

Writers Voice



Autumn Edition #243 MAR 2014

QUARTERLY BULLETIN OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS NSW INC.

Short Story

Beatrice Fed the Ducks on Monday

Victoria Norton

BEATRICE ELLINGTON fed the ducks on Monday. Not with bread torn from a loaf gone stale—she knew that would clog their tiny stomachs and pollute the water. Instead, she tossed them salad greens that she picked from her garden on the edge of town.

She was fiercely defensive of her garden. All things lived in a complicated bio-network of unruliness. She no longer planted or weeded and would joyfully rub her hands together if a new seedling poked its head above the untilled soil. She loved that the free growing plants attracted little creatures.

To practise her post-stroke speech in the privacy of her own home, she carefully enunciated as she spoke aloud. Like a child drilled in a spelling bee she pronounced the botanical names of things she recognised. She spoke with care, setting her face in a fixed position, so the drooping muscles that spoiled the symmetry of her face wouldn't be so obvious.

"Eastern water dragon lizard—*Physignathus lesueurii*; Millipede—*Ommatoiulus moreleti*; Strawberry—*Rosaceae Frugaria*."

Beatrice sometimes collected wild growing dandelions and milk thistles on her gait-challenged walk to the creek. On a rare day she would fling the ducks a half-cup of tangled red composting worms from the dank bin that sat near her rusted out rainwater tank.

As usual, the raucous ducks peddled across the creek to greet her, and like contestants in a dodgem car rally, they caromed off each other and onto the water's edge. She had not named the birds, yet she recognised each one by the pattern on their faces, their rank within the group and she knew their family histories. She particularly liked a small bird with a damaged wing, an edge dweller somewhat ostracised from the group. She felt empathy within her own damaged body.

On this Monday, she threw grub-eaten spinach and gone-to-seed lettuce as far as she could into the water with her palsied left arm. She called her condition the 'Accident' to distance herself from owning it, this awful thing that stole so much from her.

She was rueful in the knowledge that trying to selectively feed the natives she nicknamed her 'Blackies', had no effect on the proliferation and distribution of the non-indigenous Muscovys and Mallards. Yet she was perversely persistent. One time she hurled a rock into the creek to frighten away the interlopers, but the swoosh and ripple made the 'Blackies' fly off too, and for a time she lost their trust.

She disliked the aggressive Mallards, which out-bred the natives after a few breeding seasons because they weren't fussy who they mated with. At times she felt like being more proactive, that perhaps she would join a wildlife group like WIRES, but she knew she'd never put herself out there like that. She was never comfortable with people and had always been scornful of petty social machinations. Since the Accident she

distanced herself from human contact as much as she could.

On this particular Monday, at just past sun-up, Beatrice set up camp. She picked this bend in the creek because it was a place the joggers and mothers-with-prams avoided, due to the rocky path. She settled on the only seat at this part of the water's edge, a solid concrete bench.

First she placed the linen tea towel on the seat beside her. It was the same one she used for her dishes last night, but it wasn't really dirty. The dishes were clean weren't they?

Next she unpacked the open wicker basket. Beatrice rubbed the handle, so smooth and shiny to her touch, and remembered her mother filling it with fragrant, fresh cut roses from the garden. A single rose bush, a Mr Lincoln, clung to a broken lattice frame and was all that remained

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*** NOTE QUARTERLY COPY DEADLINES ***

15 MAY, 15 AUGUST, 15 NOVEMBER, 15 FEBRUARY

FAW NSW Inc. State Council: 2014 Delegates Meetings

Next meeting: **Annual General Meeting** Saturday May 3, 2014, 10:00am at City of Sydney RSL Club, 565 George Street, Sydney.

For 2014 the Executive Committee and Branch Delegates will meet the first Saturday of May and November. Minutes are mailed to each Branch Secretary.

General Membership and Subscriptions

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

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

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

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

Writing Fellows

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

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

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

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

Distinguished Service Award

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

Guidelines for assessing recommendations for Distinguished Service Awards:

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

ISBN

Members requiring their FREE ISBN (one number per publication) should, in the first instance, contact the FAW Secretary Maureen Kelly <honsecretary@fawnsww.org.au>.

Your request will then be passed to Alan Russell (phone 02 9680 3374)

<Alan_Russell@internode.on.net> for action.

Public Fund

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

FAW Manuscript Assessment Service

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

State Council News

From the President

WELL HERE we are in 2014—another year under the belt along with the Christmas Pud and New Year goodies—and into March already.

We all had a great time at the 2013 FAW Award luncheon in November. It was lovely to meet many of the winners and members. I was very happy to meet up with David Campbell from Beaumaris Victoria, it was terrific to have him visit for the luncheon. David was the winner of our 2013 Marjorie Barnard Short Story competition. Congratulations David. I was delighted so many school students attended, some as winners and a couple doing a school journalist report on the day. Our young lady winner from Western Australia was delightful and her speech got rousing applause.

Out and About

I had a pleasant number of weeks in Queensland and caught up on lots of movies.

