

Writers Voice



Autumn Edition #247 MAR 2015

QUARTERLY BULLETIN OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS NSW INC.

Short Story

Doppelgänger

Victoria Norton

IT WAS an unexpected knock, followed so swiftly by a second and a third that it became one loud, long reverberation. It woke Renée Mallory from her doze on the couch. Jittery anxiety gripped her as she sat up.

Am I dreaming?

The sound repeated once, twice, thrice! The security door juddered ... bang, bang, bang!

She brushed down her clothes and swiped her damp brown fringe back from her forehead. She opened her front door just a little. The slight lace privacy curtain fluttered against her face. She held it aside, just a little, so she could see who was there.

The man on her stoop introduced himself as Warren Price.

'I'm Bernice's partner,' he said.

While Renée knew her neighbour Bernice, she was sure she'd never met this man. Nor could she remember ever seeing him in the street. Then a vague, visual memory came to her of him sitting with Bernice on the front steps of the Royal Hunter Hotel, early one morning. They were waiting for the door to boozy oblivion to open.

He was such an ordinary man that it would be difficult to recognise him at a future time. Middle-aged. Middle-sized. His crumpled shirt was half tucked into saggy track pants and his half a head of thinning hair was long and dishevelled. He stood at the bottom of Renée's five steps, one hand on the railing and one foot on the bottom step.

She instinctively pulled back, cringing at some unknown discomfort, thinking to shut her door. Something about his eyes made her uncomfortable; rheumy old-age eyes in a young man's face. They darted left and right.

Hoping he'd leave, she opened the screen door half-way across her body and poked her head out.

'Bernice isn't here.'

'Oh, I know that,' he said. 'Ha, ha, ah. I know that.'

'Oh? Then, what can I do for you?'

'She's gone.'

His statement took a second to make sense to her. What did it matter to her whether her neighbour left her partner?

'Bernice is dead. I found her dead when I got home on Friday.'

Renée shook her head, took a sharp breath. Hearing the news like that was shocking.

He was a very odd man. Odd looking. Odd speaking. *Inappropriate behaviour*, was her trained nurse's diagnosis.

The high concrete steps gave her a sense of distance, but his brief words reached up and bit her deeply. Shocking her most was his nonchalance.

'Her funeral's on Wednesday. Someone up the street told me you were her friend. That she came here a lot. That she talked to you all the time. Told you everything ...'

Renée recoiled. *Who would tell him that?* She kept to herself, and even after eight years living in this street she didn't really know any of her neighbours. She didn't know their names or where they worked.

'I hardly knew Bernice. I just gave her a lift into town from time to time,' she said.

Renée recalled the bruises on Bernice's torso some months back. In the car on the way to the shops, Bernice had trouble clipping her seat belt, and had cried out in pain. She had calmly, and with dry-eyes, recounted how she'd been bashed by her partner the night before. She may have said his name but Renée was focused on the hurt, not the hurter.

Bernice had lifted her T-shirt under layers of pullover and heavy coat and shown Renée the purple, green and yellow blotches on her chest, waist and hip. Some bruises looked fresh but others were obviously older. Most likely there would have been other marks of abuse elsewhere on her body.

Renée recognised in her own history – the punches, the slaps, the hits. She knew first-hand the wanton abandonment of control, the unrestrained anger that fuelled a rage attack like that.

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*** NOTE NEW EMAIL and 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 May 2, 2015, 10:00am at City of Sydney RSL Club, 565 George Street, Sydney.

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

General Membership and Subscriptions

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

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

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

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

Writing Fellows

FAW Writing Fellows are listed here: <www.fawnsww.org.au/Writing_Fellows.pdf>.

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

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

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

Distinguished Service Award

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

Guidelines for assessing recommendations for Distinguished Service Awards:

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

ISBN

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

Public Fund

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

FAW Manuscript Assessment Service

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

Short Story

Doppelgänger

cont. from front page

She had felt her mind blur and found it hard to separate Bernice's pain from her own. She had pulled her Jeep over to the side of the road, her hands shaking, her body trembling.

Renée offered her a trip to the doctors. A counsellor. Lifeline. A women's refuge. Police. Bernice decisively and defensively said no to them all. She needed pain relief tablets. Now please, from the chemist. The kind with codeine.

Renée had met this man's type before. *Misogynist. Wife beater. Animal.* Men who were intimidated by, jealous of and destructive to women. Happy to have heterosexual sex and take advantage of the skills of womanliness, but hating women at the same time.

This man at her doorway made her very nervous. The muscles, the bones, the very cells of her body retained the pain of her own past injuries. She hugged herself tightly, hands rubbing across her upper arms from elbow to shoulder.

He was still there. Still talking. He moved up the steps.

One, two.

'I have been telling all my neighbours that me missus was alone when she died. I'm telling you that now.'

Three.

He looked up into Renée's face with quizzical eyes. He took hold of the security screen door.

Four.

He held the edge of the door tighter now. Took the control from Renée. Opened it wider.

Five.

Renée stepped backwards, away from the assault of his breath, a sour mix of bourbon and stale *White Ox* tobacco.

Six.

He was inside her home.

Just like that.

She pushed backwards, flat against the wall. Without invitation he sat down on her white linen couch. He made himself comfortable in the warm spot where she'd been sleeping

only moments before. He pulled a cushion behind his back. Settled in.

Renée reviewed her options in slow motion. As in the past when fear took over, when anger threatened to harm her, time in the real world slowed. She felt as if she was walking through muddy water, bogged down. In opposition to this slowness, her breath quickened, and her chest tightened.

The stranger had a different look now. Hand wringing and jittery, he leaned forward from the couch and his eyes betrayed his words. He told how he'd called on all the neighbours on the left hand side of the street and now Renée was the last visit on the right. Some twenty homes in all. *A well-practiced monologue.*

He chewed some sort of gum, and the sucking, clicking sounds were abhorrent to her. It was an ambient, sexual sound and she found it revolting. This is a long term problem she endures. She feels an intense visceral anger, hatred and disgust whenever she hears the sounds of someone in close proximity eating, or chewing. Friend or stranger.

Chew, chew, chew.

Now, in this moment, she was at a crossroads. She must control her usual reaction, avoid any provocation to anger in her visitor.

'Someone up the road said you were a nurse, right?' he said. 'So you know that she OD'd, right?'

'Did she?' Renée asked, her mouth dry, her tongue sticky and her voice squeaking.

'Well, I work up at the hostel up the road, right? And, ah, well I checked her obs the day before, cos, well, she was out of it, right? Her pulse, her BP, her temp – they were all normal. And then I had to go to work, see? On nights.'

Chew, chew, chew.

'Are you a nurse?' said Renée, wondering how the hostel could employ a man like him.

'Nah, I'm on the night watch roster, but I've learned a lot up there. That's where I met Bernice. Brung her home with me one day to do some cleaning and she stayed, so that was okay. I'll take another girly home soon. Very handy to have all that do-mestic stuff taken care of.'

Still pushing her body hard against the wall, trying to breathe quietly and

calmly, Renée was at a loss what to do. Ask him to leave? Should *she* leave?

His words were slurring now. He'd stopped his pretence of sobriety. He flicked at his bitten down finger nails. His first two fingers and the palm of his left hand were stained orange from nicotine. *An ex-prisoner might hide his smoke in his hand.* The air in the flat was musty now.

Warren spoke without making eye contact with Renée for several minutes. Unable to rouse ... heart attack ... brain aneurism ... seizure ... tox screen ... epilepsy...

'What do you want?' said Renée.

She'd listened long enough.

'Only, for you to know, I didn't do it.'

'Didn't do what?' said Renée.

'I didn't kill her. She was already dead and even if people talk they can't prove it. She took pills, all sorts. Every day. Cost me a fortune. I've got receipts.'

'I know she took pills, I know that. It's all okay. So thanks for telling me. I'll say goodbye, alright?'

Renée watched for a change in his demeanour. *Best to keep him calm.*

'The police took video, photos. A statement. They counted tablets and looked at her scripts. I had nothing to do with it. With her being dead.'

He sat with legs spread wide, without fear now, in no doubt about his impression on her.

Chew, chew, chew.

Renée stayed quiet. She didn't want to set him off. Who knew what his buttons were? *Bernice might have missed her final cue.*

'She drank, too. After I'd leave for work. She'd take pills and get pissed. Some people said they'd seen me manage her back into the house. Well, I'd have to rustle her sometimes. She'd be in her underwear! For fuck's sake I couldn't just leave her on the street in the dark in her knickers, could I? Neighbours'd call me at work and so yeah, I'd have to go home and handle her back inside.'

He was red faced now, a large vein throbbing on the left side of his brow. She counted his pulse. How odd, she thought, but still she counted. *Forty, sixty, eighty, a hundred and forty – hypertension. Blood pressure through the roof. Anger management an obvious issue.*

cont. next page...

Doppelgänger

cont. from previous page

'Anyhow, I called this mate of mine, a retired cop. Sid. Ex-drug squad. I drink with him at the Royal. It's good to have a drinking buddy who's awake at seven in the morning. He doesn't sleep well, all the things he's seen. So I called him first. Before triple 0. I knew he'd know what to do. And he did.'

'Well, it's good you had some help when you realised Bernice had died,' said Renée. 'Thanks for telling me. Bye now.'

Chew, chew, chew.

She was desperate for him to leave.

'We put everything right, Sid and me. We found all her pills and put the packets out for the local coppers. Collected up all her scripts. We picked up Bernice's body from the bathroom floor and put her back into our bed. For dignity, said Sid. It was awkward, she was cold and bloody heavy. She was still in her clothes, rugged up like a polar explorer, and stinky like a dirty dish cloth. That weren't unusual. Sometimes she'd stay in bed for days, just getting up to take more pills. Hardly ever showered.'

Renée felt some parts of her mind travel to other places, a childhood coping mechanism. She allowed herself to go numb, her nerves went into auto-suspension. She watched him from the safe distance of this psychological protection.

Levering his weight onto his knees, he groaned as he rose unsteadily, an old man in a young man's body. Renée stepped up to the doorway, and opened the screen door. She inadvertently pushed it so hard it bounced back and shut with a slam! She glanced at him. He jumped and scowled. Stared at her with half-lidded eyes. She winced. Swallowed hard. *Don't make eye contact.*

'Righto, so the doctor said she would of had heaps of tablets in her stomach. And I was on nights. So I had nothing to do with her death. Right?'

He was at the doorway.

Please just leave.

He turned back to Renée.

'So you'll tell everyone right? What I just said? About it not being me who killed her?'

'Yes, of course. I'm so sorry for your loss.'

Just go!

She shut and latched the door behind him, watched him walk away through her window. Watched until he was gone from sight.

The living room smelt sour. She felt soiled, even though he hadn't touched her. Her hands were damp, her body heavy, exhausted. She shuddered. Chilled and yet sweat rimmed her brow.

How had she let that whole scene happen? Why had she even opened her door? She'd seen a stranger there, she should not have let him in.

She considered her own use of tablets. *No, I'm okay. I'm not addicted to anything. I just take codeine for pain relief. I only need them for my back pain.*

It's ten years since I hurt myself. Wait, no. It was Raymond who hurt me. Raymond who pushed me down the stairs. And then sat on me for an hour to stop me calling for help. It was him who held his hands around my throat and stopped the life giving air until I finally gave in and nodded.

'Yes. I won't call out for help. Yes, I'll keep this a secret. Yes, you are in charge of both of us. Yes, I won't fight you anymore.'



Renée had learned not to stress Raymond when he came home from a hard day at work. She'd learned how to make dinner just so. To wear just the right thing. Never to talk about going back to work. Never to invite her family to his house. Never to see or call her girlfriends without him present.

What will Raymond do when he comes home tonight? He'll smell that awful man. He'll sense something has happened.

