book by long term member Maysel Ode. Maysel has been a member since our group began in 1993. Besides her wonderful country stories and poems her book will include her delightful painting.

Sandra Reynolds



Wollondilly branch members at their Christmas Party with guest Trevar Langlands.

History of the Hunter Branch of the Fellowship of Australian Writers

I JOINED Hunter FAW towards the end of the twentieth century attracted by a picture/poetry competition organized by Marie Henery (Walther) who had worked with Roland Robinson, the celebrated poet. The open exhibition shown in the Newcastle City Hall attracted many entries of a high standard, judged by Nick Mitzevich who is currently the Director of the Art Gallery of South Australia. Membership was big enough to divide the group into a prose and poetry section and the executive met before the meetings held on a Sunday afternoon each month at St Andrew's hall, underneath the church, beside Civic Park.

The group originally met at Broadmeadow High School, now the School of Performing Arts. Some members travelled from Port Stephens and Lake Macquarie until branches formed in those areas. Karen Whitelaw, a former member from those early times, teaches writing of short stories at WEA, after extended study at Newcastle University.

Lisbet de Castro Lopo, a former university lecturer and author of two published novels, was President when I joined. She resigned to establish *Catchfire*, an independent, community-based 'boutique' press. Lisbet died in 2002 and Ron Vickress took over as President. His eventual move north saddened us. Don Cohen, who was also a diligent member, is now chairperson of Catchfire Press.

While Pam Jeffery was Hunter FAW President, and her husband Phil, Treasurer, our venue changed to a coffee shop close to the east end of Newcastle, but noise from traffic and the espresso machine prompted a move to our current venue at the Sydney Junction Hotel, Hamilton. Attractions there include free usage, pleasant surroundings, proximity to the railway terminus, off-street parking and refreshments to follow our meeting. Sadly, Pam has been

unable to attend meetings for a number of years.

The late Ray Bell joined our group after his wife Jean died. She had been a keen member and gifted speech teacher. Ray was a charming man and an impressive treasurer whose bright outlook and attention to detail was legend. Fortunately, over time, others stepped up to take the reins.

The last time we ran the Denis Butler competition in honour of the *Newcastle Herald* journalist whose work made a significant difference in people's lives, Pam was eager to elicit the help of Lake Macquarie FAW. Margaret Watts, a former Hunter member and children's writer made a substantial donation to provide higher prize-money. The event, held at Charlestown, was superb; Judith Beveridge, the poetry judge, travelled from Sydney. Profits were shared with Lake Macquarie. Margaret, who was President of Port Stephens FAW for a time, died a few years ago as did Ferma McLean who was a benefactor. Denis Butler's work led to the establishment of the organization Jigsaw for adopted children searching for their biological parents.

We enjoyed the presence, while they lived, of fascinating members like playwright Roma Duff, whose close theatrical connections entertained and enlightened us. Jeannette Brewster, multi-talented and quieter, was no less enthusiastic. Alice Sinclair had strong literary convictions and a wonderful sense of humour. She remained a member of our group while she helped launch Lake Macquarie FAW, where a competition in her honour has been run since her death.

When I was elected Secretary, and Eileen Dillon-Smith President, it became apparent we could reverse the roles for expedience, and we did. We instigated a planning meeting for the first meeting of the year in January. In this way we were able to programme strategies like homework, workshops and challenges for

members to take the responsibility for a meeting here and there. Spontaneous writing to surprise topics is always well-received. Over the years we've had workshops of an inspirational or critique form by luminaries of the likes of Judy Johnson, Jean Kent, Judith Beveridge, Beverley George, Jacqueline Winn, Barry Maitland, Zeny Giles and Dael Allison. Our members have been well-represented in lists of successful competitors and they regularly participate in awards.

For a long time we have debated the issue of declining numbers. Attracting young members would be an answer, but the desire of current members to meet on mornings during the week overrides alternatives. Since I became a member creative writing courses at Newcastle University have increased in popularity, the Hunter Writers Centre established and grew, U3A attracts short-term attendance, Poetry at the Pub, WEA and TAFE vie for attention. Local libraries provide short courses and online tutorials are available. With so much competition (and some of our members assume one or more of these opportunities) we dig heels in further, although we often venture out on the first meeting in September for a spring excursion.

However much I would like to write about the contributions of numerous individuals, space prevents this. More than anything else, the personalities and enthusiasm of members attract me to retain membership. I've learnt over the years writing is an ongoing, cumulative pursuit. Space shared with like-minded people is extremely beneficial and inspiring. Similar interests of reading and writing and generous spirits for readiness to support and share also make for a good social set. We keep busy and enjoy lots of laughs.

Jan Dean,

Past President, Hunter FAW

Short Story

Count Down

cont from page 1

and carrying. After that we could go to Reverend Eade's lessons. Annie and Louisa got bored, but I never missed one. He made me his Monitor, in charge of the slates and the chalk. And then I thought of the mentals. Mental arithmetic. So when the hatches were down and we couldn't see to read, he could still give us sums to do in our heads.

I was better than anyone, boys included. That's when he gave me my handkerchief, for a prize. You'll go far, my girl, he said, you'll go far.

Here it is. Bit crumpled, but still beautiful. White linen, with silky white roses stitched into each corner.

Dr. White wrote Ma a reference. He said going to New Zealand was a mistake, that there were better opportunities in Melbourne. So we got off one boat and straight on to another. He was right. Six months later, our Annie was a married woman and Ma was engaged to be housekeeper somewhere called Goomalibee Station near somewhere called Mansfield.

Such a hot, bumpy, ride on the coach as that was, with no idea how far it was and Sarah going are we there yet. But out the window the sky was blue and the trees were silver and once we saw a kangaroo, just for a few seconds, bounding along right next to us before it disappeared into the bush...

'Look, Betsy, look!' Sarah bounced and bounced on the seat till her fits started and we had to take turns holding her down.

I used to love the way you said Betsy, so slow, so smiley, like you were tasting it.

The crack of that shotgun: I can hear it yet. The crack of doom.

The look on Elias' face, coming out of the bedroom: no way, he said.

No way in the world Bob could have shot himself, not lying like he is.

I looked at you; you kept looking at the floor. Oh, we should have bolted right there, right then, changed our names, lived rough, anything... lived...

Shut up, you said, shut up. I have to think. Pray, I whispered, don't think, pray. Forgive us our trespasses, forgive those that trespass against us... you spun me round by the shoulders.

'Say this after me, right? Say this...'

I said it. Yes, outside when I heard the shot. No, didn't see Julian Cross. Yes, did see David Gedge, outside, running to Elias' wagon. Yes, Bob always kept a pistol beside his bed; except it wasn't a pistol shot that killed him, was it? It was the shotgun, the shotgun you gave Julian to load...

'The black fellow's shot Bob,' you said.

You meant Julian, though he wasn't. I suppose people called him that because of his shiny black hair. His skin was browner, that was all.

Bob's arm was sticking out from the bed, his hairy big arm, so stiff, so heavy. I wanted to hide it under the blanket. I kept worrying the boys would wake up. But they slept through the whole thing, in behind the boxes Bob had stacked up to stop the noise from the shanty waking them. He did a good job.

When Ma said Bob Scott wanted to marry me, I laughed. But she wasn't joking. She said I'd be fourteen soon, we had to think ahead. She said Bob had come to see her, that he'd done riding boundaries. He was setting up a shanty on the Delatite road and he needed a wife. He'd had his eye on me for a while, had I not noticed?

No. No, I had not noticed. He was just another one of the men who chucked me under the chin and teased me for taking the horses' carrots and left over bread. I've always liked horses.

'Well, there you are. He's a horseman.'

'But Ma, he's so old, I couldn't...'

'Couldn't what?'

'You know. What people do. Love, courting, all that.'

'Love? Don't talk to me about love. Love's not going to pay the bills or keep a roof over your head. Here today, gone tomorrow, that's love. But tomorrow's bills still need paying, tomorrow still needs a roof over its head. Sarah, now. These fits of hers, they're getting worse. She needs to see a doctor. How am I supposed to pay for a doctor? Dear God, girl, look around! What else are you going to do?'

I didn't know. So I ran down the paddock to the horses; I let them crowd round me and nuzzle...

What else are you going to do? I put my arms round Peggy's neck, buried my face in her mane. She stood perfectly still, her neck solid and warm. I thought about being boosted onto her back, riding round the paddock with the wind in my hair, able to see for miles and miles... Ma was right. This was better than Twickenham:

It was Bob's idea to boost me.

And Sarah was my little sister.

See how the embroidery catches the light? White on white.

After we signed the registry, Ma hugged me. She said Bob had promised her he'd take his time.

'What do you mean?'

'You'll find out.'

I used to look over his shoulder and count. Like Ma said, you just have to get used to it. It wasn't so bad, really. At least, not till he got on the grog. I mean, he didn't run off on me, not like Ma's George or Annie's Malcolm. Too shickered to run anywhere, never mind run the shanty. Couldn't even add Julian's wages up right. The first time I showed him his mistake, he gave me a clip round the ear. Julian was a chink, a black fellow, dago, nigger. But then Julian walked out and there was nobody to cook. He said he'd come back, but only if I did the accounts. So Bob changed his mind.

I liked the accounts. It took my mind off burying babies.

Three little graves, all in a row. Then, finally, Johnny. And a year later, little Tommy. Bob stood drinks all round. Any excuse. At first, he'd bailed punters up if he thought they were getting too friendly with me, but after a while

he didn't even notice. Or said it was good for business. Not that there was ever anything to notice, not before Davie.

Reverend Singleton said don't cry, pray. Your babies are in a better place. That's what I should be doing now: praying. Repenting, like the judge said. But how can I repent what I didn't do? And I can't repent what I did do either. Davie, Davie, when I said I'd die for you, I never thought I'd have to...

Julian twiggged long before me. It was the one time his every single word came out perfect, smooth and round as stones in a river.

'I'm innocent, but I'll hang for it.'

Do you have nightmares, Davie, like I do? Bob's eye, blasted out of its socket, does it glare at you too?

Your hands stroking my face, skimming my throat, cupping my breasts, whispering how he couldn't stand the thought of that man's dirty great paws mauling me: But we only had to wait, my love, we only had to wait! Bob was on the way out, he said so himself. His heart, he'd a dicky heart. But he would not go near a doctor. Shysters, he said. Crooks.