Loved *Philomena* with Judi Dench; *The Book Thief* was wonderful with Geoffrey Rush (the young girl was super), and what terrific success for the Australian author; *Railway Man* was another good movie with a fine cast, *The Hobbit* had its usual special effects and battles; *Saving Mr Banks* was delightful—the story of P J Travers the *Mary Poppins* author originally from Queensland. While in Qld, her birthplace Maryborough had the movie premiere... made me look

at *Mary Poppins* in quite a different light knowing about the author's early life. Quite a tragic childhood.

I also enjoyed *August Osage Country* with Meryl Streep, wonderful acting and so much happening I could see it again. *American Hustle* was also an interesting film requiring quite a lot of concentration.

While in Brisbane I stopped in to Queensland Writers Centre at Brisbane Library and gave them some information on our new resource book as well as leaving the latest copy of *Writers Voice*. On the same day, managed to take in a marvellous exhibition called *Treasures of Afghanistan*—many of the treasures thought to be lost from the Kabul Museum but later discovered hidden in bank vaults. This was a simply beautiful exhibition with the most exquisite jewellery, goblets, head dress and other artefacts. This exhibition is on at the NSW Art Gallery in Sydney from 7 March to 15 June.

Shortly before Christmas I attended the launch of Carol Chandler's book *Anonymous Caller* at Glebe. A very interesting afternoon of readings and chat... read my review in this edition.

Have recently been to Canberra to view the *Gold of the Inca* exhibits from Peru. Great exhibition, do try to see it.

Our wonderful State Committee members are all geared up for the rest of the year; indeed they have already been meeting and having important discussions.



Hazel Phillips and Beau

Catching Up

Members who recall Hazel Phillips being our guest for our luncheon one year may be interested to hear that I once again had a lovely day with Hazel at her home on the Gold Coast. I usually try to catch up with her as we have kept in touch by email on a regular basis. We usually have lots of laughs and show biz talk. Hazel sends her love to all of you and has fond memories of her day with the FAW.

I have several book reviews I have been asked to do so please be patient—two made it in time for this edition.

To the poets on the North Coast, I have not forgotten your poetry for inclusion on my radio show, will eventually get to it.

Did you catch up on reading while away? I have so many books to read I need 1001 lifetimes I think. My only regret about leaving this life eventually is that I cannot take my books with me. By the time you read this I will have attended the Wollondilly Young Writers Awards. They always seem to have a great response from Schools with their competitions. Well done Wollondilly! I am always made to feel so welcome by their members who are such an enthusiastic lot. I even get to stand in for the local Mayor as well as FAW President—many caps to fill! [see *Wollondilly Branch Report this edition*].

Hope to see many of you at our May AGM in Sydney; and at Port Macquarie for our November State meeting (if I am returned as President)—should be a great weekend. Fabulous chance to meet members from that region.

Cheers

Trevar Langlands, State President

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD HONOUR ROLL



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

*Deceased

State Council News

State Council addresses the issue of 'staying in touch'

IT WAS agreed by the FAW NSW State Council management committee at their January meeting to **discontinue** the use of PO Box 488, Rozelle NSW 2039 as this was a postal address only; mail received at this address being re-directed by Australia Post to the Hon Secretary.

The committee felt that a more efficient way for members to 'stay in touch' with them was to provide direct contact details as follows:

General correspondence:

Hon Secretary (Maureen Kelly)
22 Promontory Way
NORTH ARM COVE NSW 2324

Financial and Membership matters:

Hon Treasurer & Membership Registrar (Kay Bakon)
Unit 801, Henry Kendall Gardens,
150 Maidens Brush Road
WYOMING NSW 2250.

Competition details/entries/publicity:

Publicity Officer & Competition Convenor (Cate Plink)
5/15 Bogan Road
BOOKER BAY NSW 2257.

Website-related information, Bookshelf web page:

Webmaster/Social Media Coordinator (Barbara Simmons)
Email <webmaster@fawns.org.au>

It is hoped that by providing the above information, together with the email/phone contacts already listed on page 2 of *Writers Voice*, the FAW NSW State Committee will, at all times, be more accessible to all members should they require assistance, information or advice.

Maureen Kelly, Hon Sec FAW NSW

Fellowship of Australian
Writers NSW Inc



Notice of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, May 3, 2014

City of Sydney RSL Club

565 George Street, Sydney at 10.00am

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

All State Council positions will be declared vacant at the meeting and new officers will be elected for the 2014/15 year. All branches are entitled to have two delegates attend and vote at this meeting or their proxy votes may be mailed. Any member who wishes to nominate a candidate for office must complete a nomination form. Nomination forms and Proxy forms are on the *BACK of your bulletin's ADDRESS SHEET*.

Nominations are sought for:

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

Nominations must be made in writing, signed by two financial members and the proposed candidate. Forms and proxy votes to be sent to:

The Public Officer, FAW NSW
1/309 Avoca Drive, GREEN POINT NSW 2251.

Must be received no later than April 24, 2014.