She opened the pantry door. She passed her fingers over the smooth cedar wood doors that matched her island bench and the floating wood flooring. Her industrial modern home was a newly converted 20th-century warehouse apartment in Melbourne. The value had rocketed since the renovation.

She felt around the back of the shelf and found the air freshener behind the cereal packets. The lavender smell would calm her. She hesitated. *But Raymond hates me using it.*

She reached for the Tupperware tub, thirty years old, special and familiar to her. Renée swiftly poked out six tablets from a foil strip. *Ahh, there are plenty left!* Codeine. High strength. No prescription needed. Bernice had shown her the best ones. Codeine becomes morphine in the human body. *Ahh.*

Renée returned the container to its hiding spot. *Hidden in plain sight.* Dry mouthed, she couldn't swallow the tablets and she quickly grabbed for the cup on the bench. Cold, sweet coffee washed the acerbic taste away. Her hands shook, but she knew in a short time she'd feel settled again.

She bent down to the wine rack and grabbed a bottle. Poured a glass of red wine, a burgundy from the Hunter Valley. Twelve bottles for the price of eight. *Great shopping value.* Raymond would approve of her budgeting. Renée tossed the screw top into the bin. She wouldn't need the lid tonight.

Renée waited for Raymond to come home.

State Council News

From the President

HELLO TO all members. What a busy start to the year already. Everyone I meet says how fast time seems to go and they have less and less in the week. I guess it is because we are all so busy.

I am so glad we had many good reports from last year's Awards Luncheon; we had a terrific audience and guest speaker Paul Brunton really excelled.

Let me leak a little tease that I have a fabulous guest already lined up for the November Luncheon this year, and I know he has many fans Australia wide. Look for more details in the *Writers Voice* after this one... he is a media man, a poet, an actor, a broadcaster, and he travels Australia wide on gigs as well.

Mark it on your calendar and do not miss it.

Thanks to all the Committee members who do such a beaut job.

I am looking forward to our next State meeting which will be outside Sydney—more on that later—it's such a good chance to meet members who live far away from Sydney and gives them the chance to see how the Fellowship operates at meetings.

I was very sad to hear of the passing of Doreen Bolton, a much talented and valued FAW Member. I enjoyed reviewing books of Doreen's and chatting via our now-and-then emails.

I would urge people to think about being on our Management Committee when our next AGM comes around [*Saturday 2 May in Sydney*]. There are various jobs people could do and I am sure the outgoing person would help you in the initial stages.

It's rare that groups have such a good Committee as we have—many end up an unhappy lot or bad vibes intervene so much.

Unlock The Writer Within, our wonderful book of helpful chapters about writing that Colleen worked so hard on compiling, is still available and has been selling well.

If you have some nice items you can donate for gifts on our table at the Annual Luncheon in November, I am getting in early and ask you bring them along on the day as part

of our door prizes. I usually provide some lovely books and I add to them as the months go on. As the event is near to Christmas, other items appropriate as gifts are always good too.

My greetings to Port Macquarie Fellowship of Australian Writers, thank you for your hospitality when we were up there and it is so nice to see any problems are sorted out. If visiting that area I would urge a visit to the Tomato & Strawberry farm. Thank you to Colleen Parker for her help there as well.

I shall try and get along to a few more Branch meetings here and there this year as time allows and depending where it is, as long as it's daytime hours and transport accessible.

Young Talent

INDIANA JACKSON is 8 years of age going on 18.

This young lady, daughter of FAW Wollondilly Member Michelle Jackson was a guest on my radio show recently. I asked her to come on as I was so impressed with her reading of her own composition at the Wollondilly FAW Christmas party.

This is one very talented girl; she loves learning, loves to study and reads a book a day.



Trevar on air with Indiana Jackson

Indiana already has aspirations to write novels and even to own her own bookshop and put her books on show out front.

She does not watch much TV, but prefers to read and write as well as riding her horse on their Bargo farm. It was such a delight to chat to Indiana and her folks are very proud of her talent and intelligence. Indiana performed her composition 'When I grow up' which is a really terrific monologue (*reprinted in 'Roundup' page 14*—I wish you could hear her do it). She also did a short Anzac piece and a Christmas story.

I hope to invite her back when she has written more as she tells me there are several stories in the pipeline. Listeners were amazed she was only eight; many thought her much older as she exudes so much confidence.

This is a young lady you will be hearing much more from in future years in the Literary world.

Trevar Langlands, State President

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD HONOUR ROLL



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

*Deceased

State Council News

From the Secretary's desk

THE FAW State Management Committee held their first meeting for 2015 at Gosford February 5, 2015.

The committee noted, with regret, the news from Kandos president Sr Kath Luchetti, that "the group is no longer viable" due to the fact they experienced a change in the personal circumstances of some members and operated during 2014 with only four financial members.

On behalf of the FAW State Council, I thanked Kath and her members for their participation in the FAW over the years, wished them all well and hoped the remaining members would consider joining Isolated Writers—a great alternative!

The loss of a branch is very sad, which now leads me to mention to you all a very important date in May: **Saturday, May 2**—the FAW's Annual General Meeting commencing 10am at the City of Sydney RSL, 565 George Street, Sydney.

This is the day when all the State Council positions are declared vacant and we look ahead to 2015/2016 with, hopefully, some fresh faces on the committee.

As we have said so many times before, the committee is '*maturing fast*' and we are not sure how much longer we can steer the ship!

From a personal point-of-view, I joined the committee, in my words "for just one year". I served two terms as a committee member and have been secretary since 2012 and I must confess I love it!

I have had the opportunity to meet so many of you on my travels. Your hospitality has been wonderful, your support amazing and the networking and friendship offered, money just can't buy!

The committee have, at their own expense, travelled in the past to Newcastle, Shoalhaven, Mudgee and Port Macquarie to hold a quarterly meeting, and we are hoping to visit Eurobodalla in November this year.

I must admit I love to chat so what better way to achieve this than to join a very friendly committee led by Trevar Langlands, dedicated to keep the tradition of the Fellowship of Australian Writers alive; remembering that in 2028, 100 years of this tradition will be commemorated.

We endeavour at all times to follow the aims of the Fellowship. Of course, we can't please everyone all the time but, believe me, we do try!

In any organisation, there are the 'knockers,' but we are staunchly dedicated to uphold the Fellowship's aims. I am reminded of the expression 'put your money where your mouth is'. If you have new ideas, suggestions and expertise, and you feel you could make a difference I commend you to put up your hand to become part of the committee; I have loved and still do love every minute of my membership.

Think about it, nominate and come along on May 2, we would love to welcome you aboard.

Maureen Kelly OAM,
Hon Sec FAW NSW

Fellowship of Australian
Writers NSW Inc



Notice of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, May 2, 2015

City of Sydney RSL Club
565 George 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 2015/16 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 forms and Proxy forms are on the BACK of your bulletin's ADDRESS SHEET.

Nominations are sought for:

- PRESIDENT
- VICE PRESIDENTS (2)
- HON. SECRETARY
- HON. TREASURER
- MEMBERS' REGISTRAR
- GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS (3)

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
22 Promontory Way
NORTH ARM COVE NSW 2324

Must be received no later than April 23, 2015.

For further information, phone the FAW NSW State Secretary
0417 403 720 or email <honsecretary@fawns.org.au>

CHANGE OF EMAIL ADDRESS

for Writers Voice

The email address
<weditor@dri-print.net.au>
for *Writers Voice* editor Ken Driver
will cease to operate from 15 May 2015.

The NEW email address is
WEDITOR@FAWSW.ORG.AU

The new address is effective immediately.
All contributors to *Writers Voice* are asked to update their Address Book or Contacts list and use the new email address, starting NOW.

FAW Branch Reports

BANKSTOWN FAW

AT OUR February meeting we discussed the cover of our anthology (*Don't miss The Revesby Bus*, coming soon to a stop near you). Then we read some stuff, had coffee and bickies, read some more stuff and went home. A good report is a short one.

David Mathers

CENTRAL COAST FAW

Another new writer has joined our happy band. Ewan is a retired teacher, so we might now have to be more careful with our punctuation. Ewan's wife Del, was made welcome at our social lunch after the meeting.

Johan, our literary officer has been presenting us with some rather 'way out' themes for our 150 word homework. I notice that quite often the submissions are written in a humorous vein, which is good; laughing is a great way to lead us into our more serious readings.

Pat Lindsay

EASTWOOD/HILLS FAW

Like all of you no doubt, there is not much branch news to share, what with the Christmas break and all. We have, however, not been idle as a look at our quarterly achievements will attest. Nonetheless, our December Christmas Party saw us enjoy good food, great company and an even greater variety of literary delights to sample, including our usual Quiz organised and run by David Terelinck, this time on Australian Literature. The evening was all expertly drawn together by the comic stylings of MC, Laura Davis.

We began the year with the knowledgeable and talented Beverley George guiding us through a detailed, informative and diverse workshop about Haibun. The word Haibun is the name for the Japanese form of poetry, which is a beautiful blend of Haiku (Hai) and Prose (Bun).

We have some interesting workshops coming up this year, as you can see below, and guests are very welcome to attend for \$5 or \$6

when we have a guest speaker. We meet at 1.30pm every first Saturday of the month.

March. *Writing for Children*—Artelle Lenthall and Laura Davis.

April. *Love and War: A snapshot of the early Twentieth Century*—Anne Howard.

May. *Developing an online presence as a writer: possibilities and pitfalls*—Janni Nell (guest).

June. *Poetry in Collaboration: writing poetry in response chains or in collaboration with another poet*—Carmel Summers.

July. *Writing from the heart*—Susanne Gervay (guest).

August. Presentation Afternoon for *Literary Competition*. Don't forget to enter! Details on our website, in this and last quarter's *Writers Voice* and on NSW Writer's Centre Website.

September. No Workshop.

October. *History in the Making*—Elizabeth Collins.

November. *Science Fiction: Inventing a fantasy or Giving a Glimpse into our Planet's Future?*—Helena Hamilton.

Artelle Lenthall

EUROBODALLA FAW

[See our new meeting dates page 26].

It can be hard to get the wheels of writing moving again after heavy doses of fun, family and friends over Christmas and January. That's why we attend our group meetings. When I asked members what they get out of attending, one said, "Sometimes writing feels like I'm locked in a tower. Even though it's a nice tower, I recognise the need to get out of my comfort zone. The meeting is a place to share what I know and learn what I don't."

Another stated, "Working with the evening group and its critique process has significantly improved my writing. It provides the impetus to keep on writing."

For another member, there were more personal benefits: "The different weekly themes of the daytime group have been instrumental in retraining my cognitive abilities which had been decimated by illness and medications."

And the one which echoes my own response: "I am so happy I decided to join EuroFAW [sic]. I was welcomed by a sea of friendly faces on the first day I stepped (with a considerable amount of trepidation) into the meeting room. I was new at this writing caper. What would they think of my amateurish efforts? I have received nothing but encouragement and support since joining and my writing has improved out of sight."

We all know we want to write and want to share what we write, but that leads to wondering whether it's any good and what others think about it. So this year we have some plans afoot to structure some of our meetings for more in-depth, small group critiquing. Our Night Group is well advanced in this. Their stories are shared online well before they meet, so they can knuckle down to critiquing. No time for socialising—they now have to arrange another evening for that!

Two of our members, Mike Robinson and Tony Maynard, have published a collection of their stories, *Absorbing Yarns*, set up a stall with a swanky new banner at the Moruya Markets, and have been selling their book, with 50% of sales going to Cancer Research. At the time of writing, \$800 has gone to the charity. Well done! They also provide space for other members' work.

We're probably the only branch of FAW that holds three meetings a month (two daytime, one night) which doesn't give us much opportunity to get lazy. The day group has a choice of two topics each time, up to 1000 words, and a 'Drabble'.