You wouldn't listen. You never listened.

Stop. Get up. Make yourself decent.

* * *

Carefully, Sir William Stawell lowers the heavy horsehair wig onto his head. He tweaks it this way, tweaks it that; stalks to his armchair. With a swirl of scarlet robe, he is seated. He nods at the man behind the easel and composes himself to sit perfectly still for the next hour.

By which time he should have got word about the execution: the first execution of a female in Victoria. Unbelievable. Although when you came to think about it, it was, after all, a woman who brought sin into the world in the first place. Eve. Adam's downfall. Not to mention Lilith; Jezebel; the Whore of Babylon etc. He did not anticipate any difficulty: good idea, though, bringing it that hour forward. One never knew how the rabble might react.

Absolutely brazen. Those big eyes, you'd think butter wouldn't melt... but hard as nails. No tears, no pleading. Not so much as a blush. Doubt she'll keep it up, though. The pinioning, that's what breaks them, the pinioning.

Men, now, they'll confess, they'll repent. Females, never. And then they drag their men down with them. That Gedge boy, good character by all accounts until he met her. They get away with it too, plead pregnancy, bat their eyelashes, pretty please; get off with a rap over the knuckles. Well, not on his watch. What was it the Inspector General said, opening the jail's new female ward? 'The most depraved of their sex'. Absolutely.

He only just stops himself from shaking his head.

* * *

Voices in the corridor. Time.

Braiding, keep braiding. Up off my neck.

Bit of neck draws the punters, Bob used to say. It was braided that afternoon he came bustling in, pleased as punch, to tell me Bevan coaches would be changing horses at his shanty.

'My wife, Elizabeth. Elizabeth, this is David Gedge. Bevan's man. He'll be lodging with us.'

You smiled. I smiled. You took my hand and kept holding it while Bob poured. The world felt bright all of a sudden, echoey...

When I went out to feed the horses, I knew you'd follow.

So neat, so fine: should have been a jockey. Hair the colour of straw, lashes long as any girl's. Funny too: you'd have us all in stitches, the way you could do Julian's stutter, or punters whingeing, or Bob slurring his words...

You... undoing my braids, your lips on my neck... I had no idea skin could feel like that. No more counting seconds, no, losing, drowning myself in them...

I can't hate you. I should. But that's for Julian, that's his right. He should hate me too, for not telling them, even though I knew... no. Not telling them because I knew.

Last braid. Right. Black dress. Jezebel, hissed that woman in the front row.

Johnny. Little Tommy. Not even a goodbye kiss. When they ask about their mother, what will they be told? Annie promised, swore she'd tell them my side when they're older...

I will never be older. I used to think twenty three was old. I mean, you were only nineteen. I used to say I didn't know what you saw in me... just so you'd pull me down in the straw and show me. You used to say I was the reason men came to the shanty, that together we could make it a goldmine.

I used to say that you were my reason.

People have always said I'm pretty, always smiled, always liked me. Till that courtroom. Judge Stawell: slit eyes, slit mouth. Sergeant Moors, stiff as a post in the jury box, staring straight through me. He didn't stare through me in the Benalla lockup, nor in the cart on the Melbourne road. Oh no, he was sorry for me then, poor little pet, come to daddy... hand on my leg...

I jumped up. He shoved and I fell onto the road.

Every pothole from there to Melbourne stabbed straight through my collar bone. I wouldn't cry. I counted. Added, subtracted, said my times tables...

Like a row of empty bottles, that jury: cold and dark and dusty. Up in the gallery, their wives one long hiss when Elias said he'd seen Davie and me go into the barn...

Don't look at Davie, said Mr. Stephen, you'll make matters worse. But how could they be worse? Just a glance, just a single solitary glance...

Davie? Head down. Back turned. Julian between him and me.

I twisted my handkerchief tighter...

'Criminal passion', said Prosecutor Smyth. Hiss. Purse lipped women with shoulders pinned high; telling beads, flashing crochet hooks. One lifted the end of her shawl and wiped her mouth.

Count. Add. Subtract. Times tables.

* * *

In front of the church, the two women link arms.

'They'll be far better off at the orphanage', says Annie.

'Of course they will; far too much to expect you to take them. You've done all you can.' Louisa squeezes her sister's arm.

'They're very well spoken of. The couple in charge.'

cont. next page...

Book Reviews

One and One Make Five

Mavis Grant Gunter

MAVIS GUNTER was born at Canley Vale, a suburb of Sydney. She lived in Marsden Park until 1949 has been writing since she was a child and has had poetry and stories published as well as plays produced.

Mavis was a recipient of the FAW NSW Distinguished Service Award at the November 2015 Awards Luncheon.

But it's not just writing that Mavis excels in; she does knitting, sculpture, doll making, spinning, as well as teaching Chinese brush painting—and that's just a start.

Mavis recently produced her book *One and One Make Five* published by BookPal.

Mavis writes of a past many of us would like to return to and I guess to young folk of today this is a totally alien world—no mobiles, no TV, no tablets except for medication.

It was more a time of trust, a time of friendliness and simple pleasures and hard work.

People who did not live in the bush really missed something but they can really live it through this wonderful book. You can smell the dust and feel the breeze through the trees.

It's a joy to recall the days of milk from the cow (oh is that where it comes from!), making fresh butter, socks were darned not thrown out, velvet soap was there for washing clothes and humans, the blue bag helped bee stings, props were for clothes lines, so many things I had forgotten about or not been part of.



The opening lines of the book got me in, as the family set off in the Ute from their new home in Marsden Park in 1932—in those days just paddocks and bush. What a hairy start to a new life it was.

There are wonderful photo shots in the book of family life in the period and the atmosphere of early days is captured so well.

There are many things about Sydney suburbs that will come as a surprise to readers and we forget that people went through the

Depression and did without water or electricity in many areas, not to mention the outdoor dunny—the very things we take for granted today—and they raised a family of good Aussie citizens.

One thing that comes through is the love of family and the harsh beauty of the bush.

There is also an excellent epilogue of information about various family members and how they progressed through life, as well as an area of explanation to younger readers on the meaning of measurements, games that were played and the way people survived by making use of whatever was available.

This is a book the younger family members should read, it will give them some idea of how the older generation made it under their own steam with no handouts around.

The book is available from Mavis via the Wyong Writers website <www.wyongwriters.org> or from the publisher at <my.bookpal.com.au>.

Reviewed by Trevar Langlands

Count Down

cont from previous page

'And we'll visit, of course. It's not like we won't be keeping an eye on them.'

The church bell chimes. The women start; together, they bow their heads, knot their fingers. Four. Five. Six...

'Remember the way she was always counting? The sums she could do in her head?'

'I used to think it wasn't fair. Having the looks and the brains too.'

The clock chimes for the ninth time.

'She's on her way.'

Her handkerchief: how many stitches to a rose? You'd have to count how many roses and multiply. But each rose might not have the same number. You'd have to work out an average.

Reverend Eade: will he read about me in the paper? Will he recognize me, will he remember giving a girl called Betsy a handkerchief and telling her she'd go far?

You don't go any further than this.

This time tomorrow I won't be here. Won't be anywhere. Like a sum somebody got wrong and rubbed out, but no chance of correcting it, even though I could have; oh, I could have. Mentals. I could always do mentals.

Stand up. Twist your handkerchief. Count.

'There was no trembling of the limbs, no paleness of cheek or lip, no quiver of the eye and indeed no indication that she was filled with dread of the hangman's touch as any woman not altogether of adamant heart might be expected to be. She seemed entirely unsexed; and in point of nerve far excelled her fellows... She offered no opposition to the executioner during the process of pinioning... '*

* *The Herald*, 12.11.1863

One. Two. Three. The woman's hood turns.

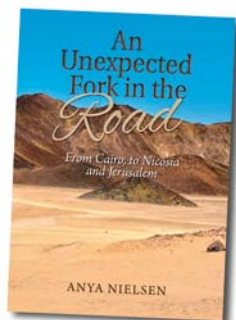
'Davie, will you not clear me?'

□

An Unexpected Fork in the Road: From Cairo, to Nicosia and Jerusalem

Anya Nielsen

The beginning of Anya's Book has this poem—
I like it a lot, written especially for her...



EGYPT BECKONED

by Helen Stevenson

Across the burning desert sands
Anne strode for miles and miles
Her feet were tired and to top it off
She'd lost the bloody Nile

It wasn't meant to be like this
She said and stamped her feet
I only wanted to hug old Sphinx
Not suffer in the heat

My soul I've fed from Pharaohs' tombs
And felucca-ing down the Nile
I've seen the Hanging Coptic Church
And I've lots of reason to smile

The pyramids, well what can you say
Their magnificence is awesome
And being lost after all of this
It is really rather boresome

There's much more I've yet to see
And meet that tall dark stranger?
I haven't done my belly dance
Or even tasted danger

I've tried to keep this little verse
Positive and inspiring
But I hope you had a little smile
And not found it over tiring.

There are many places in the world we can travel to; sadly some of them are becoming less of a proposition due to being unsafe. I had the honour of being asked to launch *An Unexpected Fork in the Road* at the Russian Club before Christmas.

Anya Nielsen will take you on a wonderful journey to some of these places that sadly are no longer on the travel list for many people.

Anya has a rich background having been born in Harbin, China, of Russian parents. She came to Australia with many friends as a young girl and they have all remained good pals to this day. We have had many enjoyable times at the Russian Club such as concerts and dinners.

This is not just a travel book—it's a personal journey with photos and an emotional description of people and places, especially in a historic sense as Anya has researched thoroughly the places visited.

There are places in the book I have wanted to visit but sadly nowadays will probably never get the chance—however, through Anya's eyes, I have experienced it like being there.

I love it when an author includes information at the bottom of pages referring to passages you would like to know more about.

Anya gives one a picture of places that may never be the same again and a feeling of travelling with her plus a number of interesting photos.

Visit the Valley of the Kings, Suez Canal, a Bedouin Camp, Mt Sinai, St Catherine's Monastery, have New Year's Eve in Cyprus, walk in the footsteps of prophets in Israel and, under controlled lighting, look at the Dead Sea Scrolls, meet a handsome stranger... this and much more is your travel adventure with *An Unexpected Fork in the Road*.