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

FAW Branch Reports

BLUE MOUNTAINS FAW

40th Anniversary Celebration Springwood: 1 Dec. 2013

[see also 'Roundup' this issue]

THE BLUE Mountains Branch was originally the Springwood Literary Group (Tuesday Club) but became a Regional of the FAW in 1973 when Walter Stone chaired their inaugural meeting with 29 members. Blue Mountains branch was the third FAW in NSW but the first in the country area.

With Stella Sammon as President, they were a keen group and held extra meetings each month, usually in

the President's home. By luncheons, raffles and garden parties they raised funds for their first Anthology *YABBA* (much talk). *Yabba* became the title of all numbered anthologies until 1998, when we began the series, *PENS*.

Among the many members published were Stella Sammon and Dawn Harriss (Margaret Paice), their work being also filmed for television in Australia and England. One of Stella's books *Nifty the Sugar Glider* was included in the collection of books sent to Prince William at his birth.

In 1979 Dawn Harriss had an exhibition of her works by the Children's Book Council; she was

invited as one of four Australians to Boston for the IBC Congress on Arts and Communication; a history of Australian transport *Wheels and Wings* was published; a Bicentennial Project in October 1987 saw an exhibition of all Dawn's work as illustrator of Stella Sammon's book *The Lucky Stone*; and in 1988 she was writer in residence at Townsville for two months.

Faye Owen won many awards and was a storyteller on the *Nepean Belle*.

Jean Hibberd (author of children's books and a creative writing teacher) was granted the O.A.M. partly based on the book she produced for Scouting called *Duty to God*.

FAW Branch Reports

In 1979 Jean Paddison was the first recipient when the President's Award was initiated. In March 1988 she became Vice-President of State Council and in 1993 Jean was awarded Life Membership of the FAW.

1990: Margaret Wilkinson proposed that she begin a group for people wishing to write their own or others' family history. This group ran for 12 years.

From 1991 we had an internal newsletter *The Communique* edited first by Helen Hinchon, then Karen Attard, Maureen Maguire, Beverley Grazier, Margaret Wilkinson, Linda Campbell, and Susan Robinson. During Maureen's editorship the newsletter won the prize for best in NSW and all done with a typewriter, cut-outs and paste, then photocopied.

Karen Attard was also a Writer in residence at Katherine Susannah Pritchard Writer's Centre in WA.

There was always a desire in our FAW to encourage children with their writing of prose and poetry, driven initially by Beatrice Palmer.

1996, we held our first *Children's Writing Workshop*, funded by a grant from the Blue Mountains Inaugural City of the Arts. This was followed by a Children's writing competition and a book of all the entries was published, thanks to Beverley Grazier's skills.

In 1998 we held our second Children's Writing Workshop followed by a writing competition and these were all most successful. We hand delivered the stories, certificates of participation and prizes to the primary schools for presentation at their assemblies.

1996, Irene Acland and Beatrice Palmer were made Life Members. Both had served the Regional in almost every capacity over many years.

In 1997 five Blue Mountains Members attended three poetry workshops at the Rozelle Writer's Centre—each workshop was for 12 persons only! More encouragement came from tutors like Judith Beveridge and Peter Skrzynecki.

Our Branch visited other FAW meetings such as Wollondilly at Picton, Hawkesbury, Parramatta, Lithgow and Eastwood Hills.



Celebrating 40 years: Beryl Dundas, Blue Mountains FAW's oldest member, cuts the cake assisted by FAW President Trevar Langlands and guest speaker Hilarie Lindsay.

Countless accredited speakers over the years, along with workshops for prose and poetry, seminars, competitions and much encouragement have been the means of building skills and confidence for members. Many have authored books and articles, won competitions and awards such as our talented poet Joan Vaughan-Taylor winning the Wooden Horse Award. We had such tutors as: Emily Rodda, Stephen Measday, Steve Hackett, Elizabeth Herschl (Gray), Beverley Earnshaw, Dennis Kevan, David Bateson et al.

The years have been busy and productive. Anthologies in recent years have been produced, proof-read by Beryl Dundas and Kate Santelban, and edited by such capable people as Beverley Grazier, Linda Campbell, Susan Robinson, Kerry Healy-Binns.

In 1998 with 30 members, we produced our Silver Anniversary Anthology *Pens in the Pantry* (a collection of menus and memories).

2001, with 38 members we produced *Pens over the Garden Fence*—a Literary stroll through Life's Gardens.

2003, with 39 members we produced *Pens on the Move*.

2008 came *Tesellations One*, followed in 2011 by *Tesellations Two*.

2013, we have prepared our latest anthology *Journeys* to celebrate the bicentenary of the crossing of the Blue Mountains in 1813. It will be launched in Katoomba on April 3.

The aims of the Fellowship have been a priority: namely to foster a love of writing; Australian literature; and to encourage excellence in writing.

We finished 2013 recognizing our Ruby Anniversary, 40 years in the making. We celebrated at afternoon tea with Hilarie Lindsay and Trevar Langlands, some past and present members. The cake was cut by Beryl Dundas and Hilarie Lindsay.

