

Writers Voice



Spring Edition #253 SEP 2016

QUARTERLY BULLETIN OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS NSW INC.

Short Story

Talking About It

Carmel Lillis

A man needs to get a bit of dirt under his finger-nails." With his right index finger, my father gouges holes in the soil I have watered and dug, spacing them with his huge hand span. The bearer of a tray of plants, I follow. His apprentice. "Loosen them first, separate the roots. Gentle now."

I nestle a seedling into each hollow. First the rows of beans, then the tomatoes. He pats the soil down around them and groans as he straightens his back.

"Good to get out here growing something," he says. "Good to be off that bloody merry-go-round of quacks your mum had me on. All that lurching from one to the other. Leaves a man no time for living. What d'ya reckon?"

I drop the tray—deliberately. I cannot talk about it.

*

When the Clinic ambulance brings my father home, I dash to greet him. The driver holds out a hand to steady him, but he brushes it aside.

"They're growing," I pant.

"Good growth," he says. "Not like the bloody tendrils coiling themselves around my vital organs." Recollecting himself, he turns back to the driver.

"Don't mind me, mate." With a wink at me he adds, "I'm just a crotchety old bugger. Ask my young daughter here."

Stepping into his shadow as I follow him down the concrete path, I have to stifle a cry: "Why do you always look smaller—and smaller—

Reprinted here is the second placed entry from the 2015 Central Coast FAW's Biennial Mona Brand Award Short Story competition. The first placed story was featured on the front page of issue No. 252, June 2016

when you come home from that hospital? Do they give you shrinking medicine?"

But in the backyard, where scraps of coloured cloth dance on twine around the sprouting vegetable plants, my father expands and I glimpse the man his brothers boast he was—the legendary giant of the 'spud country' of his youth who became a wages man "for the love of your mum—no regrets either."

He beams as he strokes a tiny green shoot. "Where's your mum?" he asks.

"Shopping," I say, and then I mutter, "again."

"Retail therapy." He forces a laugh. "She'll be home eventually—with her boxes of herbal cures."

I turn away to hide my wobbly lip. I cannot talk about it.

*

"Bloody weeds. Rip 'em out before they get a foothold. Don't hold back."

With a trowel, I dig around each weed, then yank. Pitch it onto the growing pile. "They're pretty, some of them. What makes them weeds, Dad?"

"Strangle power. That nasty habit they've got of getting in and taking over."

Today my father sits in the shade, his face as yellow as his battered straw hat.

"Look," I call. "Peter Pan is catching up."

"Like people, plants. All different. Just like Mum and..."

My mother calls out of the kitchen window that she's going to visit her sister.

"Didn't she visit her this morning?" I choke on my words.

Shaking his head and frowning at me, Dad says, "Girls' day out. She's entitled to that now, isn't she?"

I dig with the fury of a threatened dog retrieving a bone.

I cannot talk about it.

*

Black and flesh coloured stockings, hacked with a Stanley knife, lie in a heap beside the stakes. "Take them," my mother had said when I asked for the old and laddered pairs. She ripped open packets and hurled the still folded tights at me. "Take them all. What's the point of having them? What's the point when everything has to end anyway?"

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QUARTERLY COPY DEADLINES:

15 NOVEMBER, 15 FEBRUARY, 15 MAY, 15 AUGUST

FAW NSW Inc. State Council: Biannual Delegates Meetings

The Executive Committee and Branch Delegates meet the first Saturday of May and November each year. Minutes are mailed to each Branch Secretary.

Next meeting: Saturday 5 NOVEMBER 2016 at 9:30am at Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney; followed **the same day** by the **Annual FAW Awards Luncheon, 11:30am** for 12 noon, at '99 on York', 95-99 York Street, Sydney.

General Membership and Subscriptions

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

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

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

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

Writing Fellows

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

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

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

Distinguished Service Award

This annual award recognises FAW members confidentially recommended by their Branch Committees and approved by the DSA Assessment Committee. DSA members will be honoured in the following way: successful candidates will be presented with certificates acknowledging their outstanding service at the Annual Awards Luncheon and in addition, a permanent Honour Roll in *Writers' Voice* lists the names of recipients, as well as on the website <fawnsww.org.au/about-us/distinguished-service-awards/>. 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) or email <alanjrussell46@gmail.com> for action.

Public Fund

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

FAW Manuscript Assessment Service

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

State Council News

I trust everyone is enjoying their writing and their social activities at their Branch meetings. I hear so many interesting things coming from the Branch meetings... good to hear some are getting in new members also.

Literary Awards Guest

I am very excited to announce my special guest for our November Literary Awards is **Susannah Fullerton**. The year is going fast so I do hope you will get your bookings in early as my guest will especially delight readers and writers alike. I have been to Susannah's talks and can assure you she is very interesting so you are in for a fascinating afternoon.

Susannah will have copies of her books and CDs there for sale so you can take home some wonderful memories.

Trevar Langlands, State President



Susannah Fullerton

About this year's Guest Speaker

SUSANNAH Fullerton is the President of the Jane Austen Society of Australia, and Patron of the Kipling Society of Australia. She is the author of several books about Jane Austen, and also of *Brief Encounters: Literary Travellers in Australia*, a fascinating book about 11 famous authors who came to this country, showing what they thought of us, what we thought of them, and how the visit influenced their writings.

Susannah leads literary tours for Australians Studying Abroad, and has produced 2 audio CDs, *Finding Katherine Mansfield* and *Poetry to Fill a Room*. She is very well known on the Australian speakers' circuit as a literary lecturer.

A woman of many talents and remarkable experience Susannah presents regular series at the Art Gallery of NSW, the State Library of New South Wales, at libraries, schools and clubs.

Her most popular talks are about Jane Austen, Charles Dickens, Anthony Trollope, the Mitford family, Samuel Pepys, Vita Sackville-West, Oscar Wilde, the Romantic Poets, and Shakespeare.

She is a registered speaker for ADFAS (Australia Decorative and Fine Arts Societies). She is a regular guest on Richard Glover's ABC Self-Improvement Wednesday programme and is often interviewed on TV and radio.

SAVE THE DATE:

**Saturday
5 November 2016**



STATE COUNCIL MEETING

All FAW Branch Delegates are invited to join the Executive Committee for the second biannual State Council Meeting, Saturday 5 November 2016, starting **9:30am** at **Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney.**

This will be immediately followed the same day by our...

FAW AWARDS LUNCHEON

Level 2, '99 on York'

(formerly known as the Bowlers' Club of NSW)

95-99 York Street, Sydney

11.30 for 12 noon

**SEE MAP
PAGE 28**

Our Special Guest Speaker this year is **Susannah Fullerton**, an Australian author, literary historian and *Jane Austen* expert, who is well known on the Australian speakers' circuit as a literary lecturer.

Cost: \$45 per person / Raffle Tickets \$1 each.

The order form for your Luncheon Ticket and Raffle Tickets is on the back of your Writers Voice mailing sheet.

To obtain tickets, please send your order form and cheque to:

**Hon. Treasurer, FAW NSW, Unit 801, Henry Kendall Gardens
150 Maidens Brush Road, WYOMING NSW 2250.**

Make all cheques payable to 'Fellowship of Australian Writers'.

And to help with our finances, please enclose a stamped return addressed envelope.

We look forward to meeting you all again this year.

State Council News

From the Secretary's desk

ANOTHER year as the Fellowship's State Council Hon Secretary for me means another year enjoying this very rewarding position. It isn't just about typing Minutes or writing letters, there are many other pleasurable functions to be involved in.

I shared the excitement of Jill Baggett, Mudgee Writers' secretary/treasurer and her branch members when they received a substantial grant via the Department of Social Services Volunteer Grants 2015.

Using the FAW ABN, the State Council supported their application; it was certainly a pleasure to be involved in this way and share their success.

I changed hats from North Arm Cove FAW secretary/treasurer to that of State Secretary to launch branch member Garry Boyd's fifth novel, *Barely Sane* in June.

The 'best-laid plans of mice and men' often go awry despite planning, this famous saying having been adapted from Robert Burns' *To a Mouse*.

I prepared a speech containing inspirational quotes by the late, great Mohammed Ali, did my homework regarding Garry's excellent novel, printed off pages one, two and three—all very organised. I stepped up, speech in hand ready to do the honours and, to my dismay, only had pages one and three, the vital second

page lay on the floor in my office, having failed to connect with pages one and three as they left the printer!

'Ad libbing,' I delivered my speech, thankfully remembering even the Mohammed Ali quotes. All in a day's work for an Hon Sec!

Port Macquarie was the destination for FAW Webmaster Wayne Jarman and myself at the end of July.

Wayne, also a member of North Arm Cove FAW, had offered to conduct a workshop for Port Macquarie members relating to websites. Having visited this branch twice before the opportunity to travel up with Wayne was a great chance for me to catch up with my new acquaintances in this lovely town.

During one of my previous visits, a chance remark to their vice president Joie Black led to us discovering that way back in 1945/6 we both attended the same English primary school, Joie being two years ahead of me!

There we were in Port Macquarie NSW, 12,000 miles away from Molesey, Surrey reminiscing about our early school years. I would never had made this connection had it not been for the position of State Secretary taking me to Port Macquarie.

So, as I said at the start of this editorial, it isn't just about typing Minutes and letters, there are many other memorable and rewarding moments!

Maureen Kelly, OAM

ATTENTION ALL BRANCHES:

FEES DUE



A message from your Treasurer

HELLO to all members. It is getting near to the end of the year again, and time to start thinking about renewing your memberships. Current members pay the full yearly fee to their branch Treasurers, who will then send \$40 for each member to the State Treasurer.

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

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

All those who pay before 1st January, automatically go into our 'Early Bird' draw for \$50. Any who do not renew by 26 February 2017, will no longer receive their copy of *Writers Voice*.

To all Branch Treasurers:

When January arrives, please send me the details of payments given to tutors and/or speakers engaged between January and December 2016. No need to wait for the end of your financial year. I need to know the amounts so that I can renew the GIO Workers Compensation Insurance at the end of February.
Send to:

Kay Bakon, Hon. Treasurer

FAW NSW

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

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD HONOUR ROLL



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

*Deceased

Letters: In Appreciation

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my very great appreciation to Trevar Langlands and Maureen Kelly of the State executive of the Fellowship of Australian Writers NSW.

On the 30th July a book of poetry was launched in the Sydney suburb of Lidcombe. The volume is called *Shards of Life* and it is a collection of verse by Helen Boris, originally from Ukraine, now 96 years old. The poems are in English and tell not only of her experiences as a migrant but are about all sorts of things: love, the fragility of relationships, nature and the changing seasons, and patterns of life. I edited the book, which was published by Five Senses Education.

A celebration of Helen Boris's work and *Shards of Life* was held in the Ukrainian Community Hall. The Ambassador of Ukraine to Australia, Dr Mykola Kulinich, travelled especially from Canberra to launch the book. This reflects the great esteem in which Helen Boris is held within Sydney's Ukrainian community and shows the significance of this book in terms of cultural connections between Australia and Ukraine.

A few days before the launch, I contacted the Fellowship of Australian Writers. I did this because Helen had had a long association with FAW. In fact, her writing career can in large part be attributed to FAW; she began writing after she joined the Parramatta branch, back in 1972. The very first FAW Christmas party she attended that year gave her the opportunity to recite one of her poems. Walter Stone was in the audience, and it was through his encouragement that she submitted that poem to a small literary magazine which immediately accepted and published it. From that day, Helen would go on to write and successfully publish in small-scale non-commercial outlets. Through her involvement in her local FAW branch, she was instrumental in organising readings by migrant and multicultural writers and a series of modest publications such as *Bridging the Gap*, *Migrant Mosaic*, and *Writers' Mosaic*.

Through the FAW website I was able to reach Maureen Kelly, the Secretary, who promptly put me in touch with Trevar Langlands, the State President. While I was hoping to be able to publicise the book and the forthcoming launch, I was not expecting the level of enthusiasm and support I received! Trevar immediately arranged for me to be interviewed on his radio programme on 2MCR (100.3 FM). That was a wonderful opportunity to talk about Helen and her work, and invite the general community to the launch. Trevar then attended the launch in person. Not only did he take the time to come to the launch, he was kind enough to address the audience. I appreciated his support very much but more importantly it meant a great deal to Helen (who is a life member of FAW and receives the newsletters to this day).

I remain very grateful to Trevar, and to Maureen, both of whom attest to the excellent work undertaken by FAW NSW.

Yours sincerely,

Sonia Mycak, Editor, *'Shards of Life'*

[See Trevar's report p19—Ed]

Writing Workshops:

Two memorable days in Young.

I had a wonderful time in Young from the moment I was greeted by Lauren Frith at the Canberra airport on Sunday evening, July 31, to the moment Ted Webber dropped me back off at the airport on Tuesday evening, just two days later. The 48 hours in between was a magical journey, in a landscape I had never travelled through before. On the way, I heard many stories, from my hosts, various people I met in town, and, above all, at the workshops, from both adults and local high school students alike.

A number of the stories and the people I met, remain vivid in my mind. Almost all the stories told and written, were set in Young and the surrounding farmlands, towns and landscapes. The efforts of a number of key people, with a vision for a thriving arts scene in the Young area, are paving the way for a vibrant, arts culture that will yield many benefits. These benefits range from the personal, and from the self-understanding which can come from writing, especially among youth, to the collective portrait of the region reflected in creative, reflective and well-crafted stories.