I read many travel accounts as it's one of my favourite reads, and I really recommend this book to you above many others. Anya has been so meticulous with her research.

This wonderful book is available for sale through Amazon.com, Book Bazaar Umina, Kiosk at St Peter Paul Cathedral Strathfield and for loan at Campbelltown Library.

Reviewed by Trevar Langlands.

Workshop: Photos for Publication

For best results, photos intended for commercially printed publications such as *Writers Voice* need to be good quality and carefully framed.

They also need to be **high resolution**. Set your camera or phone to at least 1200 x 900 pixels or higher—the more pixels in your original image the better the detail!

DON'T frame people against a window or open door to avoid the silhouette effect.

DON'T provide low resolution images—remember, at print resolution they will print much smaller than they appear on screen (typically about one-fifth the size!).

DO consider the suitability of the background, hold the camera steady, and frame your subject well.

Email the **original camera image** as an attachment where possible. If re-saving as JPG, always choose 'maximum' or 'best quality'. Please let us do the cropping, enhancing and resizing.



X Background light causes silhouette effect.



X Low resolution or poor quality JPG shows pixellation in print.



✓ Sharp, high resolution pictures give best results.

Group image: iStock

Roundup

THE SOCIETY OF WOMEN WRITERS NSW LITERARY LUNCHEONS

The Society of Women Writers NSW welcomes newcomers to its monthly Literary Luncheon and Workshop on the second Wednesday of each month.

APRIL 13, 2016

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Author and writing teacher on popular women's fiction at the Australian Writers' Centre Sydney: Lisa Heidke. Her topic is *'Sense and Sanity: The highs and lows of procrastination and writing.'*

GUEST SPEAKER: Author Felicity Pulman, *'On Residency Guest—Di Yerbury Residency.'*

WORKSHOP PRESENTER: Author of two Ned Kelly Award winning novels: Candice Fox—*'Detecting Danger: Writing about Crime.'*

BOOKING DEADLINE: Monday 11 April before 10am.

MAY 11, 2016

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Sophie Masson—*'Creators Unite in a Small Press with Big Ideas.'*

GUEST SPEAKER: Award winning author Libby Hathorn—*'The Heart of Picture Books.'*

WORKSHOP PRESENTER: Sophie Masson—*'Double Act: How do you do you juggle the double act of being a publisher and an author.'*

BOOKING DEADLINE: Monday 9 May before 10am.

Venue: Dixon Room, State Library of NSW

Time: Workshop 10am–11.50am. Literary lunch 12.00 noon to 2.30pm with keynote and guest speaker.

Cost: Workshop \$30.00 (SWW members) or \$35 non-members. Literary Lunch \$42.00 (members) or \$47.00 non-members.

Bookings: Text message to 0403 177 208 or email <swwlunchbooking@gmail.com>.

Updates: <www.womenwritersnsw.org/events/>.

Sydney Writers' Festival 16–22 May 2016

THE SYDNEY Writers' Festival Program will be available on its website from March 31 and released in *The Sydney Morning Herald* as a liftout in 'Spectrum' on April 2. The program will also be available from bookshops and libraries throughout Sydney.

Many events take place at Pier 4/5 and Sydney Theatre at Walsh Bay. Other city venues are also used, including Sydney Town Hall, City Recital Hall and Sydney Opera House. The regional and suburban program may include events in Parramatta, Ashfield, Auburn, Blacktown, Bankstown, Hornsby, Penrith, the Blue Mountains and Wollongong.

The Festival is made up of a combination of ticketed and free events.

For more information visit the Sydney Writers' Festival website <www.swf.org.au>.

Sharing your expertise with youngsters

AS MORE 'mature' members of our community, North Arm Cove FAW branch have, for the last few years, been very mindful of our wish to encourage young writers in our area.

With this thought in mind, we launched a short story writing competition for local primary school students attending Karuah and Tea Gardens Public Schools.

The support we have received from the principals and teachers of both schools has been excellent, growing more so over the years as we have continued running the competitions.

Members have been invited to address the Grade 5/6 students with the schools also encouraging promising Grade 4 writers too.

The judging of the competitions has taught 'us' a lot!

We've been exposed to all the 'in vogue' sayings, games, TV shows, heroes and heroines and what students of today think and wish for in the future. A real learning curve for us we have felt privileged to be part of.

Last year saw our efforts rewarded when we were invited by Tea Gardens school to participate in their gifted writers program.

With enormous encouragement from their teacher, the students worked quietly and intensely on their stories in the computer room, members of our branch giving advice on sentence construction, characters and themes to improve their unbelievably imaginative stories. The end result was they produced work far beyond their years.

It was a two-way thing—they welcomed us warmly each week, listened to our advice while we also benefited greatly from their interaction. We were like 'extra grandparents', we loved it. One member did say it was like winning Lotto, it was just so satisfying!

The students illustrated and published their stories, prepared slides and short movie trailers advertising their individual books printed at the school

At a gathering attended by parents and proud members of our branch, they provided a short synopsis of their story and then read out a short passage. The books were on display for all to enjoy and were of an exceptionally high standard.

Sharing our life experiences and writing knowledge with youngsters is, indeed, rewarding. What a great way to bridge the generation gap?

Above all, the pride we have experienced seeing all the young authors succeed makes you feel privileged to share your time with them and... you won't find North Arm Cove members saying 'retirement is boring!'

Maureen Kelly, North Arm Cove

Poets Voice

A note from the Poetry Editor

We received only two longish poems for this issue. Shorter poems are also good to read, and interesting. Please don't hold back making a submission because your poem is not long and/or involved. Sometimes a good poem is actually a painting in words; a comment on daily life, nature, or a short meditation on humanity. It might have traditional meter, or it might be free verse; it might have rhyming end words, or not. We can't promise to print every poem that's sent in, but we would sure like to see them. This year's poetry editor is a 'people's poet' not a 'purist'. She is also happy to discuss your poems with you prior to possible publication if you want that.



Shirley Goodbar

Shangri-la

"I have heard of so many places being referred to as Shangri-la, but where are they and are they really what they claim? According to the dictionary Shangri-la is said to be an imaginary utopia..."

I'd never won a raffle but I'll always go in one!
So imagine how I felt, when they said what I had won!
Two weeks in Shangri-la they said, sounds pretty good to me,
But I wonder where it bloomin' is and where the hell I'll be!
I searched through every map I had—no place called that was found,
Then searched across the Internet to see where I was bound!
I came across a motel chain, that bore that very name,
With pictures taken of the sights, to reinforce their claim.
With palm trees growing 'round the pool and water crystal clear,
A photo of a pure white beach, (apparently quite near!)
So I rang them up and told them, of how I'd won the prize,
But they'd never flamin' heard of me—much to my surprise!
I told them what I thought of them—I reckon they were crook!
So I hung up then logged back on, to have another look,
I had Google searching everywhere, here and overseas,
South Africa and Europe—even Asia if you please!
But all in vain I'm sad to say, NOT one had heard of me!
Especially when I said I'd won, two weeks with them for free!
I sent e-mails across the net to countries near and far,
And asking where I'd find this place, they're calling Shangri-la.
I got replies from anyone, that had some place to rent,
Motel rooms and beachside flats and each one heaven sent.
And then an answer came along, that differed from the rest,
"Your Shangri-la does exist, 'though it's neither east nor west."
"To find this place so many seek... a lifetime you can spend,
And some shall have it in their grasp, then lose it in the end."
"It may be on an island, where the palm trees gently sway,
Or a temple in Tibet, where disciples chant and pray",
"It could be in a waterfall, with waters pure and clear,
Or swimming in an ocean while the dolphins frolic near,
Where children live forever and love and peace abound,
So yes my friend it does exist and yes it can be found."
"So if you travel forward and keep seeking then you'll find—
That the Shangri-la you search for—is just your state of mind."

Bob Bush, North Arm Cove FAW

Hama-Rikyu Gardens

In the city of crows
and tortuous pines
temples, shrines and tiny parks
gentle crickets chirruping like bells
I found an ancient park
where nobles once hunted ducks
sea water lapped in black stone canals
fish leapt from ponds
cranes stepped tenuously in mud
beside grey arched bridges
it was the most beautiful
mosquito swamp in the world
thousands of us ambled
through fields of summer grass
and the sticky air
on a public holiday
Monday afternoon
my first day in Tokyo.

Paths climbed symbolic mountains
through fields of brilliant cosmo
and wild red orchids.

I skirted swamps and watched
the canals filling with
pale green seawater.

Nakajima-no-ochaya teahouse
perches over a small lake
550 yen for tea and a red bean cake
the chance to sit in a tatami room
seated on the red felt mat
the bitter, green tea grew on me

Refreshed, I collected my shoes
from a cabinet with my wooden key
outside the door wild rocks
make stepping stones to the ground
I perch to re-tie shoe laces
in the tiny pebble garden

an old shrine crumbles beneath trees
The first yellow leaves fall
All generations, some in kimono,
pass by chatting and laughing...
their faces drop to serious
when they see me.

© Kerry Healey-Binns,
Blue Mountains FAW

Submissions to Poets Voice:

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

Shirley needs to receive copy by the beginning of February, May, August or November, for inclusion in the March, June, September or December edition respectively. Please provide your name and FAW branch for publication.

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

Prizewinning Short Stories

Survivor's Revenge

by Hazel Law, Maroochydore State School

I STARE at the selection of weapons around me and choose. A coal black bow encrusted with the survivor's emblem. A panther. I take a leather quiver and sling it over my back. I'm moved through to armour. Two soldiers guide me around helping me pick out shields, head guards, bullet proof vests, then I'm hurriedly pushed into the next room. It's like they want to get rid of me, they're scared to interact with me because they know they're sending me off to certain death. I feel numbed as I step through the final door to face Dr Europlus. He greets me with a forced smile and the exact same words he uses on everyone.

"Good day Arabella. You are one amongst many young survivors who are strong enough and willing enough to face up to the challenge of reclaiming 'the Stone of Niun' from Utermaton. Having been trained for this you are now ready to proceed through this door and into the land beyond. I warn you, this land, could be anything there from a tundra to a volcano. As you know Utermaton is hard to defeat and once you are in you have no option of backing out. If you choose to back out now though you may do so."