It has been a great journey.

David Berger, President

CENTRAL COAST FAW

We ended our FAW year with a Christmas lunch at the Caroline Bay Brasserie—lovely food and great company. Helen and Johan made it back from their travels just in time to rescue our aborted luncheon plans. Thank you both and thank you also to Wyong members for joining us for this celebration.

This was our year for the administration of the Mona Brand Short Story Competition. There

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FAW Branch Reports

Central Coast

cont. from previous page

were over 700 entries, for which Paul Radcliffe was our co-ordinator. Paul took on this task with his usual diligence and good humour, and the committee and members all wish Paul to know that we are grateful, not just for that particular undertaking, but for his lively participation in our monthly meetings. Health problems mean that Paul is taking a period of leave from the FAW, so we send him and his lovely wife Denise our best wishes. Denise always joined us at lunch after our meetings and we will miss them both from our table.

The winning entry in the competition which was printed in the *Writers Voice*, caused controversy for some of our members, so as an exercise we each contributed a short written appraisal.

As well as Paul, three other members are leaving us. Hazel Humphrey who served as secretary for several years and did a sterling job, is retiring from the FAW. In her time as our secretary, Hazel worked quietly and efficiently and nothing was too much trouble for her. We'll miss you Hazel.

Ellen Cook bravely came to our rescue next time the position of secretary became vacant and quickly picked up the job, finding that she had computer skills of which she had previously been unaware. Her family of grandchildren are claiming her attention now, and she too is leaving us, at least for a short time. Our current secretary, Wanda Brooke is holding the fort for us, despite being in the throes of writing a novel. Thanks Wanda. Your commitment is appreciated.

Our other 'leaver' is Shirley Goodbar, and she too has some health issues. If good wishes are cure, then you will be back in no time Shirley. We hope that you will take time to come to a meeting as a visitor now and then and join us at lunch.

I wish all the FAW Branches a happy 2014, and with the help of our new 'GO TO' GUIDE, good writing.

Pat Lindsay

EASTWOOD/HILLS FAW

Eastwood/Hills FAW members arrived back at the February meeting refreshed and raring to go with wonderful memories of our Christmas Party. This was a terrific success with pleasing entertainment including recitation, songs and even a comedy skit by our talented and entertaining MC, Laura Davies. The evening was concluded with a challenging Trivia Quiz prepared and hosted by the irrepressible David Terelinck.

Continuing to cudgel our craniums was necessary for the less poetic among us, as we grappled with *Writing Sonnets that Sing* at our February meeting. Thank you to Carolyn Alfonzetti for running this stimulating and informative workshop which had necessitated last minute polishing of preparations. This workshop was originally planned for March, but Carolyn graciously volunteered to move it forward as the workshop originally planned for February had to be postponed due to unforeseen circumstances.

Thanks and congratulations to Shaun Lennon who was elected to be our new secretary as previous secretary Cheryl Ribbons made the decision to step aside in December.

The next few months will see us *Working the Imagination* (April with Jacqui Winn) and our memories to write *Childhood Memoir* (March with Laura Davies) and *Bush Poetry* (May with Brian Beasley). All welcome on the first Saturday of the month at 1pm.

Artelle Lenthall

EUROBODALLA FAW

"Reading is as important as writing to develop good writing" (Tash Aw). It's always good to take lessons from our reading. We started 2014 with our bi-monthly Q&A session in which we examined the first two paragraphs of Tim Winton's latest book, *Eyrie*. An energetic discussion took place on the effectiveness of the first 2 lines... 'So.

'Here was this stain on the carpet...'

A reminder to us writers to capture our readers' attention right from the start.

Our Christmas party in December was well-attended, champagne quaffed, an array of tasty delights consumed. Then it was over to our quick-witted Scot, Robin McPherson, to MC an hilarious afternoon of members being put on the spot to relate some embarrassing moments. A highlight of the day was our fundraising raffle with a range of quality goods donated by members, including the main prize of an original painting by Eileen Backhus (*pictured below*). This was won by new member, Trish Russell.

This year being our 20th anniversary, we are celebrating with two main events: a special meeting and luncheon at Moruya Golf Club on June 18, to which past and present members are invited and also local councillors; and an anthology of members' writing on the theme 'Mutable States' which will be available online and also hard copy, in October. You can keep in touch with our goings-on via our website, <www.eurobodallawriters.org>

At the end of last year we said good-bye to two of our members. Barry Lake has been part of EuroFAW for many years and entertained us with wonderful stories of his time in the Defence Forces, but also his amazing facility with traditional poetry writing and performance. Penny Gerner, a member for a number of years and on the committee for Perfix, a multi-arts initiative that runs a bi-annual literary competition, is moving to Adelaide. We will miss their contributions to our group.