Three people in particular, representing three organisations, were the driving force behind bringing me to Young—Janice Ottey, innovative manager of the Young library, Lauren Frith, the dynamic Arts Centre Manager at the Southern Cross Cinema, and the energetic Ted Webber, President of the Lambing Flat Branch of the Fellowship of Australian Writers NSW. Janice, Lauren and Ted organised the workshops, drummed up support, and ensured both the adult and the student workshops were very well attended.

I was impressed by the quality of the work produced. If there was one story produced in the workshops that summed it up, it was the simple tale of a farm gate, written by a year eight high school student, one of the over 100 students who attended the workshops at the Southern Cross Cinema. The story was triggered by the recall of a moment, when the gate reflected the brilliant silver light of an early morning sun. What could so easily remain unnoticed, and taken for granted, was transformed into a potential tale of the challenges of farming life in the region.

There is already a long tradition of creativity in the region—with the legendary Banjo Patterson and Henry Lawson, as early inspirations, and the ancient indigenous culture, the source of songlines and stories that go far back in time. I heard accounts of local theatre productions, the thriving bush poetry scene, and other ongoing creative ventures. I look forward to the work of future storytellers, writers and artists in the region, whose works engage with, and build upon these traditions.

Thank you Janice, Lauren and Ted, and the many people who made me feel so welcome. The two days seemed far longer in time and were a rich and rewarding experience.

Arnold Zable

[See Lambing Flat branch report p8—Ed]

FAW Branch Reports

EASTWOOD/HILLS FAW

THIS was, or at least felt like a short quarter for us, as we only had two workshops, the third month (August) being set aside for our Annual Literary Competition Presentation Afternoon. It would have felt particularly short for our judges who had many entries to read, reread, discuss and judge before the day, especially the short story judges who had over 100 stories to sift through until they found their winners. Much thanks go to all our judges and especially to our Competitions Secretary, Marilyn Humbert, for all their hard work. Also to Carolyn Alfonzetti, for stepping up and leading proceedings when MC Laura Davis was taken ill. Thanks Carolyn and get better soon Laura. It turned out to be a terrific afternoon of literary excellence attended by the local mayor, representatives from The Friends of the Library and many hopeful writers.

In the preceding two months we attended an exciting talk and a horror-filled workshop. Our June meeting was followed by a talk from guest presenter, YA Author Wil Kostakis. We were highly entertained with the story of his own journey to publication which started with a boring set text in year five, through to High School big noting, personal embarrassment in the family and finally publication success not long after. Wil of course was continually writing in that time even during his HSC! Then began the journey to doing it again and better. Better because he had now learned through trial and error how to approach both his writing and the industry.

In July, Sally Lewry terrified and thrilled us in equal measure with her workshop on Writing Horror. Sally shared the techniques used to build suspense, to horrify, to shock and to thrill. She also looked at the creatures and objects of nightmare and the themes used to highlight these to best effect.

We look forward to our next quarter where we will be exploring Emotive Writing with Laura Davis in October and Memoir/ Family History

with Frances Moon in November. All welcome. First Saturday of the month.

Artelle Lenthall

EUROBODALLA FAW

The month of September is offering up a smorgasbord of literary events in the Eurobodalla that involve many of our writers.

*"I never travel without my diary. One should always have something sensational to read in the train."—
Oscar Wilde*

Moruya Library, as part of its Library Links program, is holding two Literary Salons after the fashion of Oscar Wilde. Wearing their Sunday best, writers, readers and audience will come together to share their love of style and the written word. An elegant supper and a literary quiz will also be part of this twilight soiree.

Debbie Richardson, one of our prolific published authors, is running her popular 'Rockin' the Edits' workshop again. This is the one in which she uses song lyrics to analyse/ imagine character motivations as drivers for narrative arc. Debbie is available to run workshops for other branches (check out her website): drrichardson.com. Writers of the Far South Coast have enjoyed a couple of her workshops to date.

The biggest event this year was the Batemans Bay Writers Festival, 9-11 September. In a session titled 'Local Authors Let Loose on Literature', four of our published authors (Debbie Richardson, Stafford Ray, Cassie Webb and Rhonda Casey) were scheduled to talk about what's inspired them, the road to publishing, and to give brief readings from their latest works. A wonderful initiative by our local Festival committee; we hope you have similar support from your local events organisers.

As in previous years two of our members, Mavis Hayes and Louise Falcioni, joined two others in judging the annual Mayor's Writing Competition, open to all school children in the Shire. Hundreds of entries are received and EuroFAW provides 3rd prize Encouragement Awards for each age category. The

presentation, suitably, occurs in the Council meeting room. It is an interesting and rewarding experience to also chat with the prize-getters and their parents at the morning tea that follows.

Our group has also been allocated a bi-monthly report in our local newspapers—a handy opportunity for free advertising! Thank you to Debbie Richardson for arranging this.

Rosie Toth

FOREST FAW

The winter months were productive for our members. Our meetings included sharing chapters from current projects, and receiving constructive critiques and encouragement to polish and refine our writing, especially for those members preparing to submit for publication. As a result four members have published this year and two of our esteemed poets have received international recognition—[see 'Literary Achievements' p22].

The winners of our short story competition have been announced under 'Competition Results' section of this issue [see p29]. There were a total of 76 entries from all over Australia, and the judge's report indicated a variety of writing styles. Some of the stories submitted were more like extracts from a memoir, and lacked a story structure, letting the truth get in the way of a good story. Also many of the stories suffered from poor proof reading, and as such, had typos, spelling and grammatical errors. We need to be mindful of these points when submitting manuscripts to a competition. Two children submitted stories, and we were delighted to award them with encouragement awards. The winning author, Maree Gallop, notified us with news of further success with her story, 'The Scent of Life.' It was selected for publication in the *AWAW 2016* (Award Winner Australian Writing) by Melbourne Books and launched in August at the Melbourne Writers Festival. Our members were delighted to hear of Maree's success.

For the past seven years, former journalist Maggie Gowanlock and

her collaborator, Verena Bacchini, have worked on a commemorative tribute to Neutral Bay/Cremorne Girls High School. The handsome 424-page coffee table book, called *The Best School Of All*, was launched in September by former Governor of NSW, Dame Marie Bashir. When Maggie and Verena embarked on their extensive research campaign back in 2009, it led to interviews with more than 400 pupils and staff. Their personal stories, dating from the 1920s up until the school's closure in 1987, illustrate the high school's development and how it shaped their lives. The richly illustrated book should appeal to anyone who enjoys reading memoirs. Visit the website <www.thebestschoolofall.com> to read more about this publication. Our members are proud of Maggie and Verena's achievement and wish them well with distribution of this delightful book.

Mary Ann Napper

GREAT LAKES FAW

We have had a busy year so far, and the biggest thing we've done for a while has been joining with the Forster Arts and Crafts Centre for a celebration of their fiftieth year. We were each given two art items—paintings, sculpture, beading, quilting, folk art and ceramics—and were asked to write a 300 word story or poem about the items, either fact or fiction. This proved to be a daunting

but exciting project, and we all thoroughly enjoyed it.

When completed, the items plus the stories, were exhibited at the local library, and they were very well received. They were then taken to the Arts and Craft Centre and displayed there, where they are still *[photos below]*.

Sunday 14th August was a fiftieth year celebratory luncheon, and in the absence of president Hermione, who was overseas, Christine and her husband Ron attended. It was a wonderful celebration, and with a beautiful buffet lunch prepared solely by the Arts and Crafts members, Christine is able to report back to our branch with photos and the memento booklet given to us. Everyone has agreed that it was a very enjoyable task, and we are all keen to do more projects like this. We have our thinking caps on to plan something for next year.

In June we had an assignment to choose a person or even a pet that had an influence on us and our families. There were some very touching stories which we all enjoyed hearing. In July we were asked to choose a song or a poem that we like, and discuss why we like either. The stories ranged from pets to family members, and they were all very interesting.

Our August meeting was chaired by Christine in Hermione's absence, and the assignment was to relive a travel adventure in approximately 600 words, with photos if possible.

We had varying stories, from caravanning with cats, a fishing trip up in Darwin, a yachting trip in the Bahamas, to an amusing one about a trip to Tasmania, as well as one of our members attending an archaeological dig in Samarkand, with some wonderful photos.

Our September meeting will be a very popular one. Our guest will be local well known author Jacqui Winn. Her talks and workshops are always wonderful and interesting, and we are inviting visitors from the public to attend as well.

In October we are each choosing favourite Australian novelists, old or new, and we've been asked to bring in examples and photos if possible, to show and tell.

We are looking forward to the rest of the year, which should be as busy as the first half.

Christine Hayes

HUNTER FAW

The last three meetings were taken up by members' presentations on topics of interest.

In June Jo Tregellis presented a review of the Japanese poetic forms haiku, haibun and tanka, linking them to a journey she completed a few years ago travelling *In the Footsteps of Basho*. The workshop was informative and entertaining and it was accompanied by various selections of literature from the Japanese masters

cont. next page...



Celebrating Forster Arts and Crafts Centre's fiftieth year, a collection of items is displayed with stories and poems written about them by members of Great Lakes branch of the Fellowship of Australian Writers.

FAW Branch Reports

Hunter

cont. from previous page

as well as attempts on our part to work on the concepts.

In July our secretary Christine Brotherson introduced us to Australian writers who were also artists, many of whom illustrated their own works. We were surprised by the names of writers we had heard of without being aware of their artistic side. These 21 writers were included in the text *Australia's Writers* by Graeme Kinross Smith published by Nelson 1980. We attempted to write a poem or page of text in a typical Australian historical style.

In August Newcastle poet Gail Hennessy gave a workshop on *ekphrasis*, tracing the form from its earliest examples in antiquity to today's post-modern versions. Ekphrasis is a literary response to another art form such as a painting, a piece of prose or a poem. Gail found an example of notional ekphrasis from Homer's *Iliad*, then followed with various developments, including a response from WH Auden (1930s) and Michael Hamburger (1962) to Breughel's *The Fall of Icarus*. She ended by presenting 2 poems that were responses to Juan Gris' 1914 painting called 'The Rose'. One was by William Carlos Williams and was written in 1923, the other was by Barbara Guest written in 1973. The differences and contrasts between responses were both fascinating and instructive.

Luciana Croci

LAKE MACQUARIE FAW

The Lake Macquarie FAW continues to welcome new members to its strong group. Two popular critique sessions are held each month, as well as a general meeting which is usually devoted to a special topic.

In May, members were treated to a glimpse into the world of scriptwriting, led by member Kristen Mair (currently undertaking a Graduate Certificate in Screenwriting at AFTRS). Kristen designed a fun writing exercise where members,

working in pairs, prepared a short script and then presented it for the rest of the group. Few members had experience working in this genre and most realised just how challenging scriptwriting is.

We were delighted to welcome guest presenter Maggie Ball to June's general meeting. Maggie, an accomplished poet, writer and editor, took us through the basics of writing poetry. Poetry does not need to be linear or to entirely make sense, but it does need to engage the senses. At different stages of the session members were able to write short poems and were encouraged by the 'instant gratification' that writing poetry can provide.

The July meeting was the Annual General Meeting, at which a new Committee—a mixture of old and new faces—was voted in. Our new President is Alison Ferguson, and we thank Jan Mitchell for her enormous service as President (and other roles) in the past.

Frances Robertson, a professional editor, gave a very interesting talk after the AGM about working with an editor to help writers polish their work and become the best they can be. She explained what to look for when employing an editor, the differences between the various levels of editing (structural, copy editing and proofreading) and at what stage of the manuscript each is normally required.

Pam Garfoot

LAMBING FLAT FAW

We mentioned in our last report, that on Aug 1st and 2nd we were combining with the Young Library and the Young District Arts Council to hold a two day writing workshop.

As the local paper reported, "The workshops, presented by acclaimed writer and story teller Arnold Zable were a great success. Over 30 writers attended during the day and another 20 took advantage of the evening session. Arnold shared his knowledge and passed on many writing tips, in a such a relaxed and easy way, that all attendees benefited from the experience."



Lambing Flat Workshop presenter Arnold Zable (centre) with Ted Webber and Maree Myhill.

"One of the best workshops I've been to" summed up the many favourable comments. Library Manager, Janice Ottey, said "It is wonderful to see the Library used in this way."

Lambing Flat FAW President Ted Webber used the occasion to launch the Fellowship's annual writing competition. "Today's workshops helped to draw the inspiration which can now find a focus in stories and poems for the competition," he said. "Tomorrow Arnold will present his talks to over 150 secondary school students at the Southern Cross Cinema. Who knows, we may find another Miles Franklin."

Southern Cross Cinema Manager, Lauren Frith commented, "The youth of the Young district deserved a chance to see and hear someone of Arnold's stature in the literary field."

Arnold Zable's visit to Young was brought about by three local organisations: the Young Library, the Young District Arts Council and the Lambing Flat Fellowship of Australian Writers, working together for a common goal."

Needless to say we were delighted with the attendance, the content and the presenter. Every workshop attendee was given some FAW bookmarks that we had printed for the occasion and an entry form for the competition. So our 2016 writing competition is off and away to a good start. Entry forms have been emailed to all clubs and we look forward to a good response. Arnold is very good and we would recommend him to other FAW groups.

Back on the club scene, we were pleased to welcome two visitors to our August meeting; Robyn Sykes a

well known author of bush poetry from Binalong, and local, Larry Wordsworth who has a number of books to his credit.