This popular, but harder than it sounds, form of writing was invented by one of the members about four years ago. Here's how it works: a given topic and a given emotion, on which you have to write 100 words exactly. Ideally, the topic and emotion given aren't logically connected, eg Knife/Humility, but that's part of the challenge.

Apart from these, we have three or four workshops lined up, the first on 'Romance Writing' and run by Nicole Murphy, back by popular

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FAW Branch Reports

Eurobodalla

cont. from previous page

demand. We'll focus on how to use the physical—whether it be innocent or erotic—to make a romance come alive on the page, and look at examples of good and bad sex scenes, the use of language and metaphors in sex, how characters influence sex scenes and finally, the realities of sex and how not to get carried away in the writing.

Our current President, Stafford Ray, ex-teacher, inventor, DIY mechanic, boat builder, sailor, author and muso—our very own Renaissance man!—is now using playwriting as a literacy tool, with a class of 13- to 14-year olds, mostly boys, whose average reading age is eight and all with tricks they have developed to cope with academic failure and need for recognition.

Yet another opportunity to engage with the local community for mutual benefit.

Rosie Toth

GREAT LAKES FAW

Well, another new year has begun, and we are all looking forward to having a productive year of writing. Our October meeting in 2014 was an interesting one, being about writing for children. There are so many different age groups to write for, from nursery to young adults, and many types of stories or poems to be written.

In November we studied the styles of poetry of Tanka, Haiku, Cinquain, and also Acrostic poems. These were presented on many different subjects; always intriguing!

Our Christmas luncheon was held at Club FORSTER as usual, and at the following meeting we farewelled one of our members, Gary Taaffe, who is making a great success of writing a series of books for young adults. Several local schools are purchasing them for their students. He has also published two 'How to' books on self-publishing and e-publishing. Martyna Parsons will also not be rejoining.

After the Christmas and New Year break, we had our first 2015 meeting

on 13 February, with a good group of fourteen people, including a visitor who wants to join. The holiday assignment was to write a short story or poem titled 'Murder Most Foul'. We had some quite unusual ones, including several who used a twist on the words of the title and killed off some poor *fowls!* We don't have an assignment for March as yet, as the list is currently being compiled.

We had our AGM at this meeting, and the new committee is as follows: President Hermione Browning, Secretary Anne Hailes, Assistant Secretary Christine Hayes, Treasurer Charmain Williams, Publicity Officer Christine Hayes.

We intend self-publishing another Anthology this year, so members are busy choosing their submissions.

Christine Hayes

HUNTER FAW

After many years at the helm, our long-standing president Ms Jan Dean has resigned. Everyone at Hunter FAW thanks her for her devotion and service "above and beyond" the call of duty. Our new president is Ms Luciana Croci, an aspiring poet. Ms Eileen Dillon-Smith is our vice president and Ms Christine Brotherson is our new secretary. Welcome to everyone in their new positions.

Hunter FAW has changed its programme somewhat, relying on its own members to inspire and lead the writing group each month.

We are all looking forward to the Newcastle Writers' Festival in March and some of us are volunteering as ushers etc. Our former president Jan Dean is launching her new publication both at the festival and later at the Wickham Park Hotel.

Her book, *Paint Peels, Graffiti Sings*, a poetry chapbook in English and Mandarin will be launched at the Newcastle Writers Festival on Saturday 21 March as part of the Big Launch at Agosti Espresso, 7 Darby Street Newcastle from 1.30 to 4 pm, along with four other poets. Jan's timeslot is 3.00 to 3.30 pm.

Her second presentation will be at Poetry at the Pub, Wickham Park Hotel from 7.30 pm on 23 March.

We are all hoping to have a very productive year.

Luciana Croci

ISOLATED WRITERS FAW

Our thoughts and prayers are with Doreen Bolton's family as I was very saddened to hear the news of Doreen's passing in February. Doreen has been a very active member, with the launch of her book *The Gene Bank Hacking* in Port Macquarie one year ago. I had been looking forward to meeting up with Doreen when I was in Port Macquarie last year. It was a great shock when I received the news recently.

Many thanks to Brian Armour who has been running the Electronic Round Robin during the past three months, with submissions including chapters of two novels and some poetry.

I hope 2015 will be a successful writing year for FAW Isolated Writers.

Carolyn Cash

LAKE MACQUARIE FAW

Our November meeting saw us focus on the publication process for e-books. Author Karen Cooper-Johnston answered our questions about how she publicises her own e-books. She told us about designing your own website and blogging using sites such as *WordPress*. A facility for purchasing through *PayPal* can be incorporated.

The winners of the Alice Sinclair Memorial Writing Competition, a major event for the Lake Macquarie group, were announced. First place in the short story section went to Jennie Herera of Newtown, Hobart. Her winning story was titled 'A dark car waits'. First place in the poetry section went to Claire Bell of Bargo for her poem 'Ambrose, a brother dead before his time'.

Four members of the group (Thelma Wawrzzonek, Kristen Mair, Linda Brooks and myself) were delighted to learn that they were finalists in the 2015 *Newcastle*

Morning Herald Short Story Competition. Writers were asked to submit a piece between 800 and 1000 words, using inspiration from one of four photos provided. Their finalists' stories were published in the newspaper over the December/January period.

Pam Garfoot

LAMBING FLAT (YOUNG) FAW

An enjoyable morning tea was held for our Christmas get-together in December, with interesting chatter and ideas.

The Writing Competition for 2014 was a huge success. Total numbers were 272, made up of: Adult Poetry 94, Adult Short Story 73, Children's Poetry and Short Story 105.

Entries were from all over Australia, a fabulous response, with the word spread by everyone! Thank you to everyone who supported

us, especially those who submitted multiple entries.

Sponsorship for the competition was a huge boost. School student entries were great, with free entry an extra incentive. Many thanks to all the judges for their hard work as well.

The calibre of the junior entries was tremendous, along with wonderful support from students at Carindale, Qld and Coonabarabran, NSW.

First place getters for **Short Story** were:

- David Tighe, Coonabarabran, Adult Section (just completed Year 12)
- Anna Nash, Coonabarabran, Yrs. 10-11-12
- Connor Day, Cowra, Yrs. 7-8-9 (also won the Grenfell Henry Lawson writing competition last year)
- Annabelle Richens, Young, Yrs. 4-5-6 (also a winner last year)
- Matthias Campbell, Carindale Qld, Yrs. 1-2-3.

First place getters for **Poetry** were:

- Terry Piggott, Canning Vale WA (rhyming)
- Gregory Tome, Burradoo (free verse)
- Florence McGufficke, Cooma, Yrs 10-11-12
- Kate Buckley, Tumut, Yrs 7-8-9
- Madelize Breet, Carindale Qld, Yrs 4-5-6
- Elisabeth Hall, Young, Yrs. 1-2-3.

Ideas are welcome to enhance our group for the future. Our president, Ted Webber suggested a Community function as a way of promoting the group. Ted was thanked for all the time and effort he has put into the club over the past year.

Our Vice president, Bianca and Laurence welcomed a beautiful baby girl, Lavinia Ellen on 31 December 2014. Welcome to little Lavinia, our newest member.

Member, Valerie Parv was the Australia Day Ambassador for Young

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Lambing Flat writers group, December 2014

FAW Branch Reports

Lambing Flat

cont. from previous page

and gave an entertaining speech, with our writers group getting a mention.

Our first meeting for 2015 was held on Monday 9 February, with members looking forward to a fresh year of writing and fellowship.

Maree Myhill

LIVERPOOL FAW

At time of writing, we were set to hold our Election for Office Bearers at the February Meeting.

We had a busy 2014 and are looking forward to lots of interesting workshops and readings in 2015. We are also busy compiling our work for the proposed anthology to be published later in the year.

Our summer open reading nights—which were successful last year—will hopefully bring together writers from surrounding areas.

Our first Poetry Night was Tuesday 17 February; the second is Wednesday 18 March, from 6pm to 9pm. It is held at the Hilda M. Davis Senior Citizens Centre, 165 Bigge St., Liverpool 2170. \$5 admission. Light supper provided. Enquiries: Rick 9821 3373.

Rhonda Rice

MACARTHUR FAW

Lately, some of our discussions have revolved around the art of getting published, with generous input from members more experienced in this regard. This may lead to some interesting developments as we focus on helping our talented writers find outlets for their work.

With the memory of crime and fiction writer, Amanda Howard's blood-curdling visit still fresh in our minds, we are looking forward to another guest speaker appearance in April. Death and disaster will again be on the menu as we hear from Titanic expert, Karin Daley. More about this in my next report.

As a way of publicising our group, we have approached Campbelltown Library with a proposal to mount

a display. This would include copies of group and member publications, as well as information about the Fellowship of Australian Writers, including our local branch. Hopefully this will lead to some new membership enquiries.

The first meeting of 2015 was small in numbers but very productive. The writing exercise, with a choice of six scenarios, led to some very creative writing, not least Trevor Langlands' hilarious account of being trapped in a lift.

From time to time conversation turns to a book that someone has mentioned. This month it was Richard Flanagan's novel, *The Narrow Road to the Deep North*. These discussions, which we view as another way of learning about writing, are a welcome part of our agenda.

Ours is a very diverse group, with a wide range of literary styles and interests. It is impressive to see the open-minded and friendly way in which members receive one another's work, always responding with positive, constructive criticism,

It gives me pleasure to conclude this report with the list of office holders for 2015. They are as follows: President Margot Shugg; Vice President Victoria Chie; Treasurer Rodney Hunter; Secretary Pauline Twemlow.

It is good to know that our group is in safe hands, as we look forward to another enjoyable year of literary endeavour.

Bernard Russell Smith

MUDGE VALLEY FAW

We are sad to have lost our past President and Treasurer, Margaret Robinson. She is very much missed by our group. R.I.P Margaret. We treasure your memory and stories.

Kevin Pye is launching his eighth book of poetry on 8 May. Congratulations Kevin.

We have two excursions planned this year, following in the footsteps of Henry Lawson.

Jill Baggett

NORTH ARM COVE FAW

Members gathered at North Arm Cove Community Centre for their Christmas lunch which, this year, not only included poems and prose being read out by members, but also ukulele-playing member Kerry Griffin joined forces with her father Bob, to entertain everyone with their versions of Rudolph the *Red Nose Reindeer* and *Jingle Bells*.

In excess of \$200 was donated by members at the lunch to support the Mustard Seed School project in Mgongeni, an urban slum area of Mombasa, Kenya. Vast improvements have been achieved in the last five years and the branch is proud that their small contribution each Christmas has contributed to the completion of Phase 1 of the new school building.

Some members' computers weren't idle over the Christmas break; five members participating in the *Storytelling in Great Lakes* project.

Lal Clayton ('The Mother'), Lee Clayton ('Shadow Wing' and 'In my Heart' music and lyrics), Elizabeth Deane ('Memories abound seated at a desk'), Olly Griffin ('1940 war-time memories of an evacuee') and Maureen Kelly ('Sirens, Shelters, Sleeplessness (1942-1945)' formed part of the travelling exhibition which will be displayed at North Arm Cove in March after travelling to Stroud and Tea Gardens.

The facilitator for the Tea Gardens, Hawks Nest, North Arm Cove area was member Kerryan Griffin who, together with council officer Kellie Richardson and facilitators from Forster and Stroud, encouraged older residents in the Great Lakes region to share their memories. The program was funded by the NSW Department of Family and Community Services as part of the Local Government Creative Ageing Program.

North Arm Cove branch was thrilled when it was announced member Kate Milford was one of twelve Hunter Region residents honoured in this year's Australia Day Honours List, receiving the Order of Australia medal. This is, indeed, well deserved recognition for all her hard work for Lions and the

community of Kurri Kurri where she lived for many years before coming to North Arm Cove. Congratulations, Kate—well done!

At their first meeting for 2015 members organised another busy year of writing and social activities.