"I'm not backing out." I say my voice cracked and nervous. Actually I'd love to back out. I would do anything to get away from that door and what lies beyond. But I can't, I have to keep going. If I back out what will my trainer say? What will my trainer do to me? I don't want to think about it. Besides, I was selected for this, surely that means they thought I was the best.

"Then you shall proceed through this door as you wish. You have the option to speak to Professor Turntail for advice before you proceed."

Professor Turntail stands quivering in a corner. His advice will be as much use as an ant for an ally. I ignore him and head for the door.

Once I've opened the door it's slammed shut behind me before I can think about turning back. I stare around and see blackness. I begin to panic. Blackness? What could that mean? No one's ever stepped out and seen nothing. I get down on my hands and knees and begin to feel my way forward. The floor is cold. I rap it with my knuckles, its stone. Suddenly something hard smashes onto my hand and I feel the hot trickle of blood through my fingers.

My eyes open and I'm in a cellar. Lamps light the ceiling and I can hear someone moving around. I begin to sit up and realise I'm naked.

"Lie down," someone says. It's a girl's voice.

A small hand pushes me back onto a rough mattress.

"Who are you?" I ask suspiciously, "What do you want with me?"

"Shut up, they'll hear you. I'm Haylee. The man who bashed your hands is my dad. He owns the mines and makes it his business to hurt everyone who doesn't belong there."

"Where are we?"

"In my cellar, I rescued you, I need something to do round here. Besides, he thought you were a boy, so he left you for

the miners to pick up. When I saw you were a girl I brought you home. It wasn't easy either, all the armour you had on."

My armour, my bow! I still don't trust this girl but she has all my stuff, including my clothes.

"Where's my stuff?" I ask.

"Hidden."

I don't know what that means but when she throws me a pair of jeans and a jacket I don't comment further. I get dressed all too aware of her eyes on me.

"Now," she smiles when I'm finished, "let's have a look at your hand."

My hand is bandaged but I can still see the blood soaking through. Slowly Haylee unwraps the cloth and examines the cut. It's deep but nothing impressive really. I won't get onto the Survivor's records with that wound. I remind myself with a jolt that I don't want to get into a book of major injuries to survivors.

"You want some food? My father should be leaving to go to the mines so I'll be able to bring you upstairs soon."

Mines, something clicks in the back of my head and I jump to my feet.

"Yes," I yell, "I've got it."

"Whoa, sit down, you've got what exactly?"

Haylee's tone is spiteful. I don't trust this girl at all, so I lie.

"Oh, sorry, it's just I've been trying to figure out this really tough riddle for the last few days and I've finally realised the answer."

She doesn't look convinced but continues tending to my hand. Now she's rubbing it in lotion. I think over the information she just gave me.

Mines. That means Utermaton must have hidden himself somewhere in the mines waiting to pounce on unfortunate miners. That means the stone is with him. Sometimes chosen Survivors have a really hard time trying to find out the whereabouts of the stone. It'll be hard with the mines but if some miners discover his hideout for me all I have to do is steal the stone and be gone. I need a plan. I can't be sure if I can trust Haylee but she's all I've got at the moment, I'll have to make an effort with her.

A week later and we're friends, of sorts. We still doubt each other but it's as close as we'll get. The time seems to fly unnaturally here and that doesn't bother me, the sooner the end of a day comes and I'm still alive the better. I'm slumped in the cellar alone, locked in. I've chewed off my finger nails and I'm on to pulling out my own hair in boredom and frustration. My trainer will be furious with me by now. She's taught me not to make close connections with anyone, never stay in one place for a long period of time and absolutely do not let yourself get stuck anywhere as long as you can help it. Here I am locked in a cellar, making friends with Haylee, and I've been here a week.

But despite what my trainer says I'm still alive and that has to count for something. Though soon, I know I'll have to move. There's only one way I can go back through the door to the Survivor's training centre.

I have to reclaim the stone.

2015 HILARIE LINDSAY YOUNG WRITERS
SHORT STORY AWARD

SECTION 2 WINNER
(JUNIOR SECONDARY, YEARS 7-9)

Haylee opens the door and rushes into the cellar. She grabs me by the collar and pulls me up shoving me towards the door.

"Get out."

"Why, what's happening?" I splutter.

"Be quiet just get to the back door and go."

"Where?" I ask shocked by her frightened tone.

"No time for questions just get away, as far as you can."

I reach the back door and slam it behind me. Although I've been here a week I've only seen the mines, which isn't much to see, and Haylee's house. I'm standing on hard dirt. Surrounding me is a dusty wasteland with the occasional shrubbery. But there's a road. The road leads left and goes into the distance. My options are to either follow the road or take to the mines and try and get the Stone as quickly as possible. I choose the road feeling that from Haylee's tone I would be better off staying away from the mines for the moment, I'll bet that Haylee's father found out she was keeping a mysterious girl in her cellar.

I've been walking along the road for what seems like hours when a light blasts me in the face. It's a car, coming towards me. I freeze stupidly holding my hand up to stem the glare of headlights blinding me. The car is getting nearer. I spur into action and jump behind a tree. The driver in the car has the stereo up loud, he doesn't see me. The car means there's a civilisation somewhere near and the sooner I get there the better.

I was right, there is a civilisation. I appear to have walked into the centre of it. Shops line a concrete square each one with its own dull lights and window displays. The whole place is dreary, but my goal is to get someone to take me in. I choose a shop at random and go in.

The shop is small. It has shelves on every wall and a hall leading out the back. I walk towards some of the shelves, curious. Every inch of wall space is filled with jars. Small, round, triangular, colourful. But what's in them I can't make out. I take a closer look at one. It seems to be filled with flower petals floating in a gooey liquid, light brown in colour. The one next to it seems to hold some kind of paste. I'm too busy examining the contents of the jars, I don't notice the footsteps behind me until a hand grasps my shoulder and I drop the jar I'm holding all over the floor.

"You'll be picking that up won't you sweetie?"

I spin round. A hunched woman with rotting teeth and grizzly hair stares across at me. Her arms are covered by a long black veil but the wind through the door flickers revealing something on her forearm. Almost immediately she whips it out of sight again, but I know what I've seen. She's a Trare. Every Trare is entrusted with a tattoo of sorts and has it placed on a chosen area of the body to indicate their loyalty to the Trare's leader 'Mighty Taron'. Trares are a group of people rebelling against Utermaton. I guess I should be glad about this but really all they do is cause trouble. Three girls like me and two boys have failed tasks by running into Trares and getting hung, beaten to death, or beheaded. My mind flicks to excuses, ways to get out but everything my trainer's told me has gone. So I just make something up.

"Ugh, I'll be going now, um goodbye," my voice sounds unnaturally high.

The Trare indicates the messy stuff on the floor, "What about my floor little girl?"

I take a deep breath and try to sound strong, "I have somewhere I need to be, if you'll excuse me."

I bet my coach is screaming right now, one thing you never do is disagree with a Trare, and I just put my needs over the Trare's. I back up, the Trare is buzzing with a freakish orange glow. I back up faster and feel for the door. Grasping the handle I turn to run but find my way blocked by two men. Where did they come from?

And by the time I've turned to find another exit I'm surrounded. I close my eyes knowing I haven't got a chance. I could surrender, but then I'd get kicked out of the survivors, I'd be a disgrace. No, I'll die here, die on a task. My name will go on the plaque. I vaguely hear someone getting out a gun and squeeze my eyes further shut, thinking of home.

"So little girl, anything to say in your defeat, any last words of wisdom?" The man with the gun asks. I don't reply, I'm too busy trying to think of a way to beat the Trares.

"I... uh..." Something hits me and I regain my voice.

"Haylee will defend me, she won't let you kill me."

"Haylee," smirks the woman who owns the shop, "who's this Haylee?"

"The head miner's daughter."

"The head miner's daughter happens to go by the name Lara, you're out of luck sweetie."

I realise Haylee lied to me in the moment the bullet flies towards my head. Then it hits me and I slump to the ground dead.

"Damn it! Sophie, I just killed Arabella."

"What, what are you playing Bea?"

"Survivor's Revenge."

"Oh, my game."

Sophie came round the corner and joined Beatrice on the couch.

"So you still haven't completed the task to defeat Utermaton and get the stone of Niun? I did that in two days," mocked Sophie.

"Shut up Sophie, you're just a nerd" Beatrice laughed back.

"Well, you better Arabella into rehabilitation, I'll want that game back soon," Sophie smiled a bit this time.

"Ok, who should I use next time?" Beatrice asked.

"Oh, I'd use Samantha, she's the one I used to defeat the rebelling survivors. You know who turned rebel and tried to join Trares."

"Ok, but I have to get Arabella into rehabilitation first."

"Up to you, I've completed the whole game."

"Please stop bragging it's making me sick." Beatrice grinned.

"Be quiet Bea. Anyway, its dinner now, Mum told me to tell you."

□

Prizewinning Short Stories

The Beginning of the End of the World

by *Chinmai Saha, Empire Bay Public School*

HI I'M John Sparks, I'm twenty seven years old and I live in Florida. My whole life has been pretty ordinary; I was a normal kid with a very average life, I graduated from University and got a job in zoology. My life was no different from anyone else's; until three years ago when I found myself on a mythical, incomprehensible journey in the Arctic.

I was twenty three when I was invited to study animals up in the Arctic with a few colleagues. The research lab we stayed in wasn't five star but it was hospitable, it was black on the outside and had two bedrooms with two beds each for my three colleagues, Jessica Macney, Adam Field, Lewis Edwards and I, as well as a small Ivory kitchen with a stove, kettle and a microwave with a cabinet next to it, and a small humble bathroom with the lab next to it.

But after about 8 months at the Arctic things started to get strange. We were researching the Chin Strap Penguin and we were on the trail of a new natural mutation in one of the penguins. I was grabbing a few samples with Adam while Jessie and Lewis were looking at possible causes.

"Hey John can you hold this penguin down, he's quiet squirmy," asked Adam.

'Oh sure.'