We have a few changes to our program for meetings this year. As



Eileen Backhus' painting that was raffled at Eurobodalla's Christmas Party.

well as writing to topics prior to the meetings then reading them out for some gentle critiquing, we are starting each session with short-burst writing on fun topics for 10 minutes. No sharing, just playing with words! There are also a couple of workshops in the mix and excursions to stimulate further ideas for writing and focus on particular skills.

Rosie Toth

FORESTVILLE FAW

Forestville FAW did very well in 2013. Our group swelled to 17 with some former members from Manly FAW joining us after Manly sadly had to fold at the end of 2012. We are enthusiastic writers, some poets and some working on memoir and our President Maureen Fries has published a book of short stories to make your hair stand on end. It is called *The Night Owl* and I'm not sure if it's a good idea to read it just before bed. The stories may keep you awake as there is always a strange twist to each tale.

Another member Nicole Feledy had a book review in *The Manly Daily* for her new book called *Is This My Story*, a book to help teenagers through their difficult years. Mary Ann Napper is about to get her book about autism published. It is called *Born To Fly*. It has been endorsed by Autism Spectrum Australia which is very exciting. We wish Mary Ann good fortune with this book. Catherine and Bea have a tanka poem in a tanka Anthology which has only 100 poems from 100 poets that represent the world. Well done to both ladies.

Former journalist Maggie Gowanlock and her collaborator Verena Bacchini are working extremely hard on a commemorative book about Cremorne Girls High School, which began as Neutral Bay Intermediate High in 1926. The title is *The Best School of All* which comes from the last line of the school song. Maggie, a former pupil, describes it as a social history and has interviewed over 300 former pupils, including well known luminaries who went to this school, namely Bronwyn Bishop, Kate Grenville and Jane Rutter, to

mention but a few. It has indeed been a labour of love for the past four years. It will go to the publisher soon. A book launch is being planned for later this year.

Pam Bayfield has been giving talks about her latest book *For the Love of Grace* at various Probus Clubs and Book clubs. This is Pam's ninth book and the word is out that she is doing a sequel. Ellen Ash is working on a family history and it has taken her far and wide in her research. We wish her well with her project. Dorothea Gallagher also is putting the finishing touches to her novel as well as doing a great job with our newsletter called *Penpoints*, a very professional looking document.

We welcome Gillian Williams, Jean Allas and Lorna Brennan as new members and hope they enjoy their time with our FAW. Lorna recently won 1st Prize in a Qld FAW article competition and it is called 'So This is Progress'. Congratulations Lorna. We listened to the story and it is so good and to the point. We enjoy the company of younger members Emma and Nicole; the latter has given us information as to how to create a blog. We have to try to keep up with the latest trends.

We look forward to having some interesting guest speakers in 2014 and know it is going to be a year of successful writing from our group.

Pam Bayfield

GREAT LAKES FAW

The first meeting of our branch was held on 14th February with a very good attendance of fourteen. It was also our A.G.M., and our new committee was voted in, being Hermione Browning, President; Anne Hailes, Secretary; Christine Hayes, Assistant Secretary; Charmain Williams, Treasurer; Christine Hayes, Publicity Officer; Charmain Williams, Membership Officer; Hermione Browning, Library Officer; Gary Taaffe, Webmaster.

Judging by stories presented at this meeting, it should be a very fruitful year for us, and this year's meetings sound most interesting, including a visit by Colleen Parker, editor of the

FAW writers' guide *Unlock the Writer Within*, a workshop by Jacqui Winn, and a talk by our own Anne Hailes on Emily Dickinson, American poet who many think was one of the first modern poets.

Member Noelle White, who has written and published a book, *Up Over to Down Under*, a story made up of letters between her and her fiancé, just after the war, during the months they were separated before their marriage. This book is to be read over Forster Tuncurry's local radio station by two experienced readers.

On a different subject, we have a very talented genealogist in our group, Vicki Stewart, who has researched and found the long lost mother and family of member Noelle, who was adopted at birth. Now Noelle has evidence of a family she never knew.

We from Great Lakes Branch are looking forward to an interesting and informative year ahead, and hopefully plenty of successful writing.

Christine Hayes

HUNTER FAW

We held a planning meeting in the second week of January. Our 2014 program emphasises members presenting workshops for the genesis of new work. My presentation took place in February with visual prompts including shoes of various types, 'Boots' by Vincent Van Gogh and careful observations of the footwear we wore on the day. Members wrote busily for the allotted time and arrived at some fascinating and enjoyable recollections and starting points.

We look forward to our meeting with Peter Tryst, actor, playwright, producer and director who will discuss play structures, read excerpts of famous plays and guide us in scriptwriting.

Poets Jean Kent and Judy Johnson will soon present a mini-launch of their chapbooks published by Flying Islands Press, Macau. They will read from their work and discuss the processes involved in translation of their books into Chinese.

Jan Dean

FAW Branch Reports

MACARTHUR FAW

As predicted, the Christmas party in Bradman's Bowral was enjoyed immensely by all those who attended and the readings performed, both recycled and new, were greatly enhanced in quality after generous lubrication of the vocal chords.