Maureen Kelly

PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS FAW

January was our AGM and we welcomed in a new Committee: Brian Tolagson as President, Colleen Parker as Secretary and Maggie Jones, Treasurer. Joie Black will be the editor of the in house news.

We thank Brian Tolagson for his editorship of our newsletter over the past years. I can never be as good but I am trying as you may have been told *LOL*.

The gathering that followed our AGM was a really enjoyable experience and all left chatting together about what a good time they had, very rewarding for us all.

All there were happy to be back in harness for the coming year. For yours truly the meeting was even more amazing as I met Maureen Kelly from North Arm Cove branch and found that we both went to the

same school in the UK; I during WWII and her, a few years after. Just goes to show that writers everywhere get together eventually.

At the committee meeting on 11 February plans were made for the coming year and some great new ideas were to be put to the members at our February gathering.

Among the things that are up and coming in our group is the launch of Tom Pearson's new book *Jennifer*, a must for all those who love dogs and a very enjoyable read for all.

Deb Hunt we hope is to be our speaker for the next gathering and we look forward very much to hear her.

At time of writing, Port Macquarie-Hastings and FAW Executive Committee member Colleen Parker was to be interviewed on air by Maggie Jones at 2WAY FM 103.9 Wauchope. Colleen will talk about the Fellowship; when and why it was founded; by whom; well-known writers who subsequently became members; its aims as a group; and, a bit about our Port Macquarie branch.

Check the radio station's *facebook* page at <[facebook.com/2WAYFM](https://www.facebook.com/2WAYFM)>.

Plans are in the offing for a collection of members' works to be collated into a book for other members to read—this is for our last meeting of the year [all offerings to be in by September meeting]. So to our members I say, "Pens out, computers on and away you go."

We are heading for our 37th birthday this July and we are

cont. next page...



An attentive audience at Clair Bell's book launch. (Wollondilly Report p13)



The Picton Harmony Singers at Clare Bell's book launch. (Wollondilly Report p13)



Wyong Writers President Mei-Ling Venning (left) accepts the In House Trophy for Prose from Publicity Officer Margaret Young. (Report p13)

FAW Branch Reports

Port Macquarie-Hastings

cont. from previous page

planning to give a Life Membership to one of our long time members. More about this in the next issue.

May I wish all FAW members everywhere a prosperous and fulfilling literary year.

Good luck to all for 2015.

Joie Black

PORT STEPHENS FAW

We started 2015 with our annual January Coffee 'Get Together'. All in holiday mode, we reflected on our first meeting held (and still is) in the Gymea Lily Room, Tomaree Library Salamander in 2002.

Our group have achieved much during our time together. Rona Tilden, Thelma Job and myself who attended the Inaugural meeting are still here, and still writing.

Relaxed and in holiday mode we shared our news and writing plans for the coming year.

Now a big step as we start our thirteenth year at our February meeting we can look forward to a good year of writing, outings, new members and guests.

Our accent will be on the word FELLOWSHIP as we share our stories and poems. Usually we have some surprise holiday writing topics to make us laugh. The Chinese call 2015 'The year of the Sheep'. Now, as writer's "*flock together*" we wish all a Happy Writing year.

Christine Gregory

SHOALHAVEN FAW

Shoalhaven FAW meetings are always exciting and energising. Our January meeting was no exception as we took a plunge into the world of crime writing. Those of us who enjoy this genre will no doubt benefit from all the information our President, Barbara Simmons, has gathered on the subject and will share with us over the coming months.

Our overall program for 2015 includes several workshops and guest lectures. At our February meeting, our Vice President Tony Watkin presented a talk on the *Scrivener*

app and explained how we can take advantage of its many applications.

All our members are looking forward to a rewarding and inspiring year.

Chere Le Page

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS FAW

The Southern Highlands branch began its 2015 activities on February 21st with two new members and two very enthusiastic visitors, an encouraging sign for the health of writing in the Highlands.

Sadly one of our longest term members, Margaret Cech, passed away during the holidays, at Harbison, Burradoo. Margaret will always be remembered for her poetry and for her fascination with science fiction, a genre in which she exhibited outstanding skill. We regret deeply that she did not live long enough to complete her novel, a work approaching its final chapters. Those most closely associated with her in the challenging field of novel-writing were hugely helped by her insightful and incisive critiquing of their work, delighted by her wit and enriched by her friendship.

At our recent February meeting we farewelled Jennifer Crozier, who, with her husband, has to move away from the Highlands. Jenny joined FAWSH in its first year, 2004, and has occupied the positions of Secretary, Vice President, President, State Council representative, Anthology committee member and Anthology editor.

It was exciting to have our third Anthology, *In Other Words*, available in time for Christmas. This book was edited by Jenny Crozier, with the assistance of Greg Tome, and Margaret Symonds, and with the kind help of Ron Jones in the final weeks.

Ron Jones and Brian Haydon, whose ten-minute plays were the overall winners of the Bundanoon Crash Test Drama in 2014, have had further success at the recent Short 'n Sweet Drama Festival in Sydney.

Plays have recently been presented, from the pens of Ken Challenor, Ron Jones, Brian Haydon, Greg Tome and William Davies who are all keen contributors to CTD, Bundanoon as well as being FAWSH members.

Ron Jones' short story and Greg Tome's poem were the winners in their respective categories of the 2014 Ken Challenor Competition. Ken presented them with their certificates at our hilarious December funfest.

He also presented his first ever attempt at writing a play at our Christmas meeting, and has written more since.

Ken Challenor has kindly offered to resume the presidency of FAWSH for 2015 with Brian Haydon as his deputy, Barbara Angell as Secretary, Kathryn Litchfield as Treasurer, and Greg Tome as the other member of the committee.

Margaret Symonds

SUTHERLAND FAW

Our new committee is in full swing with some great ideas to attract younger members to our group. Our January meeting kicked off to a great start with our guest speaker James Gallagher, who with warmth and humour, talked to us about his journey in writing and publishing his poetry. He communicated with great honesty about the writing process, and how we have to get into the state of mind to write by always being positive and persevere. He said, "If you want to be creative—then do it! Don't have self doubt. Negative input will derail the writing process. Fundamental to how we create is having a clear purpose and getting constructive feedback of our work".

Our Writers Festival committee is already busily planning this year's festival with the promise of interesting well-known writers giving talks, and publishing consultations with leading experts from established publishers. So anyone working on a novel, can bring their manuscript for appraisal for a very reasonable fee.

For the February meeting, Elizabeth Klein, a published author joined us as our guest speaker. She has published three YA fantasy novels in the Blethoria series. She is currently teaching Creative Writing for Adults at SGSCC, Jannali Centre.

To make the atmosphere of our meetings more varied and interesting, our February meeting was held at Tradies, Gymea. Many thanks to

Tradies for giving us a quiet room, where we could take our coffees and snacks from the cafe.

Our March meeting will be on 21 March at our usual venue, Sutherland Library, when Lee-Anne Walker, YA author is going to talk about the publishing process.

Sylvia Vago

WOLLONDILLY FAW

It's time for new blood. We will have our Annual General Meeting in March and all committee positions are up for grabs. I will hang up my secretary's pen as there are some superb individuals ready and willing to take my place and keen to keep your readers informed of the shenanigans of this lively group.

We are well into our stride for 2015. It's the year of the sheep. It promises to be a nice gentle year according to the Chinese horoscopes and experts on this description of year types. I am informed that alongside the cycle of years are the elements namely earth, wood, fire, earth and water. 2015 is a wood year which is associated with living things or the renewal process. The sheep is a nice, gentle, soft animal which symbolises peace and harmony. We had the horse last year which was tumultuous so hopefully 2015 will herald a nice peaceful year.

As I reflect upon 2014 it was a very good year with lots of activities that kept our group busy. However, we cannot lie back on our Laurels; we need to keep the momentum going lest we become complacent.

Congratulations to our in-house writer Clare Bell who launched her book *My Australia* in November. [See 'Roundup' p15 and 'Bookshelf' p28].

We had a terrific book launch at the Picton Shire Hall (pictures page 11). The books were sold out and Clare had to order a second edition. Thanks to the library staff at Picton and especially the lively and fun loving chief librarian Gail Dunn who organised everything. We also had the Picton Ladies choir who sang harmoniously and entertained us with some beautifully choreographed oldies 'I like aeroplane jelly' amongst the many ditties. It was

such a generous offer of time which applauded and acknowledged Clare's work.

We now look forward to 2015 and will have our first *workshop* on writing. All FAW groups are welcome to attend. We will also provide you with afternoon tea and Yvonne's muffins are to die for. This workshop will be held at Tahmoor community centre in Harper Close (enter via Rockford road) on April 12th at 13.00. The speaker is Richard Harland and he has a *Facebook* page should any of the readers care to research. It promises to be a fun day.

We are also looking forward to the Wollondilly *IlluminARTE* Festival on Saturday 11 April 2015. Sue Southwood, our group's very efficient librarian, is one of the committee members of the Wollondilly Shire's *IlluminARTE* group and very passionate about art. There promises to be artworks projected on landmark buildings, walls and public spaces in Picton. As Sue states "A lantern parade will enthral and captivate onlookers while market stalls will sell artwork, creations and trinkets and have an Art, Food and Wine Festival Theme". The Wollondilly group have been invited to read their work, both stories and poetry, and this hopefully will help to showcase the FAW writers group.

Last but not least I ask that you think positively, and for those of you with a religious bent include one of our very valuable members Keith Coombes in your prayers. Keith remains a member of our group and was a committee member of the Wollondilly Shire branch of the FAW for many years and those years were and remain, quite simply, awesome. We wish Keith a speedy recovery so he can keep up the good work and enjoy his new life up on the north coast.

I wish to thank our editor Mr. Ken Driver for his patience and help over the years during my spell as secretary of Wollondilly FAW and also the readers of this fine magazine for reading my contributions in the reports.

I must not forget to thank our wonderful group who trusted me

with this position as secretary which has enhanced my learning in 'secretaryship'. They are in my eyes a wonderful group whom I've come to respect, admire and love both as colleagues and as trusted friends. How lucky am I?

Olivia Mulligan

WYONG FAW

Our Annual General Meeting was held in November with all members standing down. Derek Rescei advised that he would not seek re-election. Our Executive Committee has not changed very much. Mei-Ling Venning is President, Yvonne Sorensen Vice President, Mavis Gunter Secretary, Elizabeth McVie Treasurer and Margaret Young elected Publicity Officer.

Our Christmas break-up was at Mei-Ling's home where eleven members met for an afternoon of a light lunch, cheese and bikkies, wine and social chit-chat. A most relaxing time where we were able to meet at a different level compared to our normal meeting days.

We had our first meeting for 2015 on the Australia Day weekend. We decided we would meet despite the long weekend for the room we use is rented monthly so it's a case of pay if you are there or not. We had eight members and one visitor. Our newest member read part of the first chapter of his fantasy novel.

Our visitor also read his work, and gave excellent comments to members whether we took part in the critiquing exercise or not.

We are excited that our Treasurer, Elizabeth McVie, had a play accepted for reading at Uniting Church, Donnison Street, Gosford on 27 February. This is the first time Elizabeth has written a play and submitted it for hearing.

Our *Scribblers Club* started for the first time this month with five members attending. It is a most relaxing exercise to read silently and then provide input to the author. The *Scribblers* meet weekly, and all are members of Wyong Writers FAW.

Margaret Young



Roundup

When I Grow Up

by Indy Jackson

THERE ARE so many things I want to be when I grow up I just can't decide.

When I grow up maybe I will be a famous horse rider and go in GIANT competitions just like my mum. Maybe I could even go to the Olympics and ride for AUSTRALIA. I should be a horse rider so I can canter, trot, walk and jump really high. But maybe my fat pony Jigsaw would much rather eat grass in the paddock .