Larry will come to another meeting to discuss his latest project. Our October meeting will be lead by Valerie Parv who will conduct a mini workshop on 'Show versus Tell'.

Ted Webber

LIVERPOOL FAW

We don't have much to report at the moment, due to absence of quite a few of our members because of illness and/or holidays.

Regarding Guest Speakers:

Over recent meetings we have discussed and set out guidelines and expectations for internal/ external speakers, that will make it easier, simpler and advantageous to members, and speakers alike. Our guidelines are:

- Topic is set, specific to our training/education needs;
- Must not be for the purpose of promotion of their books or services;
- Must not promote ideological, political or religious views;
- Must result in improved writing and publishing skills and opportunities for our members;
- External guest speakers will attract a small fee to cover the cost of travel.

We have a new website which has been online since late last year. It is very colourful and inviting. We hope it will attract new members for our group or at the very least, to be aware of us. The web address is www.faw-liverpool.org.au.

Rhonda Rice

MACARTHUR FAW

At the July meeting progress was made on the design of a banner for use on public occasions. We were advised that it was best to keep the message simple and to-the point... just a few words plus a logo... so that it can be quickly understood. This is all part of an effort to publicise our group and gain new membership.

Talk recently turned to the subject of writing a synopsis for a novel. Members who have been through the process assured us that it is not easy to summarise something that might have taken hundreds of pages to say, while at the same time retaining a sense of character, motivation, atmosphere etc. A run-down on the various types of synopses was followed by information about helpful internet sites. Overall, the discussion proved to be a very useful.

From time to time, I would like to acknowledge someone who has made a strong contribution to our group but who has not previously been mentioned in this column. Such a person is Lambertus Mastop who, due to family circumstances, is at present unable to attend meetings. We miss Lambertus' congenial presence, as well as his original style of writing, and look forward to seeing him again in the near future.

Arrangements are currently underway for a guest speaker, this time one of our local newspaper editors. It will be interesting to hear from someone who is both abreast of journalistic practice and used to meeting deadlines; something many of us struggle with.

Our bi-monthly writing competition continues to attract a high standard of entry. The topic for the current competition, due September, is a 1000-word story entitled 'Sugar and Spice'. Previous to that we had 'Apology', which was won by a story that featured animal characters; and prior to that, 'Taking the Mickey Out'. It is always interesting to hear what colleagues have come up with.

We seem to have entered a quiet time of the year with many things on the boil but none quite ready to serve. In the meantime, meetings remain firmly focused on the key business of writing.

Bernard Smith

MUDGE VALLEY FAW

We have had a busy time this year at Mudgee Valley Writers and are

expecting an even busier time for the early months of next year.

Heather Rushton M Ed, BA gave us a talk on Visual Literacy at our June meeting, an informative and interesting workshop on the way people see literature, and the most effective ways of communication ideas.

We are planning our 2017 Norman McVicker Youth Award Competition at the moment. Closing date will be 28th February with \$2,000 in cash prizes ranging from \$700 for First Place in stories and poetry. Details will be on our website shortly at mudgeevalleywriters.wordpress.com.

For our September meeting we are holding a campfire poetry and story reading day at Joan Taylor's farm, Joan is our President. We are all looking forward to it and no doubt her farmyard animals will be intrigued and highly entertained as well. She has a wonderful gaggle of geese with personality, so they are definitely invited to the party.



This gaggle of gregarious geese is owned by Mudgee Valley Writers President Joan Taylor.

For our October meeting we have a full day workshop on Making Photo Books planned. We received a grant from the Volunteer Grants, thank you to our FAW executive for their assistance, and are very lucky to have Heather Rushton and Sam Paine as our Presenters with their writing and artistic skills. Members are planning photo books on topics ranging from Family History, to Gardening and Children's Stories. No doubt many will be given as Christmas presents this year.

Jill Baggett

Reports cont. next page...

FAW Branch Reports

NORTH ARM COVE FAW

During the winter months North Arm Cove members have 'kept warm' with their writing endeavours. Meetings have been very well attended; achievements have continued and monthly assignments have produced some excellent writing.

The branch's bank balance was also increased by a very welcome donation of \$135.55 from North Arm Cove Community Library's coordinator/branch member, Elizabeth Deane who organised a sale of books generously supported by the community and visitors, especially Port Stephens Writers.

The branch warmly welcomed a new member John Davies, a writer who exhibits great humour in both his poetry and prose.

Moira Hooper's assignment for June meeting was developing characters, plots, point-of-view, conflict etc; members all producing a varied selection of good, well-developed writing. Lee Clayton tackled humorous writing for the July assignment, the branch being inspired by watching a DVD featuring well-known bush poet, entertainer

and performer Greg North. August's tutorial was taken by former graphic designer/teacher Gail Rust who asked members to explore another side of writing—layout and illustration of a children's book. All rewarding exercises.

The 'fictional community' continues to grow, main character profiles and the prologue have been completed and those involved are now busily writing short stories involving these main protagonists. This is a long-term project which is inspiring many members.

The branch's involvement and support with the two local public schools, Karuah and Tea Gardens, is continuing in 2016.

Member Maureen Kelly judged the public speaking competition involving all age groups at Karuah School and adjudicated at their participation in the NSW Premier's 2016 Debating Contest; fellow-member Elizabeth Deane being involved in coaching the three-student team.

Entries have also been received and judging is underway in the branch's 2016 public school short

story competition for Karuah and Tea Gardens Public Schools.

The highlight of the August meeting was participation in the 'Golden Smartie' award inaugurated in 2014 by member Garry Boyd.

Maureen Kelly, OAM

NORTH SHORE BRANCH [FAWNS]

The FAWNS Literary Competition for this year is drawing to a close, with the closing date being 30th September. This year the prose section is a Mini Memoir Competition, and the poetry section is a Poetry Theme competition.

Our regular meetings have had a new twist added to them; we have been including 'impromptu prompts'. Thanks to Jud Barton for her initiation and organization in this area.

Richard Brookton

PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS

We welcomed FAW Webmaster, Wayne Jarman and FAW Honorary Secretary Maureen Kelly OAM, at our July meeting. Wayne spoke on the



Port Macquarie-Hastings group and guests (l-r): Debbie Bayliss, Michael Walter, Joie Black, FAW webmaster Wayne Jarman, Connie Jones, FAW Hon. Secretary Maureen Kelly, Beth Anderson, Doug Parker, Gwen Rees-Hopton, Colleen Parker, Brian Tolagson.

Creative Process in Writing and the new FAW webpage. As most of us are aware we need to be constantly reminded not to put the creative process off so Wayne highlighted this by reading a chapter he wrote when the words came from his new book. [Group photo previous page].

Wayne followed his talk on the Creative Process with a tour of the new webpage—informing us that the webpage is user friendly, is not fragile, so we cannot break it, to play around with it to find the wealth of information our state committee put on there to assist us as writers.

Our branch lost a long term member last month, Avis Whan, who was a couple weeks short of her 98th Birthday. She will be remembered fondly by all who knew her. [see Vale p15—Ed.]

This year we have enjoyed concentrating on basic writing skills using the talent in our group. As a small group we run our talks more in the realm of meaningful discussions allowing for lively meetings. Although I believe it's important to have guest speakers, I also think it's important to use the talent in our own groups. Even new members, often new to writing, have a story worth sharing. They bring new life to many groups and take the groups into new and often untouched territory.

This year we have scheduled our committee meetings before the general meeting since a number of members have to travel some distance. Our group has found this change has worked well—eating lunch while we discuss committee matters.

I'll end the report with a quote I read recently. This is what writing means to me...

"To me, the greatest pleasure of writing is not what it's about, but the inner music that words make."— Truman Capote.

Debbie Bayliss

PORT STEPHENS FAW

Port Stephens members are excited to begin their new book project with a working title *The Beaches of Port*

Stephens. Next meeting we will go in a tour vehicle along the sand dunes and beach at Birubi to see Silver City, where a unique collection of old shacks built during the last war can be found that still has residents living in them. We hope to come away with some good stories. This trip will depend on no wind and low tide.

We have two new members Susan Bowen and Audrey Pflugrath whom we hope will join us at our Thursday meetings.

Christine Gregory

SHOALHAVEN FAW

Our Shoalhaven branch monthly meetings always introduce something new to learn and explore.

We start off with a 5 minute writing exercise—to stimulate our writing brains and hands—and the results are always unexpected and entertaining. In just 5 minutes, everyone responds to the subject—or object—with a different approach. A continuing fascination for all of us.

It's the same with our monthly homework. We all have the same topic to write about before our next meeting and everyone gets to read their story (approximately 500 words) at our meeting. Again, it's a feast of different imaginations and ideas to enjoy.

At our August meeting, guest speaker Sue Finlayson shared her expertise on Book Covers with us. As she pointed out, a book cover is one of the most important aspects of publishing, particularly self-publishing. Her talk set us off on discussions regarding our own experiences with covers. An informative session for us all.

Chere Le Page

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS [FAWSH]

FAWSH is busily setting up for two important launches. The first is the Margaret Cech Writing Competition which will be officially launched at Bowral Library. The Competition is open to residents of the Southern Highlands, in a Senior and a Junior

section as well as one for adults 18 years and over. Entry forms may be downloaded from the FAWSH website <www.fawsh.wordpress.com> or by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to FAWSH Margaret Cech Competition, PO Box 2548, Bowral, NSW, 2576—or on the back of flyers circulated in the shire. Photocopies of entry forms are acceptable. Closing date for entries is December 16. All schools in the area are to be approached for participation. We would welcome entries in the Science Fiction genre because we intend ultimately to expand the MCWC to become a national competition for Science Fiction writers—however this year there is no restriction on the subject matter.

Our second event is the next Anthology, yet to have a title, which is scheduled for publication in September, 2017 in time for Christmas. Short stories, poetry, memoir are but three of the suggested genre but there is no limit to the type of work that will be considered. Barb Angell will head a small committee of qualified people to make the selections.

Our member Greg Tome has had a busy time. In April, the Armidale Short Play Fest performed his play *Circles and Tangents* and in June, the Wagga Wagga theatre group SoACT performed *Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta* in their Ten Minute Playfest.

Greg is unfortunately included this month on our sick-list of members, who also include Ron Jones, Margaret Symonds and Brian Haydon. We wish you all a speedy recovery and look forward to welcoming you back to our meetings very soon.

Chin up, everyone, Spring is here!
Dr Barb Angell

SUTHERLAND FAW

The Sutherland Shire Branch of the Fellowship of Australian Writers regret to announce that due to unforeseen circumstances, the *Writers Unleashed Festival* scheduled for Saturday October 22nd at Gympie Tradies has been **cancelled**.

cont. next page...

FAW Branch Reports

Sutherland

cont. from previous page

Writers Unleashed has become very much a sought-after writers festival, and we will ensure that we continue to uphold the high standard for which we strive. Watch the website <shirewritersfestival@weebly.com> for more information about *Writers Unleashed 2017*.

The Picture Book competition is proceeding as planned, and entrants are currently being judged. Winners will now be announced at our Sutherland Branch Fellowship of Australian Writers AGM at Sutherland Library on 29 October, 2016 at 12.30pm. Invitations will be extended to competition winners and runners up.

Our group has been busy writing short story submissions for our anthology, *Dreams of Home*, and the editing is almost completed. Publication is scheduled for late October. We are very appreciative of our editors, Helen Armstrong, and Jenny Mathers for providing valuable feedback to our members, and organising the layout for publication and printing.

We were fortunate to have experienced writer, Jo-Anne Berthelsen, who has published eight books, present a workshop at our July meeting on point of view, traditional, omniscient or shifting narrators. Over 20 members and guests attended Gynea Community Hall for her presentation. Jo-Anne is a warm and engaging presenter, and we had an interesting writing exercise where we visualised in detail a dark room, and certain elements to add to the story were given to us as prompts, as we were writing, which we could use in our story or not.

At our August meeting, we invited another talented author and Crime Fiction writer, Ed Blakely to present a workshop. He writes under the pseudonym Coby Dyrek James. His latest novel called *A Pope's Confession*, is in the series, Chet Lake Mystery Thriller. His crime fiction is based on his own experiences in international affairs around the world.

The Sutherland Shire Creative Writing Competition, partnered



Published writer Jo-Anne Berthelsen presents a workshop at Gynea Community Hall for Sutherland Shire branch.

with FAW Sutherland, have a Facebook page called *Spark*. Word gets around, and Andy Griffiths has retweeted the competition! Shire Women, a business network organisation are also promoting the competition. Tradies, Gynea has provided sponsorship and donation of prize money to the winners of the competition. The competition is open to high school students in the Sutherland Shire.

Four of our members have presented the first of the junior and senior creative writing workshops at Gynea Technology High School, which are being held fortnightly. The students were most enthusiastic and are champing at the bit to start work on their stories. Many thanks to our dedicated members: Leanne Bowie, Helen Armstrong, Antonia Sabbah, Jenny Mathers and Julianne Miles-Brown, for their excellent presentations and support.

Sylvia Vago

WOLLONDILLY FAW

Wollondilly Branch was successful in obtaining a Grant for \$1,000 from Wollondilly Council to fund a children's writing competition. We are very grateful to the Council for this grant.

The Competition which closes 23rd September is open to children aged 5-12 years who live in or attend school in the Wollondilly area. The topic can be anything of their choosing and a short story of no more than 500 words. It is hoped the competition will encourage children to become more interested in writing.