I walked over to him, gently rested my knee on the penguins' short stubby legs and laid my right arm on his shoulders and my left arm on his forehead.

"Okay little fella, this won't hurt at all", said Adam softly as he lowered his scissors onto the tip of one of the feathers and cut of a centimetre, "there we go."

He dropped the sample into a zip lock bag. We walked back inside and went into the lab room.

"John, Adam quick you have to see this!" said Jessica happily.

"What is it?" I said as we ran over.

"We were researching why our penguin's beak was so hard when we ran upon this: a new species of fish, with about a quarter of the population of krill" said Adam, "and the reason the penguin's beak is really hard is because this new fish has scales as hard as a plastic container and the beak is hard so it can penetrate the scales.

"Wait did you just say you found a fish species with a quarter of the population of krill!" I half asked half yelled, "Oh my God, this is amazing!"

'With that many fish we could feed a whole country!'

I ran to the phone and dialled the American Nature Department, but things felt weird; my legs started to shake all of a sudden and the phone started to move. CRKK! CRR! CRRCKK!!

"What was that?!" I yelled.

We all ran outside and stopped dead in our tracks staring at the horror that was before us.

"OH MY GOD wha what happened!?" screamed Jessica.

Right before us out of nowhere was a giant crack in the ice three yards wide.

"I studied tremors and earthquakes in high school and to crack ice that thick it would have to be a level four

earthquake," said Lewis nervously, "and at that level there would've been a warning tremor of at least four minutes."

This wasn't natural... and we all knew it. We stood around for a few minutes racking our minds for possible explanations when Adam realised something.

"Guys, where did all the penguins go?" asked Adam.

He did have a point, all of the penguins within view had disappeared. There were at least 600 penguins out there a few minutes ago and they were now all gone.

"This isn't normal." I said.

But the bad news wasn't over yet. Out of the blue Jessica started to kneel down over the edge of the crack.

"Guys you might want to see this." She said.

We all kneeled down next to her and peered down into the crack. Rising up from the very end of our view, illuminating the cold dark sky was lava, hot, steaming lava.

"Lava can't exist in the Arctic, it's way too cold and even if it could the ice would melt... this is impossible!" said Lewis.

But to top it all of the lava started rising fast, really fast.

"Run for it!" I yelled.

We all stood up and ran towards the snow mobiles.

I jumped on the first one and Jessica hopped on the back, leaving Adam and Lewis with the second one. We raced away from the crack but we weren't out of harm's way yet. More cracks were appearing, following along our trail and on top of that lava was spewing out of them. The lava was getting closer and closer every second and we were going at our top speed.

"Adam, pull the gear up to M." I said.

'Why?'

"Lava can't go up hill so hopefully we'll be safe there."

I responded.

We turned right and raced up the nearest mountain and as I predicted the lava stopped coming. We stopped and thought about what we would do next. But once again the world was against us, a few bits of snow came tumbling down past us.

"Go, Go, Go!!" I bellowed.

We raced down the other side of the mountain, with an avalanche right behind us. We had almost reached the bottom when we saw more cracks cutting us off at the bottom.

"We have to jump the cracks it's our only chance!" said Adam.

So we all gripped on as tight as we could and went up into the air. But we weren't going to make it.

'Jump!'

We flew out of the snow mobiles, and jumped the gap, well almost all of us did. Jessica was hanging onto the edge of the crack.

"Pull me up!" she screamed.

We all raced back to the crack and grabbed her arm.

"Quick the lava's rising!" shrieked Jessica.

We brought her up on the count of three and started running.

"Lewis watch out!" roared Adam.

A stream of lava was reaching for the back of his heel. He looked back, yelled like somebody had just tipped a jug of boiling water on him and jumped to the left.

2015 HILARIE LINDSAY YOUNG WRITERS
SHORT STORY AWARD

SECTION 3 WINNER
(SENIOR PRIMARY, YEARS 5 & 6)

"Hey what's that?" asked Lewis.

"It's a... it's a helicopter!" I shouted in joy.

In front of us was a helicopter. It had landed about 950 yards in front of us. (Probably to avoid the cracks incoming).

"Speed up if the cracks get too close to the helicopter before we get on he'll leave without us," I yelled, "we have to get way in front of the cracks."

We all ran as fast as we could and got a good 90 yards in front of the cracks and in a matter of seconds we were on the helicopter.

"Come on let's get out of here." Said the pilot.

We came off the ground and strangely the cracks stopped growing.

"Hahaha, we made it, we survived." Said Adam happily.

"No this isn't over, inactive volcanos in Italy are going off,

there are hundreds of tornados in Bali and a tsunami in India." Said the pilot.

"Look over there." I said.

Over in the distance towards the north was a giant tornado, ripping up the ice and chucking it in random places. And there was a tsunami forming over towards the west.

'This is nowhere near over... this is the beginning of the end of the world.'

□

Workshop Resources AGAIN

Vice President

THE FEBRUARY 2016 Management Committee meeting highlighted a very serious matter. Not enough attention is being paid to the *Writers Voice* content. By this I mean the Branch reports in particular. The publicity officers share worthy information—maybe not all the time and maybe not every branch but at some time every branch.

Our activities vary from month to month and some meetings are enjoyed more than others depending on our personal interests. So many ideas, topics, activities, guest speakers when published are worthy of 'trying in our branch' to keep us relevant, inspired and motivated.

The committee is very disappointed when we get numerous queries through the Hon. Secretary that could be easily avoided if the bulletin is used as it should be: an important resource tool to share information.

Naturally we can't put every piece of information in every Issue, so the bulletins should be read from cover to cover and topics highlighted, pages photocopied and filed for future reference or references listed somewhere so you can locate relevant items, just as you would do when researching material for your own manuscripts.

What has motivated me to write this article is the request recently to promote workshop presenters. Let me draw attention to WV No.249 in September 2015 where on p21, I shared this very topic. I agree there were not contact numbers or costs associated with the names but that was because negotiations should be between the branch and the guest speaker only—unless a speaker contacts the Hon. Secretary putting their name, fee and overhead expenses eg. Travel and accommodation. We would be happy to publish such information—if the guest speaker is an FAW member.

The process meanwhile is this:

When you read in a Branch Report that a Workshop was successful and you too would like to contact the

Presenter, first you contact the Branch which held the event and ask them for the contact details they used.

Next you contact the Presenter direct and negotiate your request.

This could be a payment which may have overhead expenses included or it might be negotiated to use billet accommodation to offset the cost.

It might be an arrangement of a barter system eg. You contact the Branch as above and if the speaker is one of their own, offer a member in your own Branch to do an exchange of that resource.

If it's an author, the negotiation might be that instead of an outright payment you will promote the author's visit in your community and offer the support for the author to make sales in your area of their book/s.

This brings me to the fact that for us to just make a list of names and contacts (without the Presenter's permission) would not be fair to them, nor right and proper.

So please everyone, when you hear any mumbling like, 'why do we need to pay \$40 per year just for a magazine?', please support the FAW with your knowledge that hours, days, weeks go into producing each bulletin as our main resource to stay connected to you the members. This is also the resource for all members to have a communication avenue to use with each other. Yes, we have the website, but that has a broader purpose of being our public face internationally as well.

The *Writers Voice* is sent to every member's contact address whereas not every member has the internet to look up the website. The more participation you encourage by submitting information to the Editor, the more interesting the bulletin becomes and the more relevant for all our readers. But, unless the information resourced this way is accessed, discussed at branch meetings, filed for future use and/or posterity, then yes, the \$40 covers our legal liabilities enabling us to abide by Fair Trading rules and Constitutional obligations but what a shame to waste the golden opportunity to highlight and utilise the 'fellowship' part of our name.

Writing Competitions

Closing date 31 March 2016:

FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS (QUEENSLAND) INC.

Celebrating 95 Years

LITERARY AWARDS 2016

Writers are invited to submit a maximum of up to three entries to any or all of the following categories:

- **Section A: Poetry to 60 lines**
- **Section B: Haiku**
- **Section C: Short Story to 2000 words**
- **Section D: Flash Fiction to 250 words.**

Prizes in each section: First Prize \$200, Second Prize \$50, plus Highly Commended and Commended Certificates. Entry Fee: \$5 per entry or \$12 for three. A separate entry form is required for each category, however one combined payment will be accepted.

ENTRY FORM incorporating conditions of entry can be downloaded from the FAWQ website at <www.fawq.net>.

Winners Announced at July Celebrations of FAWQ's 95 Yrs. Winners and selected entries will be published in an Anthology to be launched Sept 2016.

Enquiries: email <fawqwrite@gmail.com>.

Closing date 30 April 2016:

FOREST FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS SHORT STORY COMPETITION

Established as a Tribute to the Bentleys

Maximum 2,000 words. Theme: Open. First Prize \$200, Second Prize \$100. Highly Commended certificates awarded at judges' discretion. Entry fee \$5.00. Entries must be post marked prior to the above closing date.

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

Send to:

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

Enclose Cheque or Money Order payable to:
'Forest FAW NSW Inc'

—or, Direct Deposit to:

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

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

Closing date 31 May 2016:

EASTWOOD/HILLS FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS LITERARY COMPETITION 2016

All Categories Open Theme.

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

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

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

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

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

Closing date 31 May, 2016:

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

Father Patrick Hartigan (1872–1952) was ordained in 1903 and served in various positions, including twenty seven years as parish priest at Narrandera. Writing under the pseudonym John O'Brien he published two volumes of poetry: 'AROUND THE BOREE LOG' in 1921, and, posthumously, 'THE CHURCH AT ST MEL'S'. He is fondly remembered for poems such as 'Said Hanrahan' and 'The Old Bush School'. He is buried in North Rocks near Parramatta.

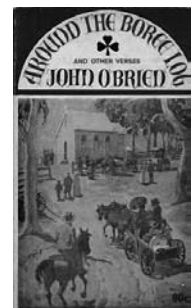


Image: Wikipedia

First Prize: \$100 plus a trophy and certificate. Highly Commended and Commended Certificates awarded. Ballads to be in perfect rhyme and metre, with maximum 80 lines and an Australian bush theme.

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

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

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

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

Closing date 1 June 2016:

SHOALHAVEN LITERARY AWARD FOR POETRY 2016

The Shoalhaven Branch of the Fellowship of Australian Writers, Shoalhaven Arts Board and Bundanon Trust has launched the **Shoalhaven Literary Award** for 2016.