Or maybe I want to be a writer and write stories about animals and people that might not exist. I should be a writer so I can buy my own shop and put my books on display. I would have horse books at the counter and Paris books in one big shelf at the back. I could be a writer because I have already written stories like 'The Witch and the Stolen Ring'.

Or maybe I want to be a nurse and help take care of sick or injured people. I should be a nurse so I can help doctors look at patients, who knows I could even look after you one day if you got sick. I could work in a hospital in the city or in the country, maybe I could even help sick children in countries overseas.

Or maybe I want to be a vet instead and take care of all creatures great and small. If I am a vet when I grow up

Talented youngster Indy Jackson delivered a monologue at the Wollondilly FAW Christmas party and State President Trevar Langlands was so impressed he interviewed her on air during his 2MCR radio show. Reprinted here is Indy's monologue.



Indy Jackson

I will mend hurt animals and make them feel happy. I will help their owners know how to care for their pets and keep their injections up to date. I'd even hold their hand and comfort them if their pet dies.

I do not know what I want to be when I grow up. There are so many choices so I think I will just stay a kid forever.

Indiana Jackson

Picton Public School

8 Years old



Introducing the
Society of Women Writers NSW

Literary Morning Tea

SWW (NSW) would like to invite you to its 2015 monthly meetings commencing at the new time of 10.00am.

Each Literary Morning Tea will feature fantastic Guest Speakers and Member Talks.

Enjoy a fabulous morning tea with like minded people from 10.00am to 12 noon PLUS the opportunity to take part in an interactive workshop from 12 noon to 2.00pm.

When: 2nd Wednesday of the Month

Where: Dixson Room, State Library of NSW

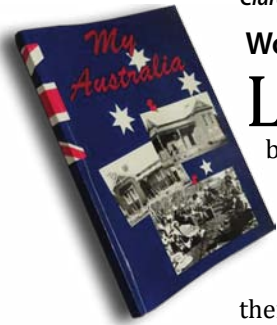
Cost:	<i>Non Members</i>	<i>Members</i>
Morning Tea	\$40	\$35
Workshop	\$40	\$30
Morning Tea & Workshop	\$75	\$60

Non-members are welcome but bookings are essential!

For payment and booking details go to
www.WomenWritersNSW.org/events



Clare Bell signs her new book at the launch event.



Wollondilly Shire Book Launch

LONG TIME Wollondilly FAW member Clare Bell had a very successful book launch on November 22 at the Wollondilly Shire Hall, Picton.

Titled *My Australia*, the book—a collection of short stories, poems and photographs with an Australian theme—provides a nostalgic look at the

Australia Clare knew when she was young.

Clare explains that the book begins with a nostalgic poem 'Sometimes When a Dog Barks' which relates to early life on her parents' farm. It sets the scene for much of the book. In every country story, Clare says, rabbits and drought come into the picture. These stories are no exception.

The 'Back to Back Wool Challenge' is a short piece written from the sheep's point of view. 'Narringa', Clare's childhood home, will be easily recognised by many people who have lived in the Wollondilly Shire and those bought up on similar farms.

Several pages are devoted to Clare's family. A potted history to honour them is presented for the reader's interest. *More details 'Bookshelf' back page.*

Winning Poem: Hilarie Lindsay Young Writers Poetry Competition 2014—Section 4

[Results were published in #246 Dec 2014 edition]

Learning Swimming

I felt
Brave
Swift
Gliding
I did not want to stop
Proud
I felt so happy I could swim like my brother
Now I am eight
In the pool
Confident strong refreshed
Swiftly gliding
I felt like I wanted to swim away
And stay in the coolness of the water forever.

*Malina Johnson, Class 3 2014,
Kamaroi Rudolf Steiner School, Belrose NSW*



Vale

DOREEN BOLTON

THIS IS a particularly difficult vale to write because I see Doreen's vivacious smile whenever I think of her and her welcoming arms when greeting me as she did with all her friends.

Doreen came into my life when she contacted the book production business Parker Pattinson Publishing that I had with my friend, Diane Pattinson. Doreen was a member of the Fellowship and saw the advertisement we had in the *Writers Voice* back in 1999. Her book, *Vintage* was the first one we worked on for her which was followed by two more soon after, *Woronora* and *After Woronora*. Doreen went on to write quite a few more with the help of Jeannette (Doyle) Gilligan who began her book production business at the conclusion of her role as Editor of the *Writers Voice*.

Doreen was not only a successful writer but a talented artist. The walls of her home in Port Macquarie were graced with her beautiful work, still life and vistas. Both Diane and I were gifted with a magnificent painting each, a rose in a gilded frame which we both appreciated, treasure and always will. Doreen introduced us to her granddaughter, Amy, who also shared her artistic talent for us in graphic designs for some of our books.

Members will miss Doreen's Book Reviews in the *Writers Voice*. She loved reading and felt that it is important these days with so many commercially produced books for sale which are not there for their quality but rather to make a quick sale that we should be better informed. Her gift to us, her Fellowship colleagues, was the offer of good reading in the Titles and reviews she wrote for us.

Late last year, she honoured me by having me launch her novel *The Gene Bank Hacking*, an intriguing tale of thought provoking technology science. As I farewell my dear friend, I have tears in my eyes because I will no longer have the opportunity to return the beautiful smile she offers those of us who were fortunate to have her in our lives.

Colleen Parker

Literary Achievements

CENTRAL COAST FAW

Jerry Dolan's book *Tommy McGee at War* is now hot off the presses. "I recommend it, it's a great fun read," says Pat Lindsay.

Pat Lindsay was commended for a poem, "The Argument" in the Lambing Flat Competition and she has had a short story accepted for publication in *YOURS* magazine.

Cate Plink's short story with the record breaking longest title, "The Veranda Committee and the White Cliffs Loose Ladies Craft Group (+1Man)" appeared on the cover of Dec 2014 *Writers Voice*.

EASTWOOD/HILLS FAW

Adeline Burton:

Poem on iPod at Blacktown City Library;
poem in Archives at Anzac House, Sydney.

Carolyn Alfonzetti:

FAW Distinguished Service Award 2014;
haiku published in *Windfall: Australian Haiku*.

Anne Howard:

Eastwood/Hills FAW Participation Award for 2014;
1st place, Eastwood/Hills FAW May Competition for Character Descriptions based on Weather Observations;
1st place, Eastwood/Hills FAW June Competition for Bush Verse Poem;
Commended, Eastwood/Hills FAW July Competition for Travel Article;
2nd place, Eastwood/Hills FAW August Competition for short story;
2nd place, Eastwood/Hills FAW Nov Competition for Flash Fiction.

Beverley George:

'Australian Poetry' Readings of tanka and haiku, with Dawn Bruce Rubinos restaurant, Willoughby;
workshop for Central Coast Writers Group, Hatters Tea Shop, Ettalong;
2 haiku selected for *Butterfly Dream: 66 Selected English-Chinese Bilingual Haiku* Volume One 2014 [USA];
2 tanka selected for *One Man's Maple Moon: 66 Selected English-Chinese Bilingual Tanka* Volume One 2014 [USA];
haiku published *Muttering Thunder*—A collection of nature-oriented haiku and art volume 1 2014 [USA] <<http://mutteringthunder.weebly.com/downloads.html>>;
haiku published on *Neverending story: Butterfly Dream* November 20 2014;
haiku in 'Per Diem' on the The Haiku Foundation website 15/11/14;
rengay with David Terelinck published *Skylark* 2 (2) 2014 [UK];
winner of Member's Choice: Tanka Society of America's "Tanka Café"; plus one tanka and two brief articles also published in *Ribbons* 10 (3) Fall 2014 [US];
2 tanka in *All the Shells* Tanka Society of America Members' Anthology 2014;

haiku 'train journey' published bilingually in *Neverending Story: Butterfly Dream* December 30, 2014;

tanka in *Cattails* January 2015;

haiku in *take back our sky* New Zealand Poetry Society haiku anthology 2014;

haiku and tanka in *The Weekly Poem* edited by Jordie Albiston. Puncher and Wattman, 2015.

Artelle Lenthall:

14th place for *Lines* in the Creative Kids Tales eBook Anthology Competition;

Featured Emerging Author for January on <www.creativekidstales.com.au>.

Mary Milton:

1st place for *Snap* in Eastwood/Hills FAW Nov. Flash Fiction Competition.

David Terelinck:

Rengay with Carol Judkins in *Mariposa* 31, 2014;

tanka sequence with Claire Everett in *red lights* Vol 11, No. 1, 2015;

two tanka in *Eucalypt* 17, 2014;

tanka prose in *Skylark* Vol 2, No. 2, 2014;

two rengay with Beverley George in *Skylark* Vol 2, No. 2, 2014;

rengay with Carol Judkins in *Skylark* Vol 2, No. 2, 2014;

two tanka in the Tanka Society of America (TSA) anthology, *All The Shells*, 2014;

3rd place in the 2014 TSA International Tanka Contest;

2nd Place in the 5th Kokako Tanka Competition in New Zealand, 2014;

article 'Finding Your Voice' in Poet and Tanka feature section *Ribbons* Vol 10, No. 3, 2014;

tanka in *Ribbons* Vol 10, No. 3, 2014.

HUNTER FAW

Luciana Croci:

Hunter Branch's new president has had one of her poems published in the new edition of *Novascapes*.

ISOLATED WRITERS BRANCH

Cynthia Rowe:

'memorial garden' Honourable Mention 2014 World Haiku Contest;

shadow haiku translated into Chinese (traditional and simple) and published by Chen-ou Liu on NeverEnding Story blog;

haibun 'Windblown Leaf' published in *Haibun Today* Vol 8:4 December 2014 issue;

tanka appraisal presented at Bowerbird Tanka Workshop #12;

2 haiku published in *cattails* UHTS January 2015;

senryu published in *cattails* UHTS January 2015;

the 'magpie season' haiku accepted for inclusion in *The Heron's Nest* 15th Anniversary anthology;

2 haiku published in *Windfall: Australian Haiku* #3 2014;

haiku published in *A Hundred Gourds* 4:1 December 2014;
2 tanka published in *A Hundred Gourds* 4:1 December 2014;

haibun 'on a whim...' published in *A Hundred Gourds* 4:1 December 2014;

8 haiku published in *paper wasp* vol 20 (4) summer 2014;

2 tanka published in *Eucalypt: a tanka journal* #17;

'driving sleet' haiku Neo Classical Haiku Zatsuei of Merit World Haiku Review January 2015;

'cracked windowpane' haiku Shintai Haiku Zatsuei Haiku of Merit World Haiku Review January 2015;

free verse poem 'Casualty of Apathy' published in *FreeXpresSion* Volume XXI Issue No 12 December 2014;

'neap tide' haiku First Place European Quarterly Kukai VIII Edition Winter 2014 Cosmos;

'spring shower' haiku Third Prize Irish Haiku Society International Haiku Competition 2014.

Carolyn Cash:

Writing, presenting and producing weekly online radio show, *Right Royal Roundup* <rightroyalroundup.com.au>, with a break during Christmas and January. Carolyn's interview with British royal correspondent and author of *Prince Philip: Wise Words and Golden Gaffes*, Phil Dampier, was the best rating show for 2014. So far, now over 5,600 people "Like" the Facebook page, and there are over 600 followers on Twitter.

LAKE MACQUARIE FAW

Linda Brooks:

Shortlisted for *Newcastle Morning Herald* Short Story Competition: short story 'The great escape', published 29 December 2014.

Pam Garfoot:

Shortlisted for *Newcastle Morning Herald* Short Story Competition: short story 'Any other name', published 20 January 2015;

Published in *Writers Voice*, summer edition #246: short story 'Images'.

Tony Lang:

In addition to receiving an Order of Australia in the Australia Day Honours, Tony prepared an adult extension to *Magic Mist* (with illustrations by Helen Marshall): *Bush magic*.