There are two age groups in the competition: 5-8 years and 9-12 years, giving all children a chance to compete. A first prize of \$100 in each group is to be awarded and a second of \$50 plus each of the schools where the children who get first prize will receive \$250 to use as they wish. Each child who enters is to receive a Certificate of Participation.

The Competition closes on 23rd September and it is intended to hold a Prize Giving function at the newly renovated Picton Library on 26th November.

Details of the Competition were delivered to most schools in the area and at a number where we were able to talk to the Principals about the competition. It was pleasing to hear the enthusiasm for writing from a number of the Principals.

The Macarthur Chronicle promoted the Competition with an article and photo. *The Wollondilly Advertiser* contacted the President Narelle

Noppert about doing a profile on our group and a photo shoot was set up for 1st August which eight members attended. Trevar Langlands mentioned the Competition on his radio programme on 100.3FM.

Pharmacy4Less Tahmoor and Tahmoor Post Office have made donations supporting the Competition.

The branch welcomes Cliff Rayner as a new member.

Sandra Reynolds

WYONG FAW

Wyong Writers has been without a publicity officer for a few months and the essential tasks have been filled by Secretary and President.

In May we had the good fortune to have Kathryn Coughran come to present/facilitate a workshop, 'Tips

and Techniques to Give Your Writing the Edge'. Kathryn no longer lives on the Central Coast and has an eight-hour drive to come to the Central Coast from the south.

As a group, we are indebted to the judges that Mavis Gunter finds for us from other FAW branches. We are of course also very grateful to Mavis for finding them. Our Scribblers critiquing group continues to meet on a weekly basis. We are constantly refining our critiquing techniques in order to help one another as effectively as we can. Since the meetings are frequent and regular we are able to cater for people writing novels and memoirs.

Several members have attended Scriptwriting courses run by Wyong Council, and attended the Author Expo at Erina Library.

Mei-Ling Venning

Writers Voice emails bouncing back?

We still occasionally have contributors experiencing 'bounce back' when sending copy for *Writers Voice*. That is possibly because the OLD 'dri-print' email is still in their system. That address was **discontinued** in May 2015 and the change was featured in March 2015 issue of *Writers Voice* (p6).

If readers have not done so already, please DELETE the 'dri-print' wveditor contact from your Address Book.

You also need to remove it from your **Auto-Complete** or **Previous Recipients** list—search Microsoft or Apple support for 'remove unwanted email address'.

The correct address for Writers Voice is:

wveditor@fawns.org.au

That address was again featured recently in June 2016 issue (p13), and is always published at the bottom of page 2 of *Writers Voice*. There is also an email link to 'The Editor' on the

FAW NSW website here:

<fawns.org.au/membership/bulletin>



Wollondilly FAW members at Narellan Library. (Back l to r): Narelle, Sandra, Cliff, Jean, Jan and Andy. (Front): Maysell and Sue.

Roundup

'Fellowship' is alive and well at North Arm Cove

As well as gathering together in the 'fellowship of writing,' **North Arm Cove FAW** branch members have also been socialising over the winter months.

At the end of June the branch welcomed members of **Port Stephens Writers** for lunch and fellowship at North Arm Cove Community Centre.

Both groups have maintained a long friendship with each other which goes back to the late nineties.

"The food was exceptional... the entertainment superb," were the words of thanks from the visitors.

After lunch members from both branches entertained everyone reading poetry and prose.

A group of bush poetry-loving members journeyed to Clarence Town, July 23, 2016 to support fellow-member, Bob Bush, who 'performed' a number of his bush poems as part of the Dungog-Clarence Town CWA's *A Day in the Bush*. Bob was one of six bush poets who entertained the 100-plus audience at this annual function held at Clarence Town School of Arts.

A mid-year lunch for members was held at North Arm Cove Community Centre, July 31, 2016, the theme: the letter 'L'—and also celebrating member Lal Clayton's 92nd birthday.

'L' poems and prose were read out by some members, others dressing up to represent 'L'. Lal's husband Jim, aged 93, read a poem written by long-time member Lal to celebrate the occasion. There were four generations



Four generations: Celebrating Lal Clayton's 92nd birthday are her great-grandson Charlie, grand-daughter Ami and Lal's daughter Lee Clayton, also a member of North Arm Cove branch.

of Lal's family present at the lunch—daughter Lee (also a branch member), grand-daughter Ami and great-grandson Charlie.

A very memorable number of social gatherings for all concerned!

Below: FAW members from North Arm Cove and Port Stephens Writers met for lunch and fellowship at North Arm Cove Community Centre.



Creative Inspiration Workshop

Port Macquarie-Hastings FAW celebrated its 38th Branch anniversary in July and enjoyed a workshop by Wayne Jarman on Creative Inspiration and learning more about our FAW NSW website.



FRANK CARDIFF

21 July 1922—9 August 2016

THE funeral and wake for long time FAW member Frank Cardiff was held on 17 August 2016 at Kincumber on the Central Coast of NSW.

In November 1993 I published the first edition of a writer's magazine called *FreeXpresSion* and in it was a humorous poem by Frank. He had sent it off for publishing in the *Seniors* magazine and as it was not quite their cup of tea, they passed it on to me. Frank went on to become a regular contributor to the magazine and also one of its fiercest critics and strong supporters.

Over the years I was able to visit Frank and Thelma at their home on several occasions; they were always most welcoming and Frank was helpful in advising a way forward for the publication.

One of Franks' poems that I published back then was entitled 'Roundabouts' and it lampooned the proliferation of them as a means of calming traffic. The punchline begged the question 'How do I get off?' Well Frank went through a lot of busy roundabouts in his long life; finally he has managed to get off; he has found himself in the peace and quiet of God's own country and is living in God's house for evermore.

Vale Frank.

Peter F Pike

*Former President FAW (NSW) and
Managing Editor 'FreeXpresSion'*

Vale

AVIS WHAN

PORT Macquarie branch sadly farewelled one of its dear members on Friday 22nd July. Avis passed a week earlier on the 15th July 2016 and is first recorded in our Branch history book in 1983.



Avis was an active, full participating member until about one year ago when her frailty limited her mobility. Along with that though was our recruitment of her son, Stuart, her carer who was our loyal Hon. Treasurer for some years because he drove his mother to the meetings, so made himself useful to us. We were extremely grateful to both of them.

Avis was born on 31st July 1917, which meant she passed just two weeks before her 99th birthday.

The branch members were proud to see the publication of her Memoir, *The ALLAMBIE Story*, in 1985 which the family descendants treasure with appreciation that they have learned their family history thanks to Avis.

Our condolences to Stuart Whan and the Whan family.

Rest in Peace Avis,

With thanks from your fellow-writers.

Colleen Parker, President

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS BRANCH

Roundup

Vale

THELMA FLOWER

27.7.1930–12.7.2016

THELMA Flower was an active member of State Council and held the office of Treasurer for many years.

Forest Regional, started in 1999, had Thelma to thank for steering us through its embryonic stage and she was our Treasurer for many years.

Thelma lived at Frenchs Forest before moving into Wesley Gardens at Belrose. Later her children moved her to the Central Coast to be near them. Thelma is listed on the Honour Roll of FAW Distinguished Service Award recipients.

Contributed by Forest FAW

[Editor's note: Long-time FAW member Elaine Burton wrote this about Thelma in 2008]...

When FAW NSW became incorporated a new constitution was drawn up and this was done by Ron Stevens and Thelma Flower.

She was co-editor of *Writers Voice* for a short time and part of the team who formed a regular working group every two months, despatching *Writers Voice*—this entailed labelling magazines, putting into plastic bags, sorting and posting.

When the FAW Awards Trust Fund was set up for Marjorie Barnard, Walter Stone, Jean Stone and Hilarie Lindsay, Thelma was appointed a trustee and treasurer.

THE SOCIETY OF WOMEN WRITERS NSW LITERARY LUNCHEONS

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

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

Time: 10 am for 10:20am

Bookings by 10am on the Monday prior to each event.

To book, send a text message to 0403 177 208 or email [<swwlunchbooking@gmail.com>](mailto:swwlunchbooking@gmail.com)

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

Details and updates: [<www.womenwritersnsw.org>](http://www.womenwritersnsw.org).

12 OCTOBER 2016

Workshop: Dr. Lisa Murray, 'Sydney Life: Sources in the City Archives'. City Historian and writer Dr Lisa Murray will introduce you to some of the key resources for Sydney city held in the city council archives. You will discover how to effectively search the archives catalogue and key sets of records that document the city's social and business life. This workshop will be of interest to both the fiction and non-fiction writer.

The October Luncheon will also feature announcement of the Society of Women Writers NSW **Book Awards** for Non-Fiction, Fiction, Poetry and Young Adults.

9 NOVEMBER 2016

Workshop: Meg Mathews, 'The Galsworthy Duo-Fiction & Art'
Keynote Speaker: Di Morrissey, 'A Quarter Century as Australia's Favourite Storyteller'. Di Morrissey will also launch the Anthology *INK 3*.

The **September 14** function included a Workshop by Margaret Hamilton titled 'Writing Picture Books'; Keynote Speaker Lynette Silver's topic 'Unmasking the Real James Bond' and Guest Speaker Valeria Pybus presented 'Quest for Green Gables'.



Trevar Langlands at the NSW Art Gallery

Inspiration from Art

FAW President Trevar Langlands advises: "I think it is important for writers to savour all kinds of experiences to add to their writing ideas and one of the most interesting of course is Art.

Visiting Art exhibitions can give you all kinds of ideas for your work and also add some interesting characters.

I recently visited the NSW Art Gallery to see the **Frida Kohlo** exhibition, the most famous artist in Mexico.

I do urge you to visit before it closes—it is a wonderful display of photographs and artworks by a woman who lived with pain all her life until her early death."

Writers World

A Window On The World

Vince Morrison

MY exit from the Falls road Public Library was both painful and humiliating.

Brother John, the head teacher of my school in Belfast, escorted me through the high, labyrinth bookshelves, clutching my right ear. He disregarded my sobs and tearful protests as we marched past the startled librarians and patrons, to finish up in his office at Saint Finian's Public Elementary boys school; I received six of the best and was banned from spending school hours hidden away in the library's reading room.

"The library's for after school." He warned as he led me back to my classroom. "You receive your education here, not there right?"

A fine man and teacher, but he was wrong. My education began in that library all those years ago.

Our family's return to Belfast after the Second World War was traumatic. I was ten years old and unhappy to leave my friends and the small town school in the South of Ireland for the stricter, tough city school my parents sent me to.

In my first week, lunchtime found me sitting alone enjoying my Dandy and Beano comics on the steps of the library. It was situated a short distance from our school. A forbidding, dark place where only grey old men appeared to shuffle, to read the daily newspapers or flick through hard-back books piled high on wide polished tables.



Image: iStock



Here is a wonderful opportunity to become a Published Writer and assist in enhancing the variety of topics to be found in our regular bulletin.

Writers World

Guidelines for submissions:

- 500 words maximum.
- Stories may come from essays, articles or memoir extracts but must form a complete story—ie. have a beginning, a middle and an end.
- Selection will take into account: Grammar, punctuation, suitability for WV readership, word count and presentation.
- If your submission is accepted it will be stockpiled and only one published in each edition, with the others held over.
- The author of each issue's selected story will receive \$20 for its publication in *Writers Voice*.

NB: Once the publication fee is paid, that story cannot enter into a competition. However if it has already been in a competition then that is acceptable.

Send your submission via email attachment using the 'Contact Us' form on the FAW NSW website <fawnsw.org.au>. Tick the 'Hon. Secretary' box for forwarding and consideration by the editing committee.

"There's a children's section upstairs where you kids can go." A thin balding man, the library janitor, peered at me as he edged past my outstretched legs.

I decided to check out the room at the top of the stairs. Within minutes, I was hooked. I arrived home that evening proudly clutching a half a dozen books and a parent's signature form. It allowed me to be a member of the children's library. A friendly, enthusiastic Miss White selected the books. "You'll love these." She smiled as she stamped each card. The excitement enveloped me; I couldn't wait to join the adventures of Huckleberry Finn and Tom Sawyer. Laugh at the silly antics of Billy Bunter and suffered the pain of failure and death with Scott of the Antarctic.

"Bring them back in two weeks and have some more." She patted me on the head as I left. "Much better than those silly comic cuts you children seem to be always reading."

Brother John didn't share her glowing passion for my reading. My class teacher complained to him about my failure to return from the hour-long lunch breaks. "He wanders back at any old time, disrupts the whole class with his wild stories."

My illegal trips during the lunch break to the library ended. But not my love of reading and visiting libraries. They continued throughout my life, to London, Sydney and more recently Wollondilly.

I am forever grateful and appreciative of the wonderful Miss White, whose encouragement so long ago, opened the window of that musty old library and showed me the fascinating and exciting world of books.



This short story won the local Short Story Competition to help promote Library Week. 2004

Book Reviews

Out and About with Trevar

RECENTLY I interviewed a most remarkable young woman and also hosted her book launch at Campbelltown Library... Lauren Hokin is the author of a wonderful publication called *Anzacs of Macarthur*—over 1100 entries of men and women from the Macarthur District who served in the first World War.