This year the award is for poetry and the judge is Sydney poet and teacher, **Brook Emery**. He has published four books of poetry, *and dug my fingers in the sand* (FIP 2000), which won the Judith Wright Calanthe Prize for poetry at the Queensland Premier's Literary Awards, *Misplaced Heart* (FIP 2003) and *Uncommon Light* (FIP 2007). Examples of his poetry can be found at the international poetry website: <www.poetryarchive.org> and at the John Leonard Press website.

The prizes on offer are:

1st: \$1000 together with a two-week artist residency at Arthur Boyd's Bundanon on the Shoalhaven River.

2nd: \$300

3rd: \$100

Plus \$200 Geoff Bolton Award for an entry from a Shoalhaven resident.

The competition closes on Friday 1 June 2016 and winners will be notified after Saturday 17 Sept. 2016. Download an entry form from the FAW Shoalhaven website, <www.fawnswoalhaven.org.au>. Results, judge's report and other information will be published on the same site from 17 September 2016. For further information contact: <hollyhill@shoalhaven.net.au>.

Closing Date 30 June 2016:

SCRIBES WRITERS—"POETIC LICENCE" POETRY COMPETITION 2016

- **Category A: Traditional Verse**
- **Category B: Free Verse**

Theme: Open. Line Count: 60 Maximum (excluding Title). Prizes (each category): 1st \$200; 2nd \$100. Highly Commended and Commended Certificates at the judges' discretion. Entry Fee: \$7 per entry per category. Entries must be post marked on or before closing date (30 June 2016).

Entries should be addressed to:

Scribes Writers Poetry Competition
South Barwon Community Centre
33 Mount Pleasant Road
Belmont Victoria 3216

For full competition details, conditions, and entry form visit the Scribes Writers website Poetry Competition page at <www.scribeswriters.com/poetry.html>. Scribes Writers can be contacted through the website page at <www.scribeswriters.com/contact-us.html> or Email to <geelongscribeswriters@gmail.com>.

NORMAL COMPETITION CONDITIONS

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

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

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

Closing date 31 August 2016:

LAKE MACQUARIE FAW ALICE SINCLAIR MEMORIAL WRITING COMPETITION 2016

The Lake Macquarie Branch of FAW (NSW) invites writers to enter its 2016 Alice Sinclair Memorial Writing Competition. Open Theme.

- **Category A: Poetry** (free or traditional to 50 lines)
- **Category B: Short Story** (to 2,500 words)

Prizes in each category: \$100 + certificate for first; \$50 + certificate for second; certificates for any commended entries.

Entry fee: \$10 per entry, maximum two (2) stories and/or two (2) poems per entrant.

Full competition conditions are contained in the official *Entry Form*, which will be available from 1 July 2016 and can be downloaded from the Lake Macquarie FAW website at <lakemacfaw2.wordpress.com>.

Winners will be announced at the Lake Macquarie FAW meeting on Saturday, November 12, 2016. Results will also be published in *Writers Voice*.

Writing Competitions

Closing date 31 August 2016:

**FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS NSW INC.
HILARIE LINDSAY YOUNG WRITERS
2016 POETRY AWARDS
FOR AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL STUDENTS**

Entries are sought from school children in the following categories...

- **Section 1 Senior Secondary** (Years 10, 11 & 12).
Max. 60 lines. Prize: \$200
- **Section 2 Junior Secondary** (Years 7, 8 & 9).
Max. 40 lines. Prize: \$175
- **Section 3 Senior Primary** (Years 5 & 6).
Max. 40 lines. Prize: \$175
- **Section 4 Junior Primary** (Year 4 and under).
Max. 20 lines. Prize: \$50

Entries must be the student's own work, unpublished and not having won any competition at the time of entry. Prizes for Sections 1, 2 & 3 will be presented at the FAW NSW Inc Annual Presentation Luncheon in November 2016. The prize for Section 4 will be presented at the winner's school.

Entries to be typed to fit on A4 paper, double spaced in 12pt font. Entrant's name must appear on the Entry Form ONLY.

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

FAW Hilarie Lindsay Young Writers Competition
C/- Hon. Secretary, FAW NSW Inc.
22 Promontory Way
NORTH ARM COVE NSW 2324

Alternatively, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the postal address above. Entry form may be photocopied.

ENTRY FEE: \$2.00 per entry. Entry Fee can be sent electronically to the FAW NSW bank account –

BSB: 082-936 Account: 172389833

Account Name: Fellowship of Australian Writers.

Please include the competitor's name and 'Hilarie Lindsay' as the payment reference and attach a copy of the bank receipt.

Preferred method for entries is to send them by EMAIL as a PDF attachment to <honsecretary@fawnsw.org.au>.

The email attachments should include the PDF entry, the scanned entry form, and a copy of the direct deposit receipt.

Where the contestant does not have access to email, then the entry may be mailed to the Hon. Secretary at the above address. 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.

Closing date for the competition is **31st August 2016**.

Results will be published in *Writers Voice* and on the FAW NSW website.

For more information, contact the FAW Hon. Secretary on 0417 403 720 or email <honsecretary@fawnsw.org.au>.

Closing date 30 September 2016:

**FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS NSW INC.
THE 2016 WALTER STONE AWARD
FOR LIFE WRITING**

Prize: \$1,500

The Award is for a *Life Writing*, defined as a work of biography, autobiography, memoir, monograph, bibliography. Biography and autobiography may be an extract to meet the word count requirements which is a minimum of 10,000 and a maximum of 25,000.

The Winner will be invited to an Awards Ceremony at the end of the year to receive their prize. Results will be published in *Writers Voice* and on the FAW NSW website <www.fawnsw.org.au>.

ENTRY FORMS may be downloaded from the FAW NSW website <www.fawnsw.org.au> or by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the postal address below. Entry form may be photocopied.

Conditions of Entry:

The competition is open to all residents of Australia 18 years and over with the exception of the judges and management committee of the FAW New South Wales.

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 a results list will be available if an SAE is supplied with the entry.

Multiple entries are permitted, with a separate Entry Form per entry.

Entry Fee is **\$25.00 per entry**. Only one cheque or money order is required for multiple entries or fees can be sent electronically. Cheques and Money Orders are to be made payable to FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS.

Fee can also be sent electronically to our NAB account—**BSB: 082-936 Account: 172389833**

Account Name: Fellowship of Australian Writers—please include the words "Walter Stone Award" in the message line and submit a receipt with the entry.

TWO copies of the manuscript are required.

The submission 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.

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. A separate **cover sheet** must be attached containing the title and whether it is a biography extract, autobiography, extract, memoir, monograph or bibliography, word count, author's name, address, telephone number and email address (if available).



Only page number and title of the entry is to appear on each page of the manuscript.

Failure to comply with the above conditions will result in disqualification without refund.

The author retains copyright to all work submitted, although prize-winning entries or a précis 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-address envelope of appropriate size and postage.

Entries must be original, creative and inspiring works which present to the audience an engaging work of literary excellence. The work is also to show some aspect of Australian history or have some Australian Historical significance.

The judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. FAW NSW reserves the right not to award any prizes if, in the judge's estimation, no entries of sufficient merit are received.

Send entries with Entry Form and Entry Fee to:

FAW Walter Stone Award
C/- Hon. Secretary, FAW NSW Inc.
22 Promontory Way
NORTH ARM COVE NSW 2324

For more information, contact the FAW Hon. Secretary on 0417 403 720 or email <honsecretary@fawnsw.org.au>.

Closing date 30 September 2016:

**FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS NSW INC.
THE 2016 JEAN STONE AWARD
FOR POETRY**

The Jean Stone Award is for a poem or group of poems up to 60 lines. Prize: \$500

The Winner will be invited to an Awards Ceremony at the end of the year to receive their prize. Results will be published in *Writers Voice* and on the FAW NSW website <www.fawnsw.org.au>.

ENTRY FORMS may be downloaded from the FAW NSW website <www.fawnsw.org.au> or by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the postal address below. Entry form may be photocopied.

Conditions of Entry:

The competition is open to all residents of Australia 18 years and over with the exception of the judges and management committee of the FAW New South Wales.

Poems submitted 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 a results list will be available if a SSAE is supplied with the entry.

Multiple entries are permitted, with a separate Entry Form per entry.

Entry Fee is **\$10.00 per entry**. Only one cheque/money order is required for multiple entries or fees can be sent electronically. Cheques and Money Orders are to be made payable to FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS.

Fee can also be sent electronically to our NAB account—**BSB: 082-936 Account: 172389833**

Account Name: Fellowship of Australian Writers—please include the words “Jean Stone Award” in the message line and submit a receipt with the entry.

TWO copies of each poem are required.

The submission should be printed or typed on A4 sheets, in minimum 12pt font, on one side, line spaced as appropriate for the poem and the sheets firmly fixed together. Hand-written text will be disqualified.

The author's identity must appear on the Entry Form ONLY. The author's name must not appear on either the manuscript or the cover sheet. A separate cover sheet must be attached containing the title of poem/s, line count, author's name, address, telephone number and email address (if available).

Failure to comply with the above conditions will result in disqualification without refund.

The author retains copyright to all work submitted, although prize-winning entries must be available for publication in the Fellowship's bulletin *Writers Voice* and on the FAW NSW website.

Entries must be original, creative and inspiring works which present to the audience an engaging work of literary excellence.

The judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. FAW NSW reserves the right not to award any prizes if, in the judge's estimation, no entries of sufficient merit are received.

Send entries with Entry Form and Entry Fee to:

FAW Jean Stone Award
C/- Hon. Secretary, FAW NSW Inc.
22 Promontory Way
NORTH ARM COVE NSW 2324

For more information, contact the FAW Hon. Secretary on 0417 403 720 or email <honsecretary@fawnsw.org.au>.