Kristen Mair:

Shortlisted for *Newcastle Morning Herald* Short Story Competition: short story 'The teaspoon and the umbrella', published 6 January 2015;

accepted into the Australian Film Television and Radio School's Advanced Diploma in Screenwriting: Series Television.

Helen Marshall:

Illustrated: book *Bush magic* (written by Tony Lang), an adult extension to *Magic Mist* with 42 verses.

Jan Mitchell:

Published in *Hunter Professional Arts Magazine*, November 2014: book review 'The Wake, by Paul Kingsnorth'.

Victoria Norton:

In the last few months Victoria Norton has had great fun writing and sharing her work...

Published in *Junoeseq Literary Journal*, issue 2 November 2014;

short story 'Beatrice fed the ducks on Monday' (from her short story collection *purple. emerald. gold*). See <junoeseq.com> (online magazine based in Singapore); published in *Fiction break favorites, Fall 2014, the best of Short Fiction Break Anthology #2*: short story 'The story of a little blue bear';

published a children's story, with illustrator Helen Marshall, *Who Ate the Cake?* 2014, available in Kindle and print from <amazon.com.au>. Victoria has read the story to two schools with enthusiastic response;

voice recorded poem contributed to *Pied Cormorant* for the *Bimblebox Art Project* which will tour regional Australia 2015;

publicity for short story Anthology *Coastlines* (Volume 5), planned for publication 2015, produced and written by Southern Cross University students, including Victoria; long-listed in the Australia-wide Grieve Competition of the Hunter Valley Writers' Centre: short story 'Still grief'. Story was also published in the 2014 Anthology, *Grief*; selected as an Editor's Pick in the Pocket Docs National Competition for ABC Radio National: prose piece 'The Glimmer Man'. Published online October 2014, also to be voice recorded by the author in studio and played on National ABC Radio, January 2015;

published in *The Northerly Magazine*, the magazine of the Northern Rivers Writers Centre, Nov-Dec 2014 issue: short story 'Grubby Little Urchins';

to be published in *100 Love Letters* Anthology (through RMIT University, Melbourne) in print and online, in August 2015: work 'Listen to Me One Last Time';

Victoria will move from Associate Degree in Creative Writing and commence a BA in Creative Writing at SCU in 2015.

Linda Visman:

Winner of the NSW FAW Branch Newsletter Award for 2014, as editor and publisher of *MacMuse*.

Thelma Wawrzonek:

Shortlisted for *Newcastle Morning Herald* Short Story Competition: short story 'The tale of the dead cat', published 16 January 2015.

LIVERPOOL FAW

Rick Vincenti:

Short Story 'Red Creeper roses—The Legend of Laria and Eo'in' published in December 2014. Congrats Rick!; a poem, 'Politics' in *FreeXpresSion* February 2015.

Rhonda Rice:

Poem 'At The Cloister' in *FreeXpresSion* December 2014; article and photos in *Legacy* Newsletter and Legacy Site Online 2015.

cont. next page...

Literary Achievements

MACARTHUR FAW

Victoria Chie:

Won in-house competition with a 1000-word short story.

Bernard Russell Smith:

Commended in Alice Sinclair Memorial Literary Competition 2014 with a story entitled 'The Sheriff of Dawes Point'.

MUDGE VALLEY FAW

Kevin Pye:

Play, *Joe Wilson's Courtship* included in Bathurst Shorts 2014; poem, 'Damien's Dream' published in *Central Western Daily* and *Racing Orange Race Book*; poems, 'Hughesy In Between Wickets' and 'Where Major Goes to Roam' in *The Bronze Swagman Book of Bush Verse* 2014.

Jill Baggett:

Short Story 'Ancestral Fear' published in *ABC Open*; play *Storm Shelter* included in Central West Short Play Festival 2015.

MOOCOOROOOLA FAW

John Egan:

Chapbook *Reworkings 2* published by Ginninderra Press, Port Adelaide; poem 'Rain at Midnight' in *The Mozzie*, October 2014; poem 'The Steps' in *The Write Angle*, November 2014; poems 'The Crab' and 'Ern Malley's Children' in *Positive Words*, Nov 2014 and 'Thunderclouds' in *Positive Words*, Jan 2015; poems 'A Police Mug-shot', 'I Love You' and 'By the Sea' in *Polestar 27*; poem 'Walking through Paddington' in *Northern Light*, FAW Queensland Anthology; poem 'In the Gallery Cafe' in *The Way to Well: Australian Poetry* 2014; poems 'Paddington Reservoir', 'The Artist', 'Love', 'Avignon' and 'Guns' in *Valley Micropress*, New Zealand, Nov 2014; poems 'Arnilla', 'Early Morning: Pulpit Rock', 'My Typewriter', 'Killed by Kindness', 'At Berry Station' and 'Ned Kelly at Glenrowan' in *Beyond The Rainbow 77*; poem 'Collected Poems' Commended in the Glen Phillips Poetry Prize, Peter Cowan Writers Centre, Western Australia.

Mary Bramston:

Short story 'Too Fast for Words' published in *FreeXpresSion*, Feb 2015.

NORTH ARM COVE

Bob Bush:

Presented poetry recently at Nelson Bay CWA.

Lal Clayton, Elizabeth Deane, Olly Griffin, Maureen Kelly:

Storytelling in the Great Lakes short stories selected as part of exhibition at Great Lakes' libraries throughout February/March, 2015.

Lee Clayton:

Musical compositions part of *Storytelling in the Great Lakes* exhibition.

Elizabeth Deane:

Poem 'Saint Valentine' published in *Myall Coast Messenger* February 3, 2015.

Kerryan Griffin:

Facilitator, *Storytelling in the Great Lakes* co-overseeing exhibition of work.

Maureen Kelly:

Poem 'Derby Day – 1913 (In memory of Emily Wilding Davidson)' published *Myall Coast Messenger* Jan 6, 2015.

Kate Milford:

Received Order of Australia Medal—Australia Day Honours 2015.

SHOALHAVEN FAW

Irene Wilkie:

Poem 'Touching Down' in *fourW twenty-five NEW WRITING* (Booranga Writers Centre); her book *Extravagance* received a Highly Commended Award from the 2014 ACT Writing and Publishing Awards Poetry Book Category.

SUTHERLAND FAW

Elaine Staples:

Presented her short story, 'My Kitchen Rules' at the writer's night on February 24 at Kogarah Library.

Sylvia Vago:

Presented her short story, 'November Reminiscence' at the Writer's night on February 24 at Kogarah Library.

WYONG FAW

Mei-Ling Venning:

First place in our In House Competition for prose; Mei-Ling has completed a short course in Cognitive Politics through Future Learn UK.

Derek Rescei:

Poem published in the Newcastle Poetry Competition's Anthology; third place in our In House Competition; short story, long listed in the Margaret River Press Short Story competition.

Yvonne Sorensen:

Second place in the In House Prose Competition.



Poets Voice

The losers also won

Batting For Paradise

The leather orb glides from the essence,
the mathematical centre of my bat; it
bubbles across the clipped field until
caressing gently the rope, the boundary
that encircles our dreams and lives.
To err is human but this bowler does
not forgive, but yet again his alignment
is amiss. His next missile curves towards
my legs. I carve it fine to the nether regions
where the titan, resting between labours,
hurls it mightily back in our general direction.
A brace of runs for me. Eye says to hand,
'We're a good team, we are going well.'
Brain says to all, 'Don't get carried away.'
Focus: just one ball at a time.' I focus.
A challenging delivery. My hopeful push
sees the ball in a space a little wide of cover.
A quick dash and I am at the other end.
Over! called. My partner glares at me
from his distant eyrie: I am Batman,
he Robin. I am Wooster, he Jeeves.
I smile back. I am flourishing, he scratching.
And the titan is back. I face a thunderbolt fast
short, just a little wide. An easy swing of
scythe. A loud cracking noise like the snap
of a thick tree limb – but music to my ears.
The ball well beyond the surly bonds
of boundary ropes. A few desultory flags
are waved by the sparse beholders.
Now another thunderbolt not so short
nor quite so wide. Ah, pride goeth before
a fall, and Lord, lead us not into temptation.
With loud self-ovation the keeper snaffles
the catch. I walk the walk of the condemned.
I am as one about to mount the tumbrel.
So this is life and this is cricket
they separate and they blend
in a way that clouds my mind.
For me the grim reaper wears
an umpire's coat but needs
no referral system before he raises
the fateful finger.
So set aside the ten commandments;
leave them be to worry others.
When your time comes, simply
make sure your bat is straight
that you move your feet
but keep your head still.
After that there should be
a prime seat somewhere
in the pavilion for you
at the end of the day's play.

Greg Tome,
Southern Highlands FAW

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

I go to bingo once a week—
An outing for my mum.
It provides diversion we seek
From the daily humdrum.
Down to a local club we go
And join the happy throng.
The cost of cards to play is low.
It doesn't take too long.
After twenty games it's complete.
There's a break half-way through.
They finish off with raffling meat,
And then our lunch is due.
From ninety possibilities,
Only fifteen each card.
It can stretch your abilities
When callers make it hard.
Some use a computerised thing,
With acronym of PET.
When one-off it gives out a ping.
For winning they're best bet.
Now let all that be background
For what I want to say
About a thing that did astound
One very special day.
Old Mary reappeared that day
To everyone's surprise.
Great tragedy had come her way
Which dampened all our eyes.

We had thought she would die of grief
Or, at least get depressed.
But, though her grieving had been brief,
She didn't seem too stressed.
As usual the numbers came
And PETs began to ping,
But no one tried, the prize, to claim—
It was a funny thing.
When eighty numbers had been called
Then 'Bingo' Mary cried.
Her run of bad luck had been stalled,
The joy she didn't hide.
The same thing happened the next game,
And Mary won again.
We others would have incurred shame,
So losing became sane.
Now that day Mary won the lot—
And didn't think it strange.
Her trouble then she had forgot—
We hoped it wouldn't change.
'The best day ever in this place'
We others all agreed.
'To see the smile on Mary's face,
A lovely prize indeed.'

J. P. Coyne, Bankstown FAW

Norton Street Rant

Sulphur crested white atop marine blue shopfront
shouts at the Monday morning bus stop tragics
hectored from his giant soapbox
exhorts them to abandon rats' wheel lives
to fly with him from inner west to outer suburbs
and beyond
to mountains blue
Bathurst
or – why not?
back o' Bourke
his homily wasted on this crowd mesmerised by mobiles
except for one young man still in the world enough
to recognise another creature's fervour with a smile.

Pip Griffin, City of Sydney FAW

When I found myself

I've been writing poetry for nigh on thirty years,
never thought I was much good, so to alleviate my fears
I met up with a writers' club who had the same thoughts as me
and I wondered if I'd be able, to be part of the glee.
To learn to write a story, make a poem that always rhymes,
to meet new friends, share interests and keep up with the times.
I listened very carefully to what they had to say,
and put more work into writing, stories for today.
They've given me lots of tips and helped me with my prose
and now I'm writing children's tales. Where this leads no-one knows.
I think I've found my potential, I'm no longer on the shelf,
when I found this writers' club that's when I found myself.

Kay Bakon, Central Coast FAW

SUBMISSIONS FOR POETS VOICE

Please send your poem
for consideration, with
SSAE for response to:

**The Poetry Editor,
Writers Voice,
PO Box 195,
LAWSON NSW 2783**

Or, send a Word
attachment by email
to David Berger
<isdafrog@bigpond.com>.

Please provide your
name and FAW branch.

Book Reviews

RUSSIAN EMBERS: A journey in search of home

Anya Nielsen

"You don't look Chinese is the response, when I tell people I was born in China. Of course I don't look Chinese—my parents are Russian, my genes are Russian".

This is a comment from my recent radio guest Anya Nielsen.

Anya was born in Harbin, China of Russian parents. She came to Australia when she was five years of age and grew up with many friends who came here around the same time and they are still pals today.