Anzacs of Macarthur: The Men and Women Who Served in the First World War

Lauren Hokin

This was a project completed as part of the Anzac Centenary Local Grants Program initiated by the Federal Government. Lauren was asked for ideas to celebrate the centenary by the Veterans' Recreation Center at Dredges Cottage and she came up with the idea for the book which is a collection of the wartime narratives for the people of Macarthur and those on the home front, and was brought in on the project.

With the grant stipulations, the books are not for profit and are to be donated to every library, RSLs, and every school etc. There is also a corresponding website with all content available and with search options—see below.

Lauren has always been interested in history and the first world war, having learnt that many of her relatives served.

Lauren completed a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) majoring in history, philosophy & politics from UWS followed by a Masters of Teaching (Secondary) qualifying her as a history teacher. She did her honours thesis on the war: *The Historiography of General Haig and the Third Battle of Ypres*.

Lauren is a local, born at Camden hospital, who grew up in Ruse and now lives in Bradbury, a Campbelltown suburb.

Lauren must be one of the most remarkable young women I have met and I am so pleased that a young woman like her has such an interest in Australian history.

This book is about 600 pages and the names mentioned are not just a fleeting mention of names and places they came from; it tells us about each one—where they were born, married, how many children, what work they did, when they went to war and if they came back—a mass of intriguing information.

Lauren worked 11 hours a day for two and a half years to compile the information from records, Australian War Memorial, RSL records, and many other areas.

There are many wonderful B&W and colour photographs in the book including a lot of Australian War recruitment posters.

Check out the very comprehensive web site and browse to your heart's content as many of the people came to MacArthur from other Sydney areas as well as places such as Ireland, Scotland and England.

www.anzacsmacarthur.com

I was delighted to introduce Lauren to a really good audience at the Library and she gave a most interesting talk with a PowerPoint™ display.

I am sure she would be willing to consider visiting your Branch .

Trevar Langlands



Author Lauren Hokin



Lauren presents some of her research for the book

I was privileged recently to be asked to a book launch for a wonderful 96 year old Life Member of the FAW. The book is *Shards of Life* by Helen Boris and it was launched at the Ukrainian Community Centre Lidcombe. What an absolute thrill to meet a life member of the FAW and to address the Ukrainian community on behalf of the FAW and speak of its history.

Thank you to the Ukrainian community who welcomed me so warmly and gave me a wonderful afternoon. I was also thrilled to meet Helen's daughter Irene who came up from Melbourne for the occasion.

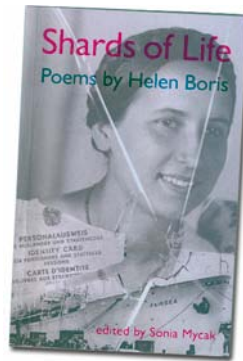
About Helen Boris

Helen came to Australia in 1949 as a refugee when the Soviets took over Ukraine. She went first to a migrant camp at Bathurst with none of the mod cons of today, no heating or air conditioning, and no frills from the Government coffers like today.

Helen was born in the city of Smile in 1920 and lived through the famine which killed 7 million, followed by political repression. Living through Stalinist dictatorship and Nazi Occupation, Helen fled in 1943 to West Germany where her daughter was born.

In 1949 with her husband, daughter and her mother, they all set sail for Australia, Helen arriving in a new land at the age of 29.

In 1972 Helen saw the Fellowship of Australian Writers NSW advertised and then joined Parramatta branch. At the FAW Christmas party she met Walter Stone who encouraged her to publish her poetry.



Helen was founder of the Booklovers Club in Sydney. The current book is published in her 96th year of life but is by no means her entire works as she has written much in her native language.

Despite some serious works in this book there are also quirky and at times comical pieces, plus verse on mortality and nature. May I quote two of Helen's poems for you...

Forty Days

And you, my sad, grey haired mother,
what did you think about
when you lingered
between life and death
in and out of consciousness
for forty long grey days
and forty long black nights.

Did you sway back and forth
from one vision to another?
Did you see happy faces
of people you have loved on this earth
beckoning you to join them?
Did you hear desperate cries
of the ones you have just left behind
imploping you to come back
not to deprive them of your support,
love
strength
and wisdom?

The Black Holes

You never finished compiling
the jig-saw puzzle of your short life
So many slots were left empty –
did you try to fill them out
with the wrong pieces?
Inside the dimly lit enclosure
that you built around yourself
the rare flashes of light
(from the falling stars
you stopped wishing upon)
were too short lived
to help you with your task
and the few brightly coloured bits
never seemed to match the black holes.

But sadly, sadly
the largest fragment –
your self imposed death sentence –
fitted in perfectly.

Shards of Life is edited by **Dr Sonia Mycak**, Visiting Fellow in the Centre for European Studies at Australian National University. She also held research fellowships at the University of Sydney and University of NSW. The book is available from <www.fivesenseseducation.com.au>

Thank you again everyone for a wonderful opportunity to meet a wonderful lady.

Trevar Langlands



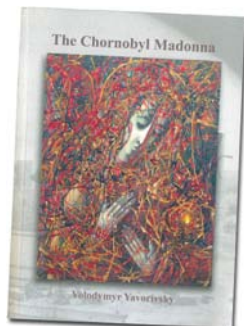
Trevar with Helen Boris



Ukrainian Ambassador Dr Mykola Kulinich with Trevar

Book Reviews

IT'S very unusual I get to introduce a Ukrainian Novel in English to members so I would like to introduce you to the very talented Volodymyr Yavorivsky, born in Teklikva, Ukraine in 1942. His book *The Chornobyl Madonna* was also launched at the Ukrainian Centre, Lidcombe, recently.



The Chornobyl Madonna

Volodymyr Yavorivsky

There have been many words written about the Chernobyl incident but I am sure nothing like this very interesting book. This is really a documentary novel but a story about very interesting characters living in the region.

This novel sold out in a matter of days. It is set in 1986 on the night of April 26 and brought the whole world to the attention of a disaster at the nuclear reactor in Chernobyl. If you wonder what Chernobyl means, it is from the mugwort growing in the area—called Chornobyl in Ukrainian.

This is a book with a difference, about a place you know from the name but really know very little about.

There is the son, designer of the new power station, a fireman who rushed to put out the flames and several others but the central character is the lovely old wise peasant woman.

Volodymyr travelled extensively through the zone after the accident and met locals who gave him the idea for his novel, a gripping tale. Let me tease you with an extract...

*

Looking like a jelly fish, the mushroom cloud above the city grew slowly. The sky around it seemed to be burning, fusing at the edges and melting. But the city was already asleep in expectation of holidays, of domestic worries, trips to dachas, house calls and fishing trips.

Lights came on only in the suburb closest to the station, because here they could hear the wail of the nuclear power station's alarm system and the ambulances. They could see the glow above the reactor, from which emerged lifeless flames which were suspended above the station like some amazing candle.

A group of boys and girls was partying on the top floor of the dormitory where Hryhororiy Myrovych lived. From the depths of the apartment came the hoarse, guttural voice of Vysotsky singing one of his popular songs.

Someone noticed the glow above the station and the revellers poured out onto the balcony. "Oh, now we can turn all the lights out and continue dancing to a light show" guffawed a red-cheeked fellow with a prickly coal-black crewcut.

"It's a flying saucer. Some extra-terrestrials! People say they abduct beautiful girls", a plump girl exclaimed, feigning fear. "They won't be coming here then. There's no one worth abducting. Not even for our earthly tastes, let alone someone's cosmic ones.

"You're stupid, lhor, stupid and blind. The plump girl became offended.

*

Published by Bayda Books Melbourne. Thank you to Yuri Tkacz for alerting me to this terrific read. For copies contact Bayda Books at email <ytkacz@gmail.com> Ph 0413 379 056.

Trevar Langlands

EMPIRE'S CHILDREN

Patricia Weerakoon



235 pages, Published 2015 by Riza Press.

PATRICIA Weerakoon, born in Sri Lanka, is a medical Doctor and sexologist who retired from practice and is now a writer and highly regarded public speaker.

This romantic novel is set in Sri Lanka 1957–1970 during the end times of the British Empire. It is written by an author with some obvious knowledge of the era. The British were masters of the tea fields of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) and their reputation was that of being superior and uncaring for their employees, many of whom lived in abject poverty.

Spiro is the daughter of a tea-maker working for the absent English owners on a tea plantation, *Watakale*, in the high country, out of the town of Diyatalawa. This destination entailed a long 160 km train journey from Colombo. She has a best friend, Lakshmi, a coolie labourer who knows her place. They are not permitted to associate in public. In the same way the Sri Lankans do not socialise with the whites. Spiro aspires to become a doctor, contrary to the expectations of her parents, race, and level in society. Arranged marriages were the usual pattern.

The British owner sends his two sons to Sri Lanka, each to take up superintendency of one of his two tea-plantations.

This is an absorbing tale of tragedy, grief, suffering, love and yearning, but also class-distinction. I could not put it down once the scene was set.

It explores the ramifications of privilege, and being white, British, wealthy and powerful, and the suffering of those who slaved for a crust under them. Intimidation was rife.

The plot is well constructed, which complexities are duly resolved. The characters are well depicted and believable as is the dialogue.

Review © 2016 **Patricia Allen**,
Blue Mountains FAW

Poets Voice

Dorothea's Country

Local legend has it that Dorothea Mackellar was staying at a property called "Torryburn" when she penned what is probably her best known works. Fortunately, "Torryburn House" still stands and is about ten minutes from where we used to live.

I've sat and read the poem that Dorothea's written
And it's clear to even me with this country she was smitten.
She loved the droughts that gripped the land and burnt the sweeping plain,
She watched the storm clouds build and she loved the soaking rain.
But since that day when she sat down and penned her famous verse,
The weather of the land she loved unfortunately is worse!
'Cause global warming's hit us, our temperatures are soaring,
The ocean level's rising—the ice has started thawing!
And the drought that she was loving, has gone beyond a joke!
We're running out of water and the farms are goin' broke!
They're buying in their water, all the dams are at a low,
The bores' no longer pumping and our rivers cease to flow.
They say our reef is dying, (we've got twenty years at best),
Warm water kills the coral, while the starfish eat the rest!
Her sapphire-misted mountains have been raped by forest blaze,
The forest air once crystal clear, replaced with smoky haze.
The gases we're producing from the lifestyle that we love,
Are drifting ever skywards to that layer up above.
So I wonder Miss Mackellar, just what the hell you'd say!
About the damage that we've done—and what verse you'd write today!

Bob Bush, North Arm Cove FAW

We

You sleep like that of the dead. I listen for your breathing.
You wake late. My mornings conquer the world.
You cook onion and garlic for breakfast. I eat earlier.
I am full of sunlight and sea and forests and mountains.
You are contained, womb-like, curtains closed against the day.
Yours is a fantasy world of goodies and baddies. Holding back hurt.
My world has real goodies and baddies. I take them on.
We talk—in passing, in between. 'Oh, I nearly forgot' I say.
You like fishing. I hate sitting still.
I roam, discovering, again and again.
You measure your words. Mine overflow.
I laugh at your jokes. You smile. The dog nuzzles us together.

Rosie Toth, Eurobodalla FAW

From the Poetry Editor

Greetings fellow writers,
I'd strongly hinted in the June issue for some attempts at **tetractys**. Sadly no one took me up on the suggestion for this issue. I understand.
Writing to specific requests can be a chore...

*The poets sat pensively thinking
Their spirits progressively sinking
For problems with verse
Tetractys are worse
They said, "this request is just stinking!"*

Never mind, my friends. Poetry in any style is a delight. I like them all.

A reminder: poetry should be single spaced with one extra line space between stanzas. Only your name and FAW branch at the end; you automatically retain copyright.

I'm anticipating your December offerings; serious or fun-filled—it's Holiday time!

Shirley Goodbar

Woman Pegging Clothes

She stands; hands as nimble
as any pianist's dance a lively jig.
Allegro molto.

Athena distributing largesse
to the faithful. Balletic grace
marking every action. Synergy of eye
and hand a delight to the watcher.
Hung garments each a sacrifice
to elegance of movement.

She returns to the house,
a goddess moving to the tabernacle.

Greg Tome, Southern Highlands FAW

Submissions to Poets Voice:

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

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

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

Literary Achievements

EASTWOOD/HILLS FAW

Anne Benjamin:

1st Place Eastwood/Hills *Colour in Poetry* Competition;
Gemstones Book Launch.

Beverley George:

Focus #39 poet in *Presence* #54 2016 pp.58-59 [UK];
Haiku translated into Japanese and published in *The Bilingual Imabari Information* Issue 108 Winter 2016 [Japan];

Haiku commended 5th Setouchi Matsuyama Photo Contest, Japan;

Reading with David George recorded on *Frameless Sky* issue 3 [USA];

3rd place and H/Comm for rengay with David Terelinck HPNC contest [USA];

4 haiku requested for inclusion in *naad aaunaad: an anthology of contemporary international haiku* [India];

Tanka published in *Gusts* no 23 spring/summer 2016 [Canada];

Edited and produced the 10th year 20th issue of *Eucalypt: a tanka journal*—Australia's first poetry journal to publish tanka only;

Review of *A Vast Sky* published in *Frogpond* 39 (1) 2016 pp. 76-83;

Haiku and tanka in *Blithe Spirit* 26 number 2 2016;

Launch by Vanessa Proctor of *A Shared Umbrella: the responsive tanka and rengay of Beverley George and David Terelinck* and the launch by Michael Thorley of 20th issue of *Eucalypt: a tanka journal* at The Children's Bookshop, Beecroft on May 28;

Tanka sequence 'Small Moments' in *The Tanka Journal* #48 2016 [Japan];

A five part article on small group literary tours to Japan published on *A Hundred Gourds* #53 2016 <www.ahundredgourds.com/ahg53/feature01A.html>;

Article, written with Lyn Reeves 'Haiku History in Australia' published on *The Haiku Foundation* [US]

Tanka in *Ribbons* 12 no. 2 2016 [US];

Gave workshop on haiku for U3A, Central Coast;

1st Place, Poetry Section: Eastwood/Hills Branch of the Fellowship of Australian Writers Inc. open Literary Competition 2016;

Tanka included in *A Patch of Sun*, Café Poets Anthology edited by Philip Porter, Luke Fischer and Kit Kelen, launched at Rubino's, Willoughby;

Tanka sequence in 'the last day before snow' by Carmel Summers and friends, launched in Sydney and Canberra;

Tanka included in 'A Different Shade of Awe: A Sequence with Eight Voices' published in *Skylark* 4:1 Summer 2016 [UK];

Haiku and a rengay with Simon Hanson in *Presence* #55 2016 [UK].