Literary Achievements

EASTWOOD/HILLS FAW

Beverley George:

Haiku and renga judging results with Ron Moss published in *Mariposa* 33;
haiku in *Muttering Thunder* No. 2, 2015—
<www.mutteringthunder.weebly.com>;
tanka in *Ribbons* 11 (3) 2015;
literary adviser to Mitsui Travel for a small group travel journey to Kyushu, Japan;
three tanka set to music by Andrea Keller, read by the late Allan Browne, on a CD, *Travellers* launched at Bennetts Lane, Melbourne on Dec 7th;
haiku in British Haiku Society member anthology *Edge*;
haiku published on *Pulse: Voices from the Heart of Medicine* Jan 1, 2016;
'The Birds That Stay' [haiku chapbook] published on *The Haiku Foundation*;
co-judge, 8th International Tanka Conference competition 2016 [Japan];
two poems that won the WB Yeats Poetry Prize for Australia and New Zealand 2004 and 2005 published in *Yeats 150: William Butler Yeats 1865–1939: essays in Commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of His Birth*, edited by Declan Foley, launched in Sligo, Ireland January 31, 2016 and in Melbourne, Australia February 13, 2016; sequence in *Red Lights* vol. 12 no. 1, 2016 p.45 (Canada).

Richard Hagerty:

Commended for a Memoir in Eastwood/Hills FAW September Monthly Competition;
Second Place for History-based Short Story in Eastwood/Hills FAW October Competition.

Philippa Holland:

Commended for a short story in Eastwood/Hills FAW October 2015 Workshop Assignment on 'Historical Writing'.

Anne Howard:

Two letters published in *Australian Doctor* weekly magazine;
Second Place in Eastwood/Hills FAW October Monthly Competition for science fiction short story.

Artelle Lenthall:

Launched blog <journeygirlontheroadtopublication.wordpress.com> in November 2015.

EUROBODALLA FAW

Vicki Mennie:

First prize in the Eurobodalla Show Writing Section, January 2016.

Judy Turner:

Highly Commended in the Toowoomba Writers' Festival Literary Prize, November 2015 and had her story 'The Long Winding Road' published in the anthology;
this story was also published in February 2016 in the FAW Qld. magazine *Scope*.

HUNTER FAW

Long-standing member and poet **Gail Hennessy** achieved some great awards within the last couple of months... her poem, 'Finding the Words' awarded Highly Commended in The Dame Mary Gilmour Poetry Award, 2015, Society of Women Writers (NSW); poem, 'Meeting Place' was published in *Australian Poetry*, Vol 5 Issue 2, 2015 <apj.australianpoetry.org>; two haibuns published in *Indelible*, Poetry at the Pub Anthology, 2015 (ed. Dael Allison); poem, 'Kaleidoscope', shortlisted and read at the Morisset Show, January, 2016.

ISOLATED WRITERS BRANCH

Carolyn Cash:

Carolyn has recently passed her two-year milestone as the royal correspondent for community radio station, 2Max FM 91.3 in Narrabri, with her monthly segment *Right Royal Roundup*, as well as updating news and podcasts on the website <rightroyalroundup.com.au>. So far, over 6,600 people 'Like' the Facebook page, and there are over 800 followers on Twitter.

Cynthia Rowe:

tanka published in *A Hundred Gourds* 5:1 December 2015;
four haiku published in *Creatrix* #31;
'blossom moon' haiku Honourable Mention in the International section of the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Haiku Invitational 2015, and published on Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival website;
'bald stylist's' haiku published with two Chinese translations by Chen-ou Liu on *NeverEnding Story* December 2015;
Honourable Mention in the Iris Haiku Society International Haiku Competition 2015 and published on the Irish Haiku Society website;
three haiku, two haiga and a photograph published *paper wasp* volume 21, number 4 summer 2015;
co-edited *paper wasp* volume 21, number 4 summer 2015;
haiku published in *cattails* UHTS January 2016;
three senryu published in *cattails* UHTS January 2016;
haiga published in *cattails* UHTS January 2016.

LAKE MACQUARIE FAW

Terry Colling:

Published in *Hunter Professional Arts Magazine*, issue 5 Nov 2015–Jan 2016: review 'Dungog Festival'.

Pam Garfoot:

Highly Commended in the *Port Stephens Examiner* Literature Awards 2015: short story 'After the Chase'; published on ABC Open Portraits: Seniors website December 2015: short story 'A man and his shed'; finalist in *Newcastle Herald* Short Story Competition: short story 'Sixteen' (published January 25 as 'A matter of respect').

Carol Heuchan:

Written and published (with illustrations by Ben Crane): children's picture book *Petunia and the Pony*; published in *Hunter Professional Arts Magazine*, issue 5 Nov 2015–Jan 2016 : story 'Poetry ...'

Elizabeth Horwitz:

Published in *Hunter Professional Arts Magazine*, issue 5 Nov 2015–Jan 2016: editorial.

Tony Lang:

Published in *Hunter Professional Arts Magazine*, issue 5 Nov 2015–Jan 2016: story 'The Diary of an (Australian) Country Parson'.

Kristen Mair:

Finalist and awarded special mention by the judges in *Newcastle Herald* Short Story Competition: short story 'Thy youth in twain', published January 7.

Rina Robinson:

Awarded FAW NSW Distinguished Service Award, November 2015; published in *Hunter Professional Arts Magazine*, issue 5 Nov 2015–Jan 2016: poem 'Dawn's Glory'.

Linda Visman:

Published in *Hunter Professional Arts Magazine*, issue 5 Nov 2015–Jan 2016: poem 'Desert-ed Rivers'.

LIVERPOOL FAW**Peter F Pike:**

Limericks and Poem, 'Love's Invitation—A Time for Reflection', *FXP* Feb. 2016.

Rhonda W Rice:

Poem, 'Footprint', *Positive Words* Dec 2015; poem, 'For Men Killed On Duty', *Police Legacy News* Dec. 2015; poem, 'The Last Night', shortlisted in *Positive Words* end of year competition 2015; poems, 'Presence' and 'Bus Trip Observation', in *Positive Words*, Jan 2016; poem, 'To a Teacher' to be published in the special Studio edition of entries in The POET 'Starting School Poetry Contest' 2015 (WA).

MACARTHUR FAW**Robert Bee:**

One Act Play, *2201—A Space Idiocy*, performed on 28/11/15 in WINGZ Playwright Festival, To Boldly Go Competition. Well received.

MOOCOOROOOLA FAW**Mary Bramston:**

Short story 'Travels with Henry' in *Positive Words*, January 2016; short story 'Harold and Alice' in *FreeXpresSion*, January 2016.

Vicki Harrold:

Graduated with a Diploma in Fine Arts from her course at <ArtInstitute.com.au>

Pam Taylor:

Essay 'Mend and Make Do' in *FreeXpresSion*, January 2016.

Hendell Watt:

Short story 'Saved by the Bell' in *FreeXpresSion*, November 2016.

John Egan:

Poetry collection *The Long Way Home* published by Ginninderra Press, Port Adelaide; poems 'Play it Louder' and 'Home' in *Valley Micropress*, New Zealand, October 2015 and 'Spirit of Place', November/December 2015; poems 'Rain in Spring' and 'Barangaroo' read at Rocket Readings, South Coast Writers Centre, Wollongong Art Gallery; poems 'Broughton Vale' in *The Mozzie*, October, and 'The Unseen' in November, 2015; poem 'The Imp' in *Tamba 57*, Summer 2015/16; poems 'Widow' and 'New Year' in *Positive Words*, January 2016; poems 'Iron Cove', 'The Mirror', 'Superstar' and 'Curtain Call' in *Beyond The Rainbow* 83, January/ February 2016; Poem 'Womens'...' in *The Write Angle* 54, February/ April 2016.

MUDGEY VALLEY FAW**Kevin Pye:**

Two songs in the finals of the Tamworth Songwriters Awards.

Pamela Meredith:

Short Stories published in *ABC Open* and read on ABC Radio.

Jill Baggett:

Short Stories published in *ABC Open* and read on ABC Radio.

NORTH ARM COVE FAW**Garry Boyd:**

Poem, 'The Stable Hand's Daughter' published in *Myall Coast Messenger*.

Bob Bush:

From November 16, 2015 – February 2, 2016... guest speaker, Meals on Wheels Christmas party, Tea Gardens; guest speaker, Hunter Probus Club at Morpeth; two poems published in *Myall Coast Messenger*.

cont. next page...

Writers World

Dark Shadows

Elizabeth Bradhurst

WILLIAM LAY in his little bed, the covers pulled up tightly under his chin. He had been dreaming about his father, about the little farm by the river, about riding Old Nugget in the home paddock. Something had woken him. For a moment he did not remember where he was. The room was strange; the furniture was all in the wrong place. Through the closed door he could hear voices, his mother and... and his grandmother. Then it all came back.

Flames licked the ceiling. Choking smoke stung his eyes, as he stumbled out into the cold, dark night clutching his mother's hand. Above the pounding of his heart and the roar of burning wood he could hear the yelps of Sandy, the cattle dog, allowed to sleep indoors whilst recovering from an injured leg and now trapped.

"No, Michael, no!" he heard his mother cry, as his father dashed back into the house.

Then a mighty crash as the roof fell in. He felt his mother's hand tighten. Out of the dark clouds of smoke a figure staggered, carrying a whimpering bundle.

With the farm house destroyed he and his mother had come to stay with his grandmother in the city, while his father remained on the farm, sleeping in a tent. William did not like the city with its strange noises and scary night-time shadows. He heard footsteps on the cobblestones—was someone coming? Then there was a scraping, scratching at the window as a dark shape loomed. William screamed.

The door opened and his mother hurried to his bedside and held him tight, murmuring soft soothing sounds as she rocked him.

"It's all right, baby. It's all right."

"But the window, there's a monster at the window."

"That's just the wind blowing the tree against the glass. There's no one there. Hush, baby. Go back to sleep."



Thank you for your interest and support of this new concept we call 'Writers World'.

All stories received so far are worthy and publishable but we are still keen to receive more from which to select varying topics. We are also keen to stockpile a few so just send them in when you feel you have a good story to share, there is no need to wait to be invited before each Issue.

It was pleasing to read some support for the new concept and to thank them...

"I consider this idea a very good one. I do hope our members embrace it... I wish the Writers World a regular input of stories..."

"I think this column offering the opportunity for sharing a short piece of writing is a good idea..."

Enjoy our first selection and take a moment to reflect on Anzac Day looming soon—Editing Team.