In January 2014 we recommenced our meetings with a sense of literary freshness after the break and hopes of writing inspiration for the year to come. Time will tell.

As you read this report (but not as I write it), we will have had our AGM and election of officers for 2014.

Various members of our Branch are looking forward to milestones of achievement during this coming year. There are short story collections, children's illustrated books and at least one novel in the pipeline to be completed and published so best wishes to them in their endeavours.

As I have reported before, our group is blessed with a wide range of ages in our members, ranging from middle-teen to umpteen, and everything in-between, so at our meetings we enjoy a corresponding range of styles and subject matter.

Best wishes to all the other FAW Branches for the New Year.

Robert Bee

MUDGE VALLEY WRITERS

We are looking forward to a busy year with our 14th Biennial Literary Competition in the final planning stages.

Our three musical male members, Nev Newman, Kevin Pye and Bob Campbell are doing us proud, and keeping us entertained, each with his own CD releases. Their songwriting abilities are introducing the rest of us to this form of creative writing—such an interesting discussion point at our meetings.

Our fortnightly newspaper column 'The Ink Spot' is to continue for its fourth year in *The Mudgee Guardian*, featuring our own and local guest writers' stories and poems.

Jill Baggett

NORTH ARM COVE

Members met for the first time in 2014 mid-February where the year's writing agenda was set. The focus this year will be compiling and publishing an anthology of children's stories and poems. Workshops are also planned and, again, the branch will sponsor the short story writing competition for nearby primary schools at Karuah and Tea Gardens.

At the close of last year, members visited both the above schools to present the writing awards. Students were asked to write up to 1,500 words, the theme 'In grandma's day, something grandma used.' Marks were awarded for presentation, spelling, grammar, punctuation and imagination and each entry received a critique from the judges.

First and second prize winners received \$60 and \$40 *Smiggle* vouchers respectively; highly commended certificates were also awarded. Ema Lamb and Savannah Page (Karuah winners), Maddy Stockell, Skye Egloff and Aysha Tobin (Tea Gardens winners).

Members were also out and about publicising and promoting their work at the Tea Gardens Hotel night markets mid-December. Moira Hooper, *The dead don't talk*; Garry Boyd, *Bowerbird*, together with Shawna Hartley who co-wrote with Lee Anderson and Kerryan Griffin, *Unsung Heroes Cambodia*, all enjoyed success selling their books.

Also, at the market Maureen Kelly promoted the FAW's recently published valuable resource for all writers: *Unlock the Writer Within*.

As in previous years, instead of giving each other Christmas gifts, members donated \$245 (£136) to the Mustard Seed project, a school in Kenya.

The agenda for the year promises to provide members with a very full year of writing—bring it on!

Maureen Kelly

NORTH SHORE [FAWNS]

FAWNS is holding a Vibrant Verse competition and a Super Short Story competition again in 2014.

Competition conditions of entry are in the Competitions section of this issue, and further information can be found on our website <<http://sites.google.com/site/fawnorthshoreregional/>> .

The executive is planning a program of workshops/ mini-workshops this year, using both outside speaker input and the expertise of our own members. We aim to embolden our members to continue their productive writing.

Richard Brookton

PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS

The New Year brings in a new committee for the Port Macquarie-Hastings Branch as we sadly farewell Colleen Parker as our president, and happily welcome Rachel Palmer into the role. Brian Tolagson is Vice President and continues on as Editor of our newsletter. Frank Urban steps into the role of Secretary with Wendy Haynes as Treasurer. Maggie Jones is Social Secretary, Gill Goater In-House Competition Secretary and the Publicity Officer is Kerry Buchanan.

Change is exciting and we look forward to what 2014 brings. A special thankyou to all previous members of the committee for the time, dedication and expertise they brought to their past roles.

After the elections we all enjoyed an interesting and insightful 'free writing by association' activity entitled 'My Writing and Me'. The aim of the exercise was to identify any obstacles members face when writing and work out strategies to overcome them. The feedback from the exercise was interesting and varied with some people finding it very beneficial.

In an attempt to meet the needs of all members and to encourage the sharing of ideas we were also asked to contribute thoughts, desires and wishes for future events at our FAW meetings.

We have again been invited to showcase our work in the upcoming Senior's Expo to be held at Port Macquarie Panthers Club in March. The event provides an opportunity to promote and sell books. With many members having published books

in the last year, the opportunity of another successful day awaits.

Regretfully, a valued member Lew Parfitt wrote to tell us that he would be resigning from our Branch meetings this year due to ill health. Lew has been a member of FAW for a number of years. His writing was often from humorous and interesting perspectives and it was wonderful to hear him read his work. More recently he was a contributing author to the recent FAW fundraising publication *Unlock the Writer Within*. His talent and wit will be missed.

Our thoughts go also to the skilled poet, writer and previous Secretary Bessie Jennings, who has of late been out of sorts. Everyone wished Bessie a speedy recovery and noted how much they looked forward to seeing her at our meetings once again.