Like many people with an ancestry from Europe, Anya was like me with an itching and attraction to Russian heritage rising up from the family genes and trying to connect with the past.

Anya Nielsen attained a Bachelor of Adult Education and also became adept at Managerial Training and Development. She lives on the Central Coast with family, a cat and a dog called Pushkin.

Anya accepted an invitation to Russia hoping to find out more about her family.

She happened to be there during the ending of Soviet rule—the first week the Government White House was torched, tanks prowled the streets, people demonstrated and gave flowers to the army soldiers and there was a shortage of many every day items.

It was a worrying time and Anya wondered if she would ever leave the country, however she made a return visit in 2007 to a completely different Russia, especially Moscow.

It was an interesting adventure and her book contains many photographs of places she visited, many places that I have been also, so that revived many memories.

Wonderful visits to the Hermitage Museum, the Kremlin, St Isaac's Cathedral and Mariinsky Theatre St Petersburg, historic Golden Ring of historic churches and towns, famous poet Pushkin's apartment, Peterhof, the stunning Royal summer palace, the beautiful Moika Palace—home of Prince Yusupov and the Palace that Rasputin was murdered in—plus visits to many historic cities across the country.

Anya topped the trip off with a trip to China visiting the Great Wall and the Forbidden city.

Easy to read, this is a trip to Russia for little cost but a lot of interest and it captures the early Soviet era as well as modern capitalist Russia.

Anya explored the culture and history of her parents' country; she even shared recipes with her Godfather's sister.

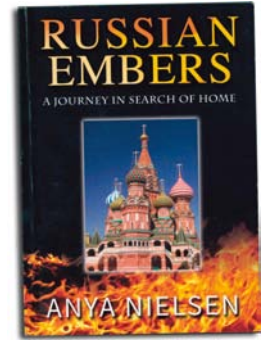
Russian Embers is 444 pages, a fabulous read, and available from Amazon online. It is also available as an E-Book. It's a great journey, a journey in search of home as well as a great travel experience.

Peter Tatarinoff, President of the Russian Historical Society said "I read the prologue and was absolutely hooked".

Count Dimitri de Wouytch, General Representative, Aust/NZ Russian Assembly of Nobility said "I found myself becoming involved with your experience in capturing an amazingly wide area of post-Soviet life in reborn Russia".

Russian Embers has also been entered for the 2015 NSW Premier's Literary Award in the Multicultural category and the Douglas Stewart non fiction category.

Reviewed by Trevar Langlands



'Russian Embers' author Anya Nielsen



Anya in the Ballroom of the Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg

Amnesia

Peter Carey

This is a writer's book. The sort of book that writers could read as a model of how to write, even though book club members will also enjoy it. The sentences are short and straight to the point: an economical use of language. The vocabulary is wide-ranging, (both licit and ill-). Descriptions are humorous and alive while various tropes will often bring a chuckle as they are not always flattering.

The first half of the book is written in the first person, in the persona of a dissolute leftist journalist, the only one left in Australia! (and he reminds me of the Cleaver Greene character portrayed by Richard Roxburgh in "Rake" on ABC TV). Yet the second half is written in the third person so that the point of view can flow between Gabby, her mother and Felix the journalist (a very interesting literary device). It is also where Felix is now the victim of nefarious deeds. Can you imagine being kidnapped and held in a beautiful waterside Sydney setting as nefarious? It certainly is precarious, considering the involvement of a pistol-packing property developer in league with the CIA.

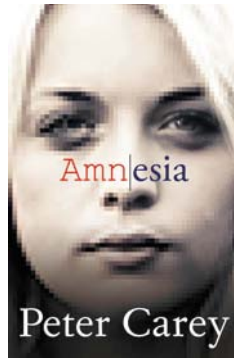
The story begins in working-class Melbourne and the language is vivid and realistic, as are the descriptions of the different social groupings who can't stand each other: theatre people and Labor Party members, Goths and Samoan teenagers, computer nerds and bogans. It must be stressed that this is definitely an adults' book: drugs, booze, infidelity and theft all play their parts in the young life of Gabby Baillieux.

Gabby is pissed off with society, which includes her drunken actress mother and her lovable, but stupid, father, who is the local Labor Member for Carlton. She becomes a computer hacker thanks to tuition from a long-haired, mascara- and dress-wearing boy called Frederic. He is a Gothic sexually amorphous person who seems to have no interest in Gabby as a girl, only as a fellow hacker—to begin with.

Together they hack into the computer systems of international corporations. On one occasion they expose the manufacture of Agent Orange and its dregs being pumped into the Yarra. This ability to hack into corporations and governments gives Gabby the chance to hit back at the world. Here is Peter Carey's conscience coming in, in defence of Asylum seekers and opposed to the rape of our planet for the sake of corporate greed.

Please note: you don't have to know anything about computers to be enthralled by the machinations of Gabby the hacker.

There is another dimension to this novel: CIA involvement in the Dismissal of Gough Whitlam in 1975, strangely rooted in the Battle of Brisbane, between American and Australian troops in WWII, is crucial to the story. References to the CIA with their spy facility at Pine Gap and North West Cape are integral to Gabby and Frederic's desire to hack into and disrupt the American Government which they see as trying to control us, puppet-like, into conformity with their views and global



strategies. This makes Gabby, her mother and the rest of the Left want to get revenge for our loss of sovereignty.

The CIA knows Gabby has been hacking them and they want her dead. But she wants her story to be told correctly (damning the CIA), hence Felix our narrator journalist who is chosen to produce the book. If the CIA can get the book they'll destroy it and Gabby's character and thereby reduce her to a traitorous ratbag (hence gun-toting property developers).

In writing a book we have to do a lot of research. And sometimes that is almost as enjoyable as the writing, until we begin to translate our research into an actual manuscript. In *Amnesia* we are exposed to the discipline of writing and the necessity of research on every page. Highly recommended.

Reviewed by David Berger, Blue Mountains FAW.

Recently deceased FAW Isolated Writers member **Doreen Bolton** had submitted several book reviews to Writers Voice over the years, not all of which made it into print because of space limitations. Below is a review written by Doreen in September last year. We thank Doreen's family for graciously permitting us to publish it posthumously...

An Angel In The Court

Anne Henderson

Salvation Army Major Joyce Harmer has dedicated this Biography, written by Anne Henderson, to her husband Hilton Harmer and her four children.

Major Joyce Harmer's life has been one of enormous contrasts. She has given her devotion to helping the needy.

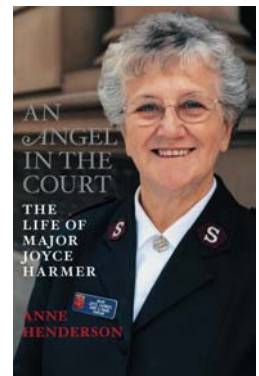
A great part of her work was spent as a court chaplain, comforting some of society's least wanted, including many of Australia's most notorious criminals—as well as their victims—and both families. The offer of help was foremost in her mind, she judged no one, only their need for help.

This might include a hug, holding a hand, emotional support, a cup of tea or glass of water, arranging for children to be taken care of when a prisoner was escorted straight from court to jail, phone calls to worried relatives or associates. In fact, often it was these comforting actions, spontaneously given by her, that were most appreciated by the needy.

This interesting biography will enlighten you the reader of court proceedings, laws and sentencing. And, if you ever found yourself sitting all alone in a courtroom—emotionally distressed—and a gentle lady a mere five feet tall approached and said, "Is there something I can do to help?", you would feel a spiritual uplifting.

Therefore it is no surprise that the Legal Profession have nick-named Joyce Harmer 'An Angel In The Court'.

Reviewed by Doreen Bolton, dec.



Writing Competitions

Closing date 22 May 2015:



BUNDABERG POETS' SOCIETY INC.

QUEENSLAND WRITTEN CHAMPIONSHIPS— BUSH LANTERN AWARD 2015 FOR BUSH VERSE

Maximum 100 lines. Each poem must have good rhyme and rhythm and an Australian theme. Bush Verse must have the rhyme and meter of traditional bush poetry. Australian theme can include all aspects of Australian way of life; it does not have to refer to "the bush".

1st Prize: Bush Lantern Award Trophy + \$200

2nd Prize: Certificate + \$100

3rd Prize: Certificate + \$75

Entry fee \$8.00 per poem or \$20.00 for three (3) poems. Entries must be your own work and not have been placed first in a written competition prior to closing date (22 May 2015) and must not have been published in any form.

An **ENTRY FORM** containing **full Conditions of Entry** can be downloaded from the Australian Bush Poets Association's website <www.abpa.org.au> (Events page).

Submit three (3) copies of poem/s, plus entry form and appropriate fee in a suitable envelope to:

Bush Lantern Award,
Bundaberg Poets' Society Inc.
PO Box 4281,
Bundaberg South QLD 4670

For more information contact Sandy Lees ph (07) 4151 4631 or email <leesjds1@yahoo.com.au>.

Additionally, there is a **Bush Verse Junior Category** for both Primary and Secondary Students. Entry forms can be downloaded from the ABPA website <www.abpa.org.au> (Events page).

Prizewinners for the Written Championships will be announced, along with performances by winners of the concurrent **Performance Poetry Competition**, at the

20TH BUNDY BUSH POETRY MUSTER 2015

to be held July 3rd, 4th, & 5th & at Across the Waves Sports Club, Bundaberg QLD.

Performance poets can download a separate entry form and program for this event from the ABPA website <www.abpa.org.au> (Events page).

Closing Date 31 May 2015:

EASTWOOD/HILLS FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS LITERARY COMPETITION 2015

All Categories Open Theme.

Category 1: Short Story

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

Category 2: Poetry

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

Category 3: Memoir

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

Category 4: Pauline Walsh Award for Short Short Story

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

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

Conditions of Entry

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

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

Send entries with completed entry form and fee to:

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

Enquiries: Marilyn Humbert <mah53@tpg.com.au>

Phone: 9456 1307.

Closing date 31 May 2015:

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

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



Image: Wikipedia

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

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

Conditions of Entry:

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

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

Send entries with completed entry form and fee to:
Competition Secretary, Boree Log
Eastwood/Hills FAW
PO Box 4663
NORTH ROCKS NSW 2151

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

Closing date 30 June 2015:

**SCRIBES WRITERS – "POETIC LICENCE"
OPEN POETRY COMPETITION 2015**

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 2015).

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>

NORMAL COMPETITION CONDITIONS

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

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

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

Writing Competitions



Fellowship of Australian
Writers NSW Inc.

Closing date 31 August 2015:

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

Entries are sought in the following categories:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Entries to be typed on A4 paper, double spaced in 12pt font. Entries may be sent as a PDF or Word document to <comconvenor@fawns.org.au> (preferred method). Email must contain the entry, the entry form, and a copy of the direct deposit receipt.

The details for Direct Deposit are as follows –

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

Account Name: Fellowship of Australian Writers.

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

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

Entries must be student's own work, unpublished and not having won any competition at time of entry. Normal Competition Conditions apply [see page 23].

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

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

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

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

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

For more information:

Email: <comconvenor@fawns.org.au>

Phone 02 4341 1138/Mobile 0458 375 256.