Send your submission via email attachment using the 'Contact Us' form on the FAW NSW website

<fawns.org.au> and tick the

'Hon. Secretary' box for forwarding.

See *Writers Voice Dec 2015 issue, p23* for guidelines.

William lay on the bunk, roughly covered by a coarse woollen blanket. His body drifted between sleeping and waking, his mind between dream and reality. Where was he? He could hear voices, men's voices, moaning. He lifted his head and looked around, and it all came back.

Flames streaked the sky as shells exploded. Clouds of gas stung eyes and scorched lungs as the men charged out of the trenches, bayonets fixed. Above the pounding of artillery and the terrifying rattle of machine guns, he heard his mate Thommo cry out as he fell, saw Whitey blown to pieces. On through the swirling shadows he stumbled till he felt a searing pain slice into his leg and all went black.

William lay back on the bunk, his head throbbing with a silent scream and there was no mother to comfort him. □

Literary Achievements

cont. from previous page

NORTH SHORE BRANCH [FAWNS]

Richard Brookton's short story 'Hope' has been published by the NSW Department of Education and Communities in *The School Magazine*. It appeared in *Blast Off* for November, 2015.

PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS FAW

Connie Jones:

Commended for an article, 'Port Macquarie in the Fifties'; Highly Commended, 'The Great Flood of 1963'; Short Story plus an article, printed in a local publication, 'Beyond the Three Brothers'.

Tom Pearson:

Launched his second book *Almost An Ordinary Life* in December [see *Bookshelf* page 32].

SHOALHAVEN FAW

Bill Bean:

Received a Commended from the *Port Stephens Examiner* Literature Award, 2015.

Irene Wilkie:

Her piece, 'The Last Hare' was published in *Flashing the Square, Little Fictions*, 'It's a Jungle Out there: animal tales for humans'. It was published widely on Facebook (with an excellent illustration) and in February was read by professional actors at Knox Street Bar, Chippendale.

Article

The Monarchy in Australia

Carolyn Cash

THE BRITISH Monarchy has profoundly shaped Australian political life, despite Republic supporters' claims saying otherwise, and members of the royal family have been warmly welcomed by most Australians since 1867.

Former Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies' description sums up millions of Australians' feelings when the monarchy's popularity was at its peak, despite his words being described as "over the top".

"It is a basic truth that for our Queen we have within us, sometimes unrealised until the moment of expression, the most profound and passionate feelings of loyalty and devotion."

Queen Victoria gave her assent to the birth of the nation which was proclaimed on 1 January 1901 in Sydney's Centennial Park.

Prince Albert Duke of York and Elizabeth Duchess of York (later King George VI and Queen Elizabeth) arrived in Australia in 1927. The Duke opened the first session of the Commonwealth Parliament in Canberra on 9 May, and the Duchess won hearts right from the beginning of their tour.

Australians expressed their sadness at the death of King George V in 1936, and the shock when Edward VIII abdicated later that year to marry American divorcee, Wallis Simpson.

Prince Henry Duke of Gloucester served as Australia's only royal Governor-General for two years from 1945 to 1947. Prime Minister John Curtin believed it would improve chances Britain would maintain its commitment to Australia's defence during World War II.

Australians warmly welcomed Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh during their tour in 1954. It was the first time a reigning monarch had visited, and the Queen and Prince Philip saw more of Australia than their predecessors and visited 70 country towns and all capital cities, except Darwin.



Reprinted from a blog post on <royalcentral.co.uk> dated September 7, 2015. Carolyn Cash is convenor of our FAW Isolated Writers branch. She is a freelance journalist who writes, presents and produces her online show, 'Right Royal Roundup' and lives in Sydney. Carolyn has a monthly segment on Narrabri's community radio station, 2Max FM 91.3 as the royal correspondent. Photo credit: Carolyn Cash.

The Queen and Prince Philip travelled by special "royal trains", by car and flights. According to reports about 75 per cent of the population had the opportunity to see their Queen at least once during the tour. Thousands lined the roads or waited at railway stations cheered and waved flags.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh have returned on subsequent visits to commemorate the Bicentenary of Captain Cook's landing in 1970, opening the Sydney Opera House in 1973 and opening the new Parliament House in Canberra as part of the nation's Bicentenary Celebrations in 1988.

Many Australians have been very enthusiastic and loyal supporters of the monarchy, even when it's popularly had plummeted during the 1990s and the push for the nation to become a republic.

The Australian Republican Movement (ARM) was established in 1991 with the aim of Australia becoming a republic no later than 1 January 2001.

Former Prime Minister Paul Keating told the Queen, during a visit to Balmoral in 1993, that Australians regarded "the monarchy was an anachronism".

The Royal Family had been facing its own problems at this time, including the Queen's "Annus Horribilis" in 1992 with Prince Andrew's separation from his wife, the Duchess of York, and scandalous photos published in tabloids later that year. Princess Anne divorced her husband Mark Phillips, Andrew Morton's tell-all book, *Diana: Her True Story*, was published and Windsor Castle seriously destroyed by fire.

However, Australians voted overwhelmingly against the nation becoming a republic in a Referendum in 1999, mainly because the Australian Republican Movement and their supporters failed to come up with a viable alternative.

Support for the republic has dropped to an all-time low in recent years, as Australians have eagerly welcomed the Queen and other members of the Royal Family in recent times, thanks to William and Kate's wedding, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the births of Prince George and Princess Charlotte.

The ARM, including its newly-appointed Chairman Peter Fitzsimons, has desperately tried to revive interest in becoming a republic. Most Australians have said there are far more important priorities rather than changing the constitution.

According to a recent article in *The Australian*, youth support for the republic is at a record low as young Australians are now said to be replacing older Australians as the strongest supporters of the monarchy.

The younger members of the royal family, including Prince Harry, are seen as great role models serving Britain and the Commonwealth, are seen to be above politics and symbol of stability rather than as celebrities.

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Branch Meetings and Contacts

BANKSTOWN WRITERS

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

BLUE MOUNTAINS WRITERS FAW

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

CENTRAL COAST FAW

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

EASTWOOD/HILLS FAW

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

EUROBODALLA FAW

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

FOREST FAW

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

GREAT LAKES FAW

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

HUNTER FAW

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

ISOLATED WRITERS FAW

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

LAKE MACQUARIE FAW

**2nd Saturday – 1.30 to
4.00pm**
Toronto Public Library Meeting
Room, Cnr Brighton Ave and
Pemell St, Toronto.
Enquiries:
<lakemacfaw2@gmail.com>
Facebook:
<www.facebook.com/LakeMacFAW>
Website:
<lakemacfaw2.wordpress.com>

LAMBING FLAT (YOUNG)

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

LIVERPOOL FAW

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

MACARTHUR FAW

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

MOOCOBOOLA FAW

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

MUDGEY VALLEY FAW

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

NORTH ARM COVE FAW

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

NORTH SHORE [FAWNS]

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

PARRAMATTA FAW

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

PORT MACQUARIE- HASTINGS FAW

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

PORT STEPHENS FAW

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

SHOALHAVEN FAW

2nd Saturday – 10.00 am
Meeting Room, Arts Centre
Berry St, Nowra (next to Library).
Enquiries: Jennifer Dickerson (Pres.)
Mobile: 0412 530 434
Email: <jdickerson@shoal.net.au> or
<info@fawnswoalhaven.org.au>
Web: <fawnswoalhaven.org.au>

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

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

STROUD WRITERS Fortnightly Thursdays

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

SUTHERLAND SHIRE FAW

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

SYDNEY CITY FAW

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

WOLLONDILLY FAW

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

WYONG WRITERS

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

Fellowship of Australian Writers NSW Inc.



ABN 59 557 152 715

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

Internet: <www.fawnsw.org.au>

Facebook: <www.facebook.com/FAWNSW>

ABOUT THE FAW

The aims of the FAW are:

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

Branch Meetings

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

The Fellowship of Australian Writers INTERSTATE BRANCHES

Victoria:

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

Tasmania:

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

Western Australia:

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

Queensland:

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

FAW ISOLATED WRITERS BRANCH

MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES:

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

MEMBERS' ACHIEVEMENTS:

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

AFFILIATION FEES:

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

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

Mail subscriptions to the FAW State Treasurer Kay Bakon (*see page 2 for address*). Make cheques/money orders payable to **Fellowship of Australian Writers** and enclose SSAE for receipt if required.

ELECTRONIC ROUND ROBIN (ERR):

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

Please limit your submissions to:

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

These guidelines are flexible. A combination of several of the above can be offered if the items are only short.

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

ERR Closing Dates

The ERR closes at the end of each month.

ERR Submissions

Send your submissions to the ERR coordinator,
Brian Armour. Email: <isolatedwriters.err@gmail.com>

FAW Members' Bookshelf

TOM PEARSON

Almost an Ordinary Life

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

MAVIS GRANT GUNTER

One and One Make Five

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

PETER J. UREN

The Classic Bike Workshop

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

JOHAN LUIDENS

Friends and Foes

"At least you'll be far away from war-torn Europe" These are the famous last words from his mother as Kees is preparing himself to fly to the Dutch East Indies to join his first ship. Little do they know that both will be facing difficult times dealing with friends and foes. Kees will be maturing as he faces combat but not only with the Japanese. His mother will be battling with loneliness, hunger and the Germans. She even makes life difficult by hiding a young Jewish man. Available from the author (\$30) – email <helen.johan3@bigpond.com> – or from the publisher <www.TatePublishing.com>

SHIRLEY GOODBAR

Kaleidoscope

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

EUROBODALLA FAW

Flights of fancy

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

CLARE BELL

My Australia

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

RECENTLY PUBLISHED BOOKS FOR SALE

Please send updates and details for inclusion – or deletion – in this section of *Writers Voice* to:
<wveditor@fawns.org.au>

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

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

<webmaster@fawns.org.au>

The FAW Bookshelf web page address is:

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

MARGOT SHUGG

Chuck the Train Dog

Margot's third collection of short stories follows up on her previous books with eight more stories telling tales of ordinary characters in intriguing situations. There's Chuck, 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 at local festivals.

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

ANTOINETTE CONOLLY

Alien Wizardry

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

FAW NSW

Unlock the Writer Within

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



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