Artelle Lenthall:

Shortlisted for *What Brianna Wore* for *Zineword* 2016.

Margaret Longhurst:

Highly Commended for short story 'Colliding Worlds' Eastwood/Hills FAW April, Short Story Competition;

Highly Commended for 'Thoughts' Eastwood/Hills FAW May, Free Verse Writing Competition.

Julie Thorndyke:

2nd Place Eastwood/Hills *Colour in Poetry* Writing Competition.

FOREST FAW

Maggie Gowanlock and her collaborator, **Verena Bacchini**: The hardback commemorative book, *The Best School of All*, was launched by Dame Marie Bashir at Manly Golf Club on 13th September 2016. Its publication coincides with the 90th anniversary of the opening of Neutral Bay Girls Intermediate High School in 1926.

Beatrice Yell:

Received a 'Certificate of Merit' in an international competition with TSA (Tanka Society of America) in conjunction with Japan Tanka Poets.

Mary Ann Napper:

'Born to Fly,' a tribute to a boy with autism and the woman who saved him. Published on Amazon/Kindle;

'Embers of Life,' short story published in an anthology, *Fledglings*, by Birdcatcher Books.

Sophie Chenworth:

The Scent of Eucalyptus, an ebook of poems about the Australian bush. Published on Amazon for Kindle, iTunes and Kobo through Fontane Press.

Catherine Smith:

Received an honourable mention from TSA (Tanka Society of America) in their Sanford Goldstein Contest 2016.

ISOLATED WRITERS BRANCH

Cynthia Rowe:

Senryu, haiku, haiga and tanka published in *cattails* May 2016;

senryu 'morning after' selected in *cattails* May 2016 as Editor's Choice Senryu;

2 haiku published in *Creatrix* #33;

tanka published in *Eucalypt* #20;

tanka published in *A Hundred Gourds* 5:3 June 2016;

tanka and 2 haiku published in *Presence* #55;

haiku featured on Australian Haiku Society website July 2016;

2 haiku published in the 8th Yamadera Basho Memorial Museum Selected Haiku Submissions Collection;

judged the Haiku Section of the 2016 New Zealand Poetry Society International Poetry Competition.

LAKE MACQUARIE FAW

Alison Ferguson:

Published in *Hunter Professional Arts Magazine*, issue 2 May–June 2016, article ‘On writing groups’.

Pam Garfoot:

Published on ABC Open’s website, short memoir piece ‘Telltale hands’;

Published in *Hunter Professional Arts Magazine*, issue 2 May–June 2016, review ‘Archibald 15 Prize Exhibition’;

Published in *Writers Voice*, no. 252, June 2016, short story ‘Conversations with Reg’.

Elizabeth Horwitz:

Published in *Hunter Professional Arts Magazine*, issue 2 May–June 2016, editorial ‘Depths of devotion to the arts’;

Published in *Hunter Professional Arts Magazine*, issue 3 July–August 2016, editorial ‘Wonderful ways in winter’.

Tony Lang:

Published in *Hunter Professional Arts Magazine*, issue 2 May–June 2016, memoir ‘More memoirs from an army padre’s diary, June 1982’;

Published in *Writers Voice*, no. 252, June 2016, poems ‘Lybster Owl’ and ‘The Spider Queen’;

Published in *Hunter Professional Arts Magazine*, issue 3 July–August 2016, memoir ‘The birds’.

Christy Lutz:

Published in *Fledglings: an anthology*, July 2016, ‘Final release’;

Published in *Sproutlings*, July 2016, e-book ‘Curious things’.

Jan Mitchell:

Published in *Hunter Professional Arts Magazine*, issue 2 May–June 2016, review ‘The fourth Newcastle Writers Festival’;

Published in *Hunter Professional Arts Magazine*, issue 3 July–August 2016, film review ‘Wide open sky’;

Published on ABC Open’s *500 Words Project: Experiences of the Unexplained*, story ‘Finding the essence’ <open.abc.net.au/explore/141771>.

Linda Visman:

Published in *Hunter Professional Arts Magazine*, issue 2 May–June 2016, poem ‘Hunters’;

Published in *Hunter Professional Arts Magazine*, issue 3 July–August 2016, short story ‘Sam’ and poem ‘Time-framed’.

LIVERPOOL FAW

Rhonda W Rice:

First Prize for poem ‘Dorothy’ in *Positive Words* Short Story and Poetry Competition 2016;

Poem ‘For Men Killed on Duty’ to be published in the *Police News Magazine*;

Poem ‘Friend’ in *FreeXpresSion* 2016.

MACARTHUR FAW

Bernard Russell Smith:

Winner of the June short story contest with a story entitled ‘Fox Demands an Apology’.

MUDGEY VALLEY WRITERS

Pamela Meredith:

Short Stories published in ABC Open

Jill Baggett:

Play, *Where’s Mum?* included in Mudgee Shorts Play Festival August 2016; Short Stories published in ABC Open.

MOOCOOROOOLA FAW

Rebecca McCormack:

Poem ‘Our Hungry Washing Machine’ in *FreeXpresSion*, June 2016.

Wendell Watt:

Short Story ‘A Question of Probability’ in *Fledgling*, Birdcatcher Books, 2016.

Poem ‘The Night is for Angels’ First Prize in *Positive Words* Competition.

John Egan:

Poems ‘Disappointment’ and ‘For Your Birthday’ in *The Mozzie*, March/April 2016; ‘Our House’, ‘After the Explosion’ and ‘Night Flight’, May 2016; ‘I Went’, ‘The Next Morning’ and ‘How to Break the Law in Ten Easy Steps’, June 2016 and ‘Cold Mountain’ in July 2016;

Poems ‘In Writing Class’ in *Positive Words* May 2016: ‘Mainly Blue’ June 2016 and ‘Choose Your Ground’ July 2016;

Poems ‘A Dreaming Dragon’, ‘Well-Done, Mate’, ‘Dance of the Nights’, ‘Twenty-four Hours’, ‘Tears’ and ‘Milkman’ in *Beyond The Rainbow* 85;

Poems ‘Nightsongs’ and ‘An Engine’ in *The Write Angle* 55;

Poems ‘Bright Morning Star’ and ‘Iron Cove’ in *Polestar Writers’ Journal* 30;

Poems ‘Steps to There’, ‘Irises by the Lake’, ‘Morning Arrivals’, ‘The Sail’, ‘Something’ and ‘At the National Maritime Museum’ in *FreeXpresSion*, June 2016;

Poem ‘The Voyage’ in *The Senior* June 2016;

Poem ‘Villanelle of the New Day’ in *Tamba* 58;

Poems ‘Frog Hollow’, ‘Tom White’, ‘Buses in the Rain’, ‘Venus’, ‘The Well’ and ‘Broken Chapel’ in *Valley Micropress*, June 2016, Wellington, New Zealand;

Poems ‘There’s No Script’ and ‘Perfection’ in *Short And Twisted*, Celaprene Press, Kathryn Duncan Ed., 2016;

Thirteen poems read at Leichhardt Library, U3A Meet the Poets Reading, May 2016.

Literary Achievements cont. next page...

Literary Achievements

NORTH ARM COVE FAW

Bob Bush:

June–August 2016. Guest speaker: Newcastle Ramblers Bushwalkers Club, Clarence Town CWA Poetry Day, Maitland Lantern Club and the Probus Club of Port Stephens.

Elizabeth Deane:

Featured in 'community profile' *Myall Coast Messenger*; Coached Karuah Public School debating team in NSW Premier's Debating Challenge 2016.

Jan Furness:

Editorials/community profiles published June/July 2016 *Myall Coast Messenger*.

Maureen Kelly:

In her capacity as FAW State Secretary launched Garry Boyd's fifth novel, *Barely Sane*, June 12, 2016.

Adjudicator, Karuah Public School v Dungog Public School entry in NSW Premier's Debating Challenge 2016.

NORTH SHORE BRANCH [FAWNS]

Anne Nielsen was invited to participate in the Local Author Expo at the Erina Library on 20th July, 2016. Her two books *Russian Embers—a journey in search of home* and *An Unexpected Fork in the Road—from Cairo to Nicosia and Jerusalem* were the focus of her appearance.

Angela Johnson's poem 'Assimilation' was published in the University of Western Australia's Anthology, *Writing to the Wire*.

PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS FAW

Debbie Bayliss:

Stories and poems in the following anthologies:

'I Remember', 'Lines of Purple' and 'William' in *Duets in Paint and Print 2015: A Collaboration between painters and writers*. Published by Bunya Publishing, 2016;

'Pa' and 'William' in *What ANZAC Means to Me. Memories of the Past, Visions for the Future*. Published by Bunya Publishing, 2016.

Joie Black:

Completed another book of Poems, *The Tail of Alison Squirrel*. Written and illustrated by Joie Black. Self published.

Brian Tolagson:

Has had five articles this year published on ABC Open: 5 February 2016: '30kms+ of Saltwater, Nature and Sun'; 19 February 2016: 'Retirement—Embracing the Freedom'; 2 March 2016: 'I never considered myself clumsy until I wrote this'; 29 April 2016: 'The Awakening'; 26 May 2016: 'My Vote'.

SHOALHAVEN FAW

Jennie Linnane:

Second Prize in Banjo Paterson Short Story Award for her story, 'The Yabby Creek Dance';

Highly Commended in Eastwood Hills FAW 2016 Literary Competition, Short story, 'Old Soldier Waiting';

Three stories featured in Collection of best entries from Birdcatcher Books 2015 Short Fiction Awards: 'My Boy', 'Mama's Hands' (honorary mention) and 'I Remember Mr. Toobey' (honorary mention).

Chere Le Page:

Open First Prize in Seechange 2016 Literary Prize (Jervis Bay Arts Festival) for poem (pantoum), 'You were my love'.

Jen Mors:

Story, 'Connected' published online in ABC Open's *500 words Project*;

Jen's story, 'Tales of a Wayward Mother', recorded and played on ABC Illawarra Radio.

Juan Alvarez:

8 stories in ABC Open *Lost and Found* under pen names, Juanito and Juan Carlos.

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS FAW

Greg Tome's play, *Alpha Beta Gamma Delta* was chosen by the Wagga School of Arts Community Theatre (SoACT) to be performed in their annual TEN x 10 Playfest. The standard of direction and performance of the play was very impressive and the play was judged runner up by audience vote.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE FAW

Lynn Sutherland:

Press releases for Lionesses.

Jenny Mathers:

High Distinction for writing course in Journalism.

Kurt Ulmer:

Wrote product review for fridge.

Sylvia Vago:

Trip Advisor reviews.

WYONG FAW

Since Wyong Writers has been without a publicity officer for some months our news covers half a year.

Mei-Ling Venning's novel *Pelican Bay* was published in summer on Amazon <www.amazon.com/dp/B01C4FP4E0>;

Mei-Ling also had her play *The Germophobe* accepted for the Flash Festival run by the Woy Woy Peninsular Theatre. The play was performed at the beginning of July.

Rose Fox won the in-house prose competition.

Shirley Goodbar won the in-house poetry competition.



Talking About It

cont. from page 1

My father, hunched in his wicker chair, waves his new walking stick to indicate the spots I should hammer in the pickets. I bend back a drooping stem, ready to tie it to a stake. Snap! A bright green stalk of tiny flowers breaks off in my hand, and I blink away tears. "Never mind," he says. But when he shuffles up from his chair to help me, his trousers drop to his ankles. "Hell." His grey face flushes pink as he fumbles to hitch them up. "What a bloody skeleton I've become. Your poor mum must wonder what's happened to the handsome brute she married." Then he guffaws. "You could prop me up for your scarecrow."

"I have her stuff for that," I say through clenched teeth.

I cannot talk about it.

*

Stems sag with the weight of ripening tomatoes. Triumphant, I carry the first fruits inside. "Look, so perfect." He shows my mother the full, rounded fruit. To me he says, "Slice them up for lunch."

My parents are sitting together, smiling at each other. They have been whispering and giggling all morning—like a silly teenage couple. I plunge the knife into the first fruit, hack at the flesh. Juice oozes onto the bench, a weeping yellow-red mat.

"Go easy. You can't go at it like you're wielding a bloody chain-saw," Dad says. I run from the room.

"What's wrong?" he calls after me.

Behind the plants I crouch low and beat my fists on the paling fence until skin peels from my knuckles.

For I cannot talk about it.