With writing exercises, workshops, guest speakers and in-house tutorials planned for 2014, the year ahead is looking very bright. Next month we kick off with our first tute on 'writing a press release,' given by our Newsletter composer, Brian Tolagson. As the brand new Publicity Officer it is certainly one I shall not be missing!

Kerry Buchanan

PORT STEPHENS FAW

Another Christmas passed with barely a whimper or a groan, just a slight case of good Aussie sunburn. I trust the gods of Christmas brought you all limitless happiness. However, there is no longer any legitimate reason for failing to sharpen the quill for another year.

Having received my copy of *Unlock the Writer Within* I will be eternally grateful to Colleen Parker for her commitment as editor. Although only having studied two thirds of the book so far, I know I will be perpetually grateful to Colleen and the numerous authors. Well done one and all!

Wendy Zirngast, our volunteer editor, continues to make great progress with the latest book now to be titled *Ripples*. No doubt, *Ripples* will be extremely popular with the young target audience and the illustrations we have seen are a



At the WOLLONDILLY FAW Children's Short Story prize-giving day at Picton (story next page)...

Above: Jemima Taylor who won 1st prize in the older category (9-12 age group) for her story 'Amazing Grace'.

Above right: Tsehay Hawkins who won 1st prize in the young age group (6-8 years) for her story 'A Sister's Journey', being presented with her certificate by MC Trevar Langlands.

Right: Tsehay reads her story to the captivated audience.

Below: Standing room only with family, friends and supporters at the Wollondilly prize-giving.



delight. It is hoped that release will take place a few days prior to Easter.

At the January meeting we were fortunate to have a workshop conducted by Anthony Scully representing the ABC. Anthony went to enormous trouble to explain to members how to access the ABC

Open website and enter stories—visit <open.abc.net.au/projects> and look for '500 Words: Personal Challenge'. I am sure we will all benefit from his coaching and it will be interesting to read future submissions.

Good luck and good scribbling.

Bruce Flanagan

FAW Branch Reports

SHOALHAVEN FAW

Recently our Shoalhaven FAW group was privileged to have poet Peter Bakowski attend one of our monthly Branch meetings. He had practical and helpful advice about writing poetry. Then the following day we had an all-day workshop with Peter which was a source of inspiration and delight to the 12 or 13 people who attended. Everyone enjoyed the practical tips and hands-on experience of creating poems in different forms or with different themes.

Dale Harcombe

[Apologies to Shoalhaven Branch for inadvertently omitting this report from December Writers Voice—Ed]

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

Inspiration, dedication, publication... the writer's dream...

A new year, with new opportunities, and new dreams, is with us. Hopefully in 2014 our poets and story writers will have their most creatively profitable twelve months yet; hopefully they will be involved in an even greater amount of writing, will regularly and enthusiastically submit their work for critiquing and, eventually, will successfully enter competitions and charm publishers.

We have greatly benefitted from study of the book *Writing Fiction* put out by the Gotham Writers' Workshop of New York and will continue with it, doing group writing exercises, and some on-the-spot critiquing, on the days when we can devote a whole meeting to 'hands on' writing. Apart from that, we have more interesting and inspiring speakers lined up for several of our meetings early this year.

Margaret Symonds

WOLLONDILLY SHIRE

Our next meeting in March will be the AGM. All positions are up for grabs. Rosemary Peters our intrepid President for the last two years is bowing out. How we will miss her wise council. On the bright side it gives someone else the opportunity to shine as President. Our philosophy

is to ensure members take some responsibility of sharing the load. Too often small groups have a tendency to rely on a few members to run the show which in effect can cause the group to go into the doldrums. Not so here in Wollondilly Shire. We have no experience of this concept. As most members have taken responsibility for committee positions the support is there for the new people to shine and become confident about sharing their ideas. We wait in anticipation to work with the new crew.

Narelle our editor and publisher has to be congratulated once again for her talents in compiling our monthly newsletter *Scribblings*. Lo and behold but didn't she win the prize *again* for the FAW NSW Branch Newsletter Award. Am I surprised? No! I am not as she takes such pride in her work.

The anticipated anthology is in full swing. All the stories and poetry have been collected. The anthology committee meet soon to let the members know the works chosen. The next step is to go to the proof reader. It is a bit of a slow process but we want to ensure a quality product FAW can be proud of.

Children's Short Story Prizegiving

We had our Children's short story writing prize-giving day at the Picton Shire hall on February 15th. We owe a lot of thanks to Gail the chief librarian who gave up her day off to help us run the show. Sadly the Lord Mayor was booked out, but Mr. Trevar Langlands, FAW NSW President, saved the day. He was superb as usual and communicated well with the children. He also encouraged them to write much and often as well as to read and look at the books they liked and to learn from their style of writing. It was a very motivating speech. Trevar also congratulated the parents for encouraging their children to enter the competition.

One mother of a child who received a highly commended certificate for her story informed me that her daughter had trouble with her literacy. This mother recounted how her daughter is now gaining confidence and her self esteem has improved by the recognition

of a talent she did not realise she had. Stories like this motivate us to run these competitions as often as possible. The unintended (positive) consequences of such a venture are heart-warming. It is such a privilege to share the same space as parents and students and to observe the adults as they smile and look pleased with their children as they stride forth to accept their certificates and prizes.