Closing date 25 September 2015:

FAW NSW MARJORIE BARNARD AWARD 2015 PRIZE: \$500

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY:

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

- 1 The Award is for **Short Stories up to 3000 words**.
 - 2 Entrants must be permanent residents of Australia.
 - 3 Submitted entries must not have previously been published, nor be under consideration for publication, although may have been entered in other competitions but not won a monetary prize. Receipt of entry will not be acknowledged however.
 - 4 Multiple entries are permitted, with a separate Entry Form per entry.
 - 5 Entry Fee is \$10.00 per entry. Only one cheque/postal order/direct debit is required for multiple entries.
 - 6 Cheques should be made payable 'Fellowship Aust. Writers'. Please **DO NOT** post cash.
 - 7 The closing date is **25 September 2015**.
 - 8 The submission should be emailed as an attachment to <comconvenor@fawns.org.au> as either a Word document, or a PDF. The entry forms, a copy of the direct debit receipt, Cover sheet and Title page, should also be included as attachments. Postal entries will be accepted, if the entrant does not have connection to email. They should be printed or typed on A4 sheets, in minimum 12pt font, on one side, double line spaced and the sheets firmly fixed together. **Hand-written text will be disqualified**.
 - 9 The author's identity must appear on the **Entry Form ONLY**. **The author's name must NOT appear on either the manuscript or the title page.**
 - 10 A separate cover sheet must be attached containing the title, word count, author's name, address, telephone number and email address (if available). **Only page No. and title of the entry is to appear on each page of the manuscript.**
 - 11 The author retains copyright to all work submitted, although prize-winning entries or a precis must be available for publication in the Fellowship's bulletin *Writers Voice* and on the FAW NSW website. Unsuccessful entries will not be returned unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope of appropriate size and postage.
 - 12 Entries must be original, creative and inspiring works which present to the audience an engaging work of literary excellence.
 - 13 The judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
 - 14 FAW NSW reserves the right not to award any prizes if, in the judge's estimation, no entries of sufficient merit are received.
 - 15 Other than stated here, Normal Competition Conditions apply [see page 23].
- THE AWARD:
- The Winner will be invited to the FAW NSW Annual Luncheon to be held in Sydney on 14 November 2015, for the announcement and presentation of the Award. Results will be published in the *Writers Voice* and on the FAW NSW website <www.fawns.org.au> ENTRY FORMS can be downloaded from <www.fawns.org.au> or by request to:
- The Convenor
FAW Marjorie Barnard Award
C/- 5/15 Bogan Road,
BOOKER BAY NSW 2257
- For more information:
Email: <comconvenor@fawns.org.au>
Phone 02 4341 1138/Mobile 0458 375 256.

Help us to Reach New Writers

Message from the Management Committee



Hi everybody.

Welcome to 2015. This year the FAW NSW has decided to focus on encouraging young writers (18-35) with a view to new memberships from that age group. We would be interested in ideas from all branches how we can accomplish this aim.

Don't forget our AGM on the 2nd May at the City of Sydney RSL. Please remember that in order to have a voice in your organisation, you need to have a delegate at the meetings. As a committee we are trying to make this the best organisation we can, but in order to do so, we need input from all our branches, not just the half dozen or so who send delegates to the state council meetings at the moment.

We do understand that attending a meeting in Sydney may be difficult for those from distant centres, but we would love to see more of those from branches close to the city than we have been getting.

Best wishes and Happy Writing

Cate Plink

Publicity Officer, FAW NSW

Competition Results

FAW Branch rewards students for their writing skills

THE IMPRESSIVE writing skills of Tea Gardens Public School students were recognised by the North Arm Cove Fellowship of Australian Writers NSW Inc branch at the end of the 2014 school year.

"The winning stories were excellent, exhibiting maturity well beyond the age of the writers, with many other entries displaying great potential," said North Arm Cove FAW branch secretary/judge Maureen Kelly at the presentation held at the school.

The short story competition was open to Years 4, 5 and 6 students.

WINNERS

- Year 4: **Toby Avery** ('Fisher returns')
- Year 5: **Charlie Pietsch** ('Wizard Blackbeard and the Village of Snow'), with a highly commended certificate and prize awarded to
- **Faith McKay** ('Agnes Obell: Beyond the Waterfall').



(l-r) Maureen Kelly and Elizabeth Deane with winners Faith McKay, Charlie Pietsch and Toby Avery (Photo courtesy Tea Gardens Public School).

Each prize winner received a critique of their work, a certificate and Smiggles gift voucher.

With the standard of the prize winning entries so high, the judges are confident the future looks very promising for Australian literature.

Branch Meetings and Contacts

BANKSTOWN WRITERS

1st Saturday – 1.00 to 4.00 pm

Banksia Room,
Revesby Workers Club

Enquiries:

Carney Vaughan 4268 5383

BLUE MOUNTAINS FAW

1st Sunday – 1.45 to 4.45 pm

Springwood Court Function Room,
133 Macquarie Rd, Springwood.

Enquiries:

David Berger (Pres.) 02 4759 2438

<isdafrog@bigpond.com>

PO Box 125, Springwood 2777

CENTRAL COAST FAW

3rd Sunday – 10.00 am

Gosford Hotel, 179 Mann St,
Gosford.

Enquiries:

Wanda Senamoglou (Sec.) 4333 9771

or Helen Luidens (Pres.) 4363 2627

<centralcoastfaw@live.com>

BONDI WRITERS

3rd Sunday – 2.00 pm

Theory Room, Waverley Library,
32-48 Denison St., Bondi Junction.

Enquiries:

Frankie Dowling 0422 090 868

PO Box 701 Bondi Junction 1355

<www.bondiwritersgroup.org.au>

EASTWOOD/HILLS FAW

1st Saturday – 1.00 pm

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

Enquiries: Carolyn Alfonzetti

(Pres.) 9869 2715 <carolyn.alfonzetti@me.com>

or one of two Secretaries:

Laura Davis <lauraceede@yahoo.com.au>

or Frances Moon

<mria55@yahoo.com.au>

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

EUROBODALLA FAW

1st & 3rd Wednesdays–

10.30am to 2.30pm and

1st Tuesday 6.30–8.30 pm

McKay Centre, Page St, Moruya.

Enquiries: Rosie Toth 02 4473 6474

<rosieandtib@bigpond.com>

Web: <www.eurobodallawriters.org>

FOREST FAW

3rd Saturday – 2.00 pm

Forest Community Arts Centre
Darley Street, Forestville.

Enquiries:

Maggie Gowanlock 9948 3882

PO Box 248, Balgowlah NSW 2093

GREAT LAKES FAW

2nd Friday – 1.00 to 4.00 pm

Forster/Tuncurry Memorial
Services Club, Strand Street, Forster.

Enquiries:

Christine Hayes 6555 9904

or post, Mrs Hermione Browning,

15 Eden Place, Tuncurry 2428

HUNTER FAW

1st Wednesday – 10.15am

Dining Room of Sydney Junction
Hotel, Beaumont St., Hamilton

Enquiries:

Eileen Dillon-Smith (Sec.) 4928 2116

or Jan Dean (Pres.) 4954 9895

LAKE MACQUARIE FAW

2nd Saturday – 1.30 to 4.00pm

Multi-purpose Centre

9 Thorn Street, Toronto.

Enquiries:

Victoria Norton 0432 116 948

or 4977 2956

<lakemacfaw2@gmail.com>

LAMBING FLAT (YOUNG)

2nd Monday – 5.30 pm

Catherine McAuley Hall, Young.

(Retirement Village, off

Demondrille Street.)

Enquiries: Ted Webber (Pres)

0459 707 728 or email

<juneted@yahoo.com>.

Branch email:

<lambingflatbranchfaw@hotmail.com>

LIVERPOOL FAW

2nd Saturday – 1.00 to 4.00pm

Dr Pirie Community Centre

Cnr Bigge & Moore Sts, Liverpool.

PO Box 4, West Hoxton 2171

Enquiries: Rick Vincenti (Pres.)

0404 496 776

<president@faw-liverpool.org.au>

or Rhonda Rice (Publicity)

<secretary@faw-liverpool.org.au>

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

MACARTHUR FAW

3rd Sunday – 1.00 pm

Campbelltown RSL Club
(Jade Room), Carberry Lane.

Enquiries:

Pauline Twemlow (Sec.)

<macarthur@fawns.org.au>

Fellowship of Australian Writers NSW Inc.



ABN 59 557 152 715

General correspondence: Hon. Secretary, FAW NSW Inc.

22 Promontory Way, NORTH ARM COVE NSW 2324

Internet: <www.fawns.org.au>

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*).

MOOCOBOOLA FAW

3rd Thursday – 1.30 pm

Gladesville Library

Pittwater Road, Gladesville.

Enquiries: Vicki Harrold 9878 3005

PO Box 427, Gladesville 1675

or John Egan 9799 3077 or

4464 1719

MUDGEY VALLEY FAW

2nd Tuesday – 12 Noon

Club Mudgee,

Mortimer Street, Mudgee.

Enquiries:

Colleen O'Sullivan 6379 6902

PO BOX 356, Mudgee 2850

NORTH ARM COVE FAW

3rd Thursday – 6.30 pm

Community Centre, The Ridgeway,

North Arm Cove.

Enquiries: Maureen Kelly 4997 3237

22 Promontory Way,

North Arm Cove NSW 2324

<thecovenews@exemail.com.au>

NORTH SHORE FAW

[FAWNS]

3rd Sunday – 1.00 pm

Willow Park Community Centre,
25 Edgeworth David Ave, Hornsby.

Enquiries:

Maria Encarnacao (Pres.),

35 Eyre St, Smithfield NSW 2164 or

Richard Brookton (VP) 9744 1567

<fawnorthshore@gmail.com>

Web: <sites.google.com/site/

fawnorthshoreregional/>

PARRAMATTA FAW

2nd Saturday – 12.30 pm

Top Floor, Parramatta Library,

Darug Room, Civic Place,

Parramatta.

Enquiries:

Lyn Leerson (Sec.) 9639 8394

<lynleu@optusnet.com.au>

PORT MACQUARIE- HASTINGS FAW

Last Saturday – 1.00 to 4.00 pm

The Mac Adams Music Centre
33 Lord Street, Port Macquarie
[behind the Players Theatre]

Enquiries:

Colleen Parker (Sec.) 6583 3997
or Joie Black 6585 3520
PO Box 67 Port Macquarie NSW 2444

PORT STEPHENS FAW 3rd Thursday – 10.00 am

Tomaree Library, Salamander Bay

Enquiries:

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

SHOALHAVEN FAW 2nd Saturday – 10.00 am

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

Enquiries:

Barbara Simmons (Pres.)
<info@fawnswshoalhaven.org.au>
<www.fawnswshoalhaven.org.au>

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS 3rd Saturday – 1.00 pm

The Henrietta Rose Room,
Library, Bowral.

Enquiries:

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

STROUD WRITERS Fortnightly Thursdays 9.00 am to noon

Stroud Library,
Church Lane, Stroud.

Enquiries:

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

SUTHERLAND SHIRE FAW Last Saturday – 12.30 pm

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

Enquiries:

Sylvia Vago (Pres) 9501 2348
PO Box 602, Sutherland 1499
<sutherlandshirefaw.weebly.com>

SYDNEY CITY FAW 3rd Friday – 4.00 pm

Sydney Mechanics School of Arts,
1st Floor, 280 Pitt Street.

Enquiries: John Clarke 8920 8690

WOLLONDILLY FAW 2nd Sunday – 1.00 pm

Tahmoor Community Centre,
6 Harper Close, Tahmoor.

Enquiries: Narelle Noppert (Pres.)
0438 678 679 or Olivia Mulligan
(Sec.) 0402 091 903

<wollondillybranch.faw@gmail.com>

WYONG WRITERS 4th Saturday – 1.30pm

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

Enquiries:

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

The Fellowship of Australian Writers

INTERSTATE BRANCHES

Victoria:

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

Tasmania:

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

Western Australia:

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

Queensland:

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

FAW ISOLATED WRITERS BRANCH

MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES:

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

MEMBERS' ACHIEVEMENTS:

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

AFFILIATION FEES:

FAW NSW Affiliation Fees are due 31 December each year.

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

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

ROUND ROBIN:

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

Please limit your submissions to:

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

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

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

Round Robin Closing Dates

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

Round Robin Submissions

POSTAL:

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

Electronic Round Robin (ERR):

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

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

FAW Members' Bookshelf

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>

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?

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