*

"Why the long face, girl? Wanted to go to the circus with Mum and the cousins and you got stuck at home with your sick old man?"

"How could she? I hate the circus. And I hate her for going. I chose to be here."

"Enough of a bloody circus here without paying to see one, huh?" His breathing racks his shoulders and trembles the blanket.

"I'll make you a cup of tea," I say, backing away.

"No, we need to talk. Now. Grab time by the scruff of the neck before he slips away." His hand on mine is as strong as the hand that cradled me when I was small. But so cold. "Don't be too harsh—not on yourself, not on your mum either."

"I'll try."

On a gasp, of pleading and of pain, he says, "Bitterness is a disease that'll eat you up faster than any cancer..." I nod. "And promise me, no hanging around cemeteries moping." I nod again.

His voice snags as he says, "How a man wishes he could have had a few more years with you. What a garden we would have made."

I go to make the tea. "Real tea, not those tasteless damned bags," he croaks after me.

Through the blur of my tears, I can't help smiling, for I have spooned sugar into the pot. Over the swish of the tap, and the whistle of the kettle, I hear my father's breathing rasp like a saw, and I run back to his bedside. His eyes are shut. "Dad... Dad, answer me," I yell. "Please, please just talk to me."

*

On his glossy coffin, I place his crushed straw hat and a handful of soil I have smuggled in my pocket. My mother watches.

That evening, the last mourners gone and my face aching from the day of frozen smiles, I return to the back yard. Thrust my bucket under the tap.

Someone lifts the heavy bucket from my hands. My mother carries the water and pours it onto the parched plants.

Wordless, we set up our chain. I fill the buckets. She carries them back and forth. Pours gently.

We hear the parched plants rustle, watch them spring back to health. So quickly.

I link my arm through hers.

And, finally, we talk about it. □

Mona Brand Award 2015:

Extract from the Judge's Report

WHenever I judge a short story competition, I'm taken through a whirl of characters and circumstances, as well as a wealth of genres and styles. It's always enjoyable seeing what writers can come up with, especially when they're limited to only 2,000 words.

As with all competitions, there were many stories that lost marks for simple mistakes. Grammar, spelling and punctuation (yawn!) ruined the chances of some stories. There is one easy solution: get a basic grammar/punctuation book and upgrade the essential skills.

Plausibility was a problem in some stories. Either the writer had failed to research an unfamiliar topic or had introduced plot or character twists that were unjustified by earlier story.

Too many of the entries in this competition were memoirs that lacked story structure. In a short story competition, a memoir needs to be told as a story rather than simply a family recollection or meditation on the past. Just like fiction, a good understanding of main

The Short Stories featured in this and the June 2016 issue of Writers Voice were second and first prizewinners respectively, in the Central Coast FAW's Biennial Mona Brand Award 2015. Reprinted here is an extract from the Judge's Report from that competition. It provides valuable feedback for aspiring competition entrants.

character and conflict is necessary to tell a factual story successfully.

Lack of sufficient conflict was a major setback for some stories that were otherwise excellent in their writing style or language use. If there is nothing stopping the main character from getting what he/she wants, then there is no conflict and the reader finds it hard to care what happens next. Conflict is the curiosity factor that keeps the reader in a story. The outcome of the conflict, for better or for worse, is what leaves an impression on the reader after a story is over.

Congratulations to the winner and also to those who made the shortlist. But, even if you didn't make the shortlist this year, keep writing. It's an achievement in its own right, to complete a story. And who knows? Your story might rise to the top in the next competition you enter.

Jacqueline Winn

Writing Competitions

Closing date 30 September 2016:

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

Prize: \$1,500

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

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

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

Entry form may be photocopied.

Conditions of Entry:

The competition is open to all residents of Australia 18 years and over with the exception of the judges and management committee of the FAW New South Wales. Submitted entries must not have previously been published, nor be under consideration for publication, although may have been entered in other competitions but not won a monetary prize. Receipt of entry will not be acknowledged however a results list will be available if an SAE is supplied with the entry.

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

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

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

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

TWO copies of the manuscript are required.

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

The author’s identity must appear on the Entry Form only. The author’s name must not appear on either the manuscript or the title page. A separate **cover sheet** must be attached containing the title and whether it is a biography extract, autobiography, extract, memoir, monograph or bibliography, word count, author’s name, address, telephone number and email address (if available).

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

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

The author retains copyright to all work submitted, although prize-winning entries or a précis must be available for publication in the Fellowship’s bulletin *Writers Voice* and on the FAW NSW website. Unsuccessful entries will not be returned unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope of appropriate size and postage.

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

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

Send entries with Entry Form and Entry Fee to:

The Competition Convenor,
FAW NSW Walter Stone Award
7/25 Spruce Street
NORTH LAMBTON NSW 2299

For more information, contact the FAW NSW Competition Convenor, Cate Plink, on 0458 375 256 or email <compconvenor@fawnsw.org.au>.

Closing date 30 September 2016:

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

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

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

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

Entry form may be photocopied.

Conditions of Entry:

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

Poems submitted must not have previously been published, nor be under consideration for publication, although may have been entered in other competitions



but not won a monetary prize. Receipt of entry will not be acknowledged however a results list will be available if a SSAE is supplied with the entry.

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

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

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

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

TWO copies of each poem are required.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Send entries with Entry Form and Entry Fee to:

The Competition Convenor,
FAW NSW Jean Stone Award
7/25 Spruce Street
NORTH LAMBTON NSW 2299

For more information, contact the FAW NSW Competition Convenor, Cate Plink, on 0458 375 256 or email compconvenor@fawns.org.au.

Closing Date 30 September 2016:

**FAWNS (NORTH SHORE BRANCH)
POETRY THEMES COMPETITION 2016**

This Year's Theme: Nature

Entries can be in any poetic style, but are to be written using the theme of 'Nature'.

Entries can be up to 60 lines in length.

Prizes: 1st \$200, 2nd \$100, certificates awarded at judges' discretion.

Entry fee: \$10 for 1 entry, \$15 for 2 entries. Payment may be made by cheque or money order to FAW North Shore, or by direct deposit to Fellowship of Australian Writers BSB 082 289, Account No. 50667 2584.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY:

No entry form is required, but a separate cover sheet should be attached, containing title, line count, name, address, telephone number, and email address (where applicable).

Entries must be typed single-spaced in 12 pt font on one side of A4 paper. No bold or fancy fonts, clipart, or decorations of any kind. No email entries will be accepted.

Title and text only to appear on manuscript.

Author's name must not appear on the manuscript.

Entries must not be concurrently submitted elsewhere, nor have won a cash prize, or been published previously.

Judges' decision is final and no further correspondence entertained.

Send entry with cover sheet and payment (or payment details if you have used direct deposit) to:

Competition Convenor,
3 Jason Place
NORTH ROCKS NSW 2151

For further information, email

fawnorthshore@gmail.com

Results will be posted on the FAWNS website

<http://sites.google.com/site/fawnorthshoreregional/> by Friday 4 November 2016.

Closing Date 30 September 2016:

**FAWNS (NORTH SHORE BRANCH)
MINI MEMOIR COMPETITION 2016**

A memoir is an incident, or a number of incidents relating to a single theme, as remembered by the author. A memoir should be written in the 1st Person.

Maximum 750 words.

Prizes: 1st \$200, 2nd \$100, Highly Commended and Commended certificates.

Entry fee: \$10 for 1 entry, \$15 for 2 entries. Payment may be made by cheque or money order to FAW North Shore, or by direct deposit to Fellowship of Australian Writers BSB 082 289, Account No. 50667 2584.

cont. next page...

Writing Competitions

FAWNS (NORTH SHORE BRANCH) MINI MEMOIR COMPETITION 2016 *(cont. from previous page)*

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY:

No email entries will be accepted.
No entry form is required but you must attach a Cover Sheet to each memoir submitted, stating the name of the entry, plus your name and contact details, and also details of the payment you are making.
The author's name must not appear on the memoir.
Submissions must be the original work of the author, typed on single-sided A4 paper with double spacing, and stapled together. Your entry must not have won a cash prize at close of competition (Friday 30 September, 2016) nor been submitted concurrently elsewhere. If this rule is not adhered to the entry will be disqualified.
Judges' decisions are final and no further correspondence will be entertained.
Send entry with cover sheet and payment (or payment details if you have used direct deposit) to:
Competition Convenor,
3 Jason Place
NORTH ROCKS NSW 2151
More information: Email <fawnorthshore@gmail.com>
Results will be posted on the FAWNS website
<<http://sites.google.com/site/fawnorthshoreregional/>>
by Friday 4 November 2016.

Closing Date 30 September 2016:

SCRIBES WRITERS – "SHORT TAKES" OPEN LITERARY COMPETITION 2016

- **Category A: Fictional Short Story**
- **Category B: Memoir**

Theme: Open. Word Count: 1000 Maximum (excl 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 September 2016).

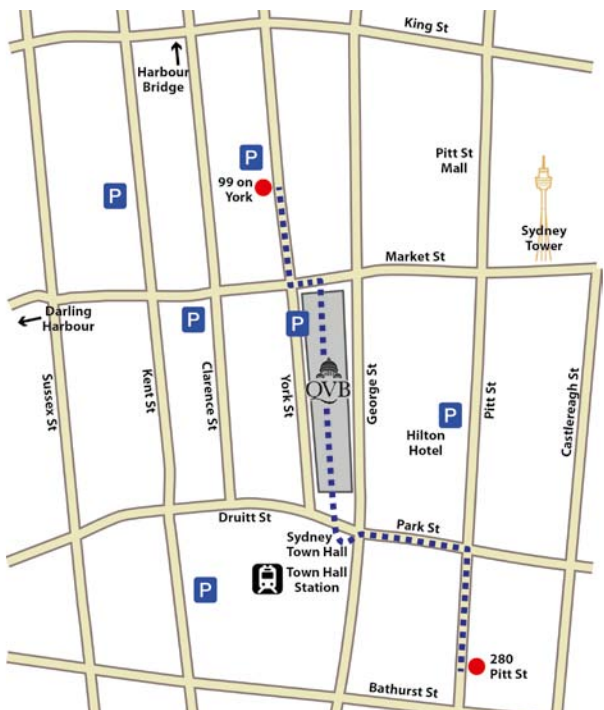
Entries should be addressed to:
Scribes Writers Prose Competition
South Barwon Community Centre
33 Mount Pleasant Road
Belmont Victoria 3216

For full **competition details, conditions, and entry form** visit the Scribes Writers website Prose Competition page at <www.scribeswriters.com/prose.html>

Scribes Writers can be contacted through the website page at <www.scribeswriters.com/contact-us.html> or Email to <geelongscribeswriters@gmail.com>.

280 Pitt St to 99 on York via QVB

For those attending both the State Council Meeting on 5 November and the FAW Awards Luncheon that follows (see page 3), it is about 15 minutes walk. We recommend heading north on Pitt St, left at Park St and along to Town Hall Station, go downstairs, through QVB arcade to the other end of the Queen Victoria Building, left on Market St and right at York St.



THANKYOU TO WAYNE (Webmaster) JARMAN

I have met Wayne our webmaster a few times and found him a pleasant obliging man who stepped up for us when we asked for a Website Manager. True to his word, his skill level was exactly what we needed and although his time with this role was relatively short, it was wonderful to be able to 'rely' on his competency, reliability and responsibility.

'Wayne's World' (of websites) is one that I could never enter ... most of us writers feel the same way but except for Ken Driver, our Writers Voice Editor and our original Manager, Barbara Simmons, I don't know anyone else who could enter it without huge trepidation.

I write on behalf of each and every member when I say how friendly and patient Wayne was in responding to our many requests for changes, acknowledgements and listings on the website to keep it updated.

Wayne and Ken seem to have a great rapport working together so it is a real shame that we will need to make another change whilst at the same time understand that Wayne has many avenues which are pulling on his time so has to release some of the pressure from his busy life.

With a huge thankyou Wayne, we all wish you much happiness and assure you will be fondly remembered for the excellent work you did for us.

Colleen Parker, VP

On behalf of Committee and members of FAW.

Competition Results

FOREST FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS

SHORT STORY COMPETITION

Established as a Tribute to the Bentleys

First Place:

'The Scent of Life,' Maree Gallop, Adamstown Heights NSW

Second Place:

'The Watching,' Tanya Dawes, Narre Warren South VIC

Highly Commended:

'What's in a Name,' Margot Ogilvie, Victor Harbor SA

'The Pond,' Julia Thatcher, Goondiwindi QLD

'Causing Malicious Damage,' Margaret Pearce, Belgrave VIC

'Winding Up Affairs,' Adrienne de Bouvier, Scarness QLD

'Catching the Plague,' Janeen Samuel, Hamilton VIC

'Justice,' David Campbell, Aireys Inlet VIC

'Scarlett Runners,' Roger Vickery, Freshwater NSW

'Uncle Quentin Falls into Adventure,' Janeen Samuel, Hamilton VIC

Encouragement Awards:

'The Horse of Port Macquarie,' Zoe Ball, Fairlight NSW

'The World is in Your Hands,' Emily Lenehan, Harden NSW.

NORMAL COMPETITION CONDITIONS

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

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

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

RESULTS: 2016 EASTWOOD/HILLS FAW

ANNUAL LITERARY COMPETITION

RESULTS FOR SHORT STORY

Judges: Barbara Haworth and Mary Milton

First Place: 'Night Runner', Marion Lucy Thomas

Second Place: 'Exit Left', Cindy Broadbent

Highly Comm: 'Old Soldier Waiting', Jennie Linnane; 'Losing Linda', Kerrin O'Sullivan

Commended: 'Spinning Leaves', Janeen Samuel; 'The Unravelling', Bonny Cotter.

RESULTS FOR POETRY

Judges: Anne Benjamin and Julie Thorndyke

First Place: 'Night-stepping', Beverley George

Second Place: 'War', E. Speers

Commended: 'Harley', Jules Leigh Koch; 'The Memory Castle', Damen O'Brien.

RESULTS FOR MEMOIR

Judges: Anne Howard and Frances Moon

First Place: '18 Keppochill Rd', Marie Tucker

Second Place: 'Tap Shoes', Marie Tucker

Highly Comm: 'Colours of Childhood', Colleen Russell; 'Promise', Jill Brew

Commended: 'Mrs Frank's Thistle', David Bentley; 'The Twenty Dollar Ceiling', Janeen Samuel; 'Guardians', David Bentley; 'The Paint is Still Wet', Carmel Lillis.

RESULTS FOR PAULINE WALSH AWARD FOR SHORT, SHORT STORY

Judges: Laura Davis and Alan Russel

First Place: 'The Pledge', Gavin Austin

Second Place: 'Doing Everything Once', Kerrin O'Sullivan

Highly Comm: 'Room 212, Ward 4 South', Kerrin O'Sullivan; 'Transition', David Brelford; 'Big Words', Helen Lyne.

Commended: 'Forces Conspired', Jan Foster; 'The Legend of Konrad and His Dogs', Mike Woodhouse.

RESULTS: 2016 EASTWOOD/HILLS FAW

BOREE LOG AWARD FOR BUSH VERSE

Judge: Brian Beesley

First Place: 'Wills', Brenda Joy

Highly Comm: 'When Bobby Comes Marching Home', Tom McIlveen; 'Bluey', Tom McIlveen; 'Coal Mine Convict', Brenda Joy

Commended: 'From Alice Springs', Hugh Allan; 'Bushed', Carol Heuchan.

Judges' Reports for each section can be downloaded from the Eastwood-Hills FAW website <hillsfaw.wordpress.com>.

Branch Meetings and Contacts

BANKSTOWN WRITERS

1st Saturday – 1.00 to 4.00 pm

Banksia Room,
Revesby Workers Club

Enquiries:

Carney Vaughan 4268 5383

BLUE MOUNTAINS

WRITERS FAW

1st Sunday – 1.45 to 4.45 pm

Springwood Court Function Room,
133 Macquarie Rd, Springwood.

Enquiries: Kerry Healey-Binns (Pres.)

02 4782 5294. *Email:*

<healbinn@bigpond.com>

Facebook page:

Blue Mountains Writers FAW

CENTRAL COAST FAW

3rd Sunday – 10.00 am

Gosford Hotel, 179 Mann St, Gosford.

Enquiries:

Helen Luidens (Pres.) 4363 2627

Secretary: Johan Luidens

<centralcoastfaw@live.com>

Branch: <centralcoastfaw@live.com>

EASTWOOD/HILLS FAW

1st Saturday – 1.00 pm

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

Enquiries: Carolyn Alfonzetti

(Pres.) 9869 2715

Email: <carolyn.alfonzetti@me.com>

or one of two Secretaries:

Laura Davis <lauraceede@

yahoo.com.au> or Frances Moon

<mria55@yahoo.com.au>

Web: <hillsfaw.wordpress.com>

EUROBODALLA FAW

1st & 3rd Wednesdays–

10.30am to 2.30pm and

1st Tuesday 6.30–8.30 pm

McKay Centre, Page St, Moruya.

Enquiries: Rosie Toth 0437 627 756

Email: <rosietoth102@gmail.com>

Web: <www.eurobodallawriters.org>

FOREST FAW

3rd Saturday – 2.00 pm

Forest Community Arts Centre
Darley Street, Forestville.

Enquiries:

Maggie Gowanlock 9948 3882

PO Box 248, Balgowlah NSW 2093

GREAT LAKES FAW

2nd Friday – 1.00 to 4.00 pm

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

Enquiries:

Christine Hayes 6555 9904

or post, Mrs Hermione Browning,

15 Eden Place, Tuncurry 2428

HUNTER FAW

1st Wednesday – 10.15am

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

Enquiries: Luciana Croci (Pres.)

0439 601 351 or Christine

Brotherson (Sec.) 4969 7794

ISOLATED WRITERS FAW

This group of writers do not meet in person but keep in contact through Carolyn Cash, their Convenor, either through the state FAW website

<fawns.org.au> or email

<cmcash@tpg.com.au>

See inside back page for full details and guidelines.

LAKE MACQUARIE FAW

2nd Saturday – 1.30 to

4.00pm

Toronto Public Library Meeting
Room, Cnr Brighton Ave and
Pemell St, Toronto.

Enquiries:

<lakemacfaw2@gmail.com>

Facebook:

<www.facebook.com/LakeMacFAW>

Website:

<lakemacfaw2.wordpress.com>

LAMBING FLAT (YOUNG)

2nd Monday – 5.30 pm

Catherine McAuley Hall, Young.
(Retirement Village, off
Demondrille Street.)

Enquiries: Ted Webber (Pres.)

0459 707 728 or *Email:*

<juneted@yahoo.com>

Branch email:

<lambingflatbranchfaw@

hotmail.com>

LIVERPOOL FAW

2nd Saturday – 1.00 to 4.00pm

Dr Pirie Community Centre
Cnr Bigge & Moore Sts, Liverpool.

PO Box 4, West Hoxton 2171

Enquiries: Rick Vincenti (Pres.)

0404 496 776. *Email:*

<president@faw-liverpool.org.au>

or Rhonda Rice (Publicity)

<secretary@faw-liverpool.org.au>

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

MACARTHUR FAW

3rd Sunday – 1.00 pm

Campbelltown RSL Club
(Jade Room), Carberry Lane.

Enquiries: Pauline Twemlow (Sec.)

Email: <macarthur@fawns.org.au>

MOOCOBOOLA FAW

3rd Thursday – 1.30 pm

Gladesville Library

Pittwater Road, Gladesville.

Enquiries: Brian Rutter 9817 5508 or

John Egan 9799 3077 / 4464 1719

Email: <jeganjr@hotmail.com>

MUDGE VALLEY FAW

2nd Tuesday – 12 Noon

Club Mudgee, Mortimer Street.

Enquiries: Jill Baggett 6372 0743

PO BOX 356, Mudgee 2850

Web: <mudgeevalleywriters.

wordpress.com>

NORTH ARM COVE FAW

3rd Thursday – 6.30 pm

Community Centre, The Ridgeway,
North Arm Cove.

Enquiries: Maureen Kelly 4997 3237

22 Promontory Way,

North Arm Cove NSW 2324

<thecovenews@exemail.com.au>

NORTH SHORE [FAWNS]

3rd Sunday – 1.00 pm

Wallarobba Arts & Cultural Centre,
25 Edgeworth David Ave, Hornsby.

Enquiries:

Len Hume (Pres.) 9477 3723 or

Richard Brookton (VP) 9744 1567

Email: <fawnorthshore@gmail.com>

Web: <sites.google.com/site/

fawnorthshorerregional/>

PARRAMATTA FAW

1st Saturday – 12.30 pm

Room A Level 2, 1 Fitzwilliam Street
(*Note new venue, RAFFLES building next door to the library and across the road from Parramatta Station.*)

To gain access to the 2nd floor ring the
Secretary, Lyn Leerson 0421 188 770.

PORT MACQUARIE- HASTINGS FAW

1st Saturday – 1.00 to 4.00 pm

The Mac Adams Music Centre
33 Lord Street, Port Macquarie

[*behind the Players Theatre*]

Enquiries: Colleen Parker (Pres.)

6583 3997 or Joie Black 6585 3520

PO Box 67 Port Macquarie NSW 2444

<parkerpattinson2@bigpond.com>

PORT STEPHENS FAW

3rd Thursday – 10.00 am

Tomaree Library, Salamander Bay

Enquiries:

Christine Gregory (Pres.) 4982 2004

Email: <gregorywrite@bigpond.com>

Web: <portstephensfaw.snappages.com>

SHOALHAVEN FAW

2nd Saturday – 10.00 am

Meeting Room, Arts Centre

Berry St, Nowra (next to Library).

Enquiries: Jennifer Dickerson (Pres.)

Mobile: 0412 530 434

Email: <jdickerson@shoal.net.au> or

<info@fawnswoalhaven.org.au>

Web: <fawnswoalhaven.org.au>

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

3rd Saturday – 1.00 pm

The Henrietta Rose Room,
Library, Bowral.

Enquiries: Ken Challenor (Pres.)

Email: <kch34564@bigpond.net.au>

Web: <fawsh.wordpress.com>

STROUD WRITERS

Fortnightly Thursdays

9.00 am to noon

Stroud Library, Church Lane.

Enquiries:

Dianne Foster 4994 5727

c/- Stroud Library – GLLS

12 Church Lane, STROUD NSW 2425

Email: <stroudwriters@gmail.com>

SUTHERLAND SHIRE FAW

Last Saturday – 12.30 pm

For October and November meetings:

Sutherland Library, meeting room 1.

Enquiries:

Sylvia Vago (Pres) 9501 2348

PO Box 602, Sutherland 1499

Email: <sutherlandshirefaw@

gmail.com>

Web: <sutherlandshirefaw.weebly.com>

SYDNEY CITY FAW

3rd Friday – 4.00 pm

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

Enquiries: John Clarke 8920 8690

WOLLONDILLY FAW

2nd Sunday – 1.00 pm

Tahmoor Community Centre,
6 Harper Close, Tahmoor.

Enquiries: Sandra Reynolds (Sec.)

4684 2142 or 0409 066 770

Email: <wollondillybranch.faw@

gmail.com>

WYONG WRITERS

4th Saturday – 1.30pm

Wyong RSL Club,

Cnr. Margaret St and Anzac Ave.

Wyong.

Enquiries:

Mei-Ling Venning (Pres.) 4333 7489

85 Oaks Road, Shelly Beach 2261

Email: <meilingvenning@

hotmail.com>

Web: <www.wyongwriters.org>

Fellowship of Australian Writers NSW Inc.



ABN 59 557 152 715

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

Internet: <www.fawnsw.org.au>

Facebook: <www.facebook.com/FAWNSW>

ABOUT THE FAW

The aims of the FAW are:

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

Branch Meetings

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

The Fellowship of Australian Writers INTERSTATE BRANCHES

Victoria:

Fellowship of Australian Writers (VIC) Inc.
6-8 Davies Street, Brunswick Vic 3056
VENUE: The Hive Creative Centre,
53 Summerhill Road, Reservoir VIC. 3073.
Phone: 03 9478 1942
Email: <president@writers.asn.au>
Web: <www.writers.asn.au>

Tasmania:

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

Western Australia:

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

Queensland:

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

FAW ISOLATED WRITERS BRANCH

MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES:

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

MEMBERS' ACHIEVEMENTS:

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

AFFILIATION FEES:

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

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

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

ELECTRONIC ROUND ROBIN (ERR):

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

Please limit your submissions to:

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

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

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

ERR Closing Dates

The ERR closes at the end of each month.

ERR Submissions

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

FAW Members' Bookshelf

PAM GARFOOT & ELIZABETH CONWAY

Making Them Real

After their father's death, two sisters find a diary written at Gallipoli by their grandfather, Percy Gooch. It captivates them, compelling them to bring alive not only Percy's story but also that of their family's beginnings in Australia. The authors record their findings and describe how they feel about significant events in their voyage of discovery. Their unique style combines different writing streams: historical narrative, personal memoir, and practical guidance. At each chapter's end helpful explanations are given, illustrating how the story has been uncovered. A substantial bibliography shows how wide research has supported the historical narrative. Photographs, maps and charts complement each story. The voyage helps to document the history of Australia's past and brings a richness to the authors' lives which they will treasure always. The book is available via this link (search on the book title): www.digitalprintaustralia.com/bookstore.html

TOM PEARSON

Almost an Ordinary Life

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

MAVIS GRANT GUNTER

One and One Make Five

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

PETER J. UREN

The Classic Bike Workshop

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

JOHAN LUIDENS

Friends and Foes

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

SHIRLEY GOODBAR

Kaleidoscope

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

RECENTLY PUBLISHED BOOKS FOR SALE

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

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

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

webmaster@fawns.org.au

The FAW Bookshelf web page address is:

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

WAYNE JARMAN

With a Mind to Achieve

"If only I knew then, what I know now!" How many times have you heard someone say that? Author Wayne Jarman says, "I've said it myself. If only someone had shoved a book in my hand, when I was young, that gave some guidelines for leading an effective life—full of achievements and success. The book wasn't forthcoming though and, like most people, I have muddled through life. I have now reached an age when I have developed my mind and accumulated enough information and experiences to write my own book. Whether you agree with everything in this book is immaterial. At least it is a thought-provoking head start. The book is now in YOUR hands. See what you can do with it!" The Success Book (paperback or ebook) is available from various sources on the Internet. Find Wayne Jarman's Amazon Author Page at www.amazon.com.

EUROBODALLA FAW

Flights of fancy

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

CLARE BELL

My Australia

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

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.

FAW NSW

Unlock the Writer Within

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



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