We were very touched by the two students who won the first prizes [*pictured previous page*]. We offered them the opportunity to read their works to the audience. The younger student Tsehay Hawkins, aged 7 years from Thirlmere primary school (6-8 yrs group), when reading her prizewinning story 'A Sister's Journey'—about her journey to Colombia to get a new brother—drew some tears from the audience. One could hear a pin drop as she enraptured the audience. It was a moving story littered with humorous reflections. She read with such confidence and the audience loved her.

Aged 12 years from Picton School (9-12 yrs group), Jemima Taylor's story 'Amazing Grace'—about competition and friendship—was very well written. She brought us back and forth on a journey as she recounted how a fellow student did his best to outdo her in an eclectic sports competition and how they both came to the realisation that they both respected each other's talents and had a truce as their parents continued to be competitive. It was a very entertaining story. Again Jemima read with such clarity and entertained the audience as she acted out the scenes. We were very proud of our choices of prizewinners as they proved to be writers their parents and schools can be proud of.

Our members are now busy looking at the different competitions to enter. We need to keep up the momentum of producing good works. Hopefully I can report another few winners in the next edition of *Writers Voice*.

Olivia Mulligan

Competition Results

RESULTS: FAW LAMBING FLAT

WRITING COMPETITION 2013

WYONG WRITERS

We welcome new members Wendy and Mark to Wyong Writers. Wendy is also a regular participant in our Scribblers critiquing sessions. Scribblers helps those of us wanting feedback on our creative writing to get thoughtful and helpful critique within a supportive group environment.

A new page has been added to the Wyong Writers website <www.wyongwriters.org> so that our members can view (and enter) upcoming Literary Competitions and Award opportunities.

Our Monthly Meetings continue to inspire new writing ideas such as the following...

Nov 2013: Writing lecturer Kathryn Coughran facilitated a workshop on 'Writing Intimacy', helping us all with those tricky scenes that many of us find squirm making to even contemplate, yet alone write!

Jan 2014: Mavis Gunter supplied an absorbing and well thought-out exercise on 'Characterisation' to help us form well-rounded characters for our fiction writing.

We look forward to a year of flourishing writing for all our members.

Derek Recsei



The FAW Lambing Flat (Young) Writing Competition was held in conjunction with the 64th National Cherry Festival. As always there was a great diversity of entries submitted though entries were down in numbers and it was concerning to wonder why. Is this a sign of technology overtaking the written word? Or is there no time for writing stories or poems in today's world? However, thank you to those who made an effort to put pen to paper and to those who encouraged children to enter the competition—*Bianca Perkins*.

ADULT SHORT STORY SECTION

First Place: Peter A Miller, Faulconbridge NSW for 'Why Yellow Fogs are the Worst'

Second Place: Narelle Noppert, Picton NSW for 'You can't rush a Princess'

ADULT POETRY SECTION

First Place: Gregory Tome, Burradoo NSW for 'The dying of the Day' and 'Song of a Retiree'

Second Place: Fiona Moore, Young NSW for 'Mirror'

Highly Commended: Gregory Tome, Burradoo NSW for 'Matinee'

PRIMARY SCHOOL SHORT STORY SECTION

First Place: Annabelle Richens, Young NSW for 'Hero'

Second Place: Lucy Stuart, Murringo NSW for 'The Voyage'

PRIMARY SCHOOL POETRY SECTION

First Place: Annabelle Richens, Young NSW for 'Like Glowing Embers'

Second Place: Grace Kemp, Murrumburrah NSW for 'Worlds Fastest Mare'

JUNIOR PRIMARY SECTION

First Place: Grace Taylor, Murringo NSW for 'The beginning of Cherry Town'

Second Place: Jimmy Cronin, Young NSW for 'Jack and Zack the Dragons'

The Lambing Flat FAW would like to thank our sponsors, Young Shire Council and the South West Slopes Credit Union for their generous support. We would also like to thank the entrants and the judges for giving their time to support the competition.



Ligare, the largest specialist book printer in NSW, is celebrating its 30th year serving the publishers of Australia. Our clients include many of the publishing companies within Australia as well as a growing number of professional self-publishers.

With a new Digital Print Facility, which can accommodate run lengths for self-publishers from 200 to 500, and offset printing which starts at run lengths of 500 up to 10,000+, Ligare can accommodate niche market and self-publishing publications with ease. Deliver print-ready pdf files to us and we can deliver the books to you in under 3 weeks.

Ligare has a full sustainability program and has FSC and PEFC certification. Find out more about the services Ligare offers at www.ligare.com.au

Ligare Phone (02) 9533 2555 or email info@ligare.com.au

RESULTS: SHOALHAVEN

LITERARY AWARD 2013

First Prize: Vanessa Gazy, Pearce ACT for 'Adam's Window'

Second Prize: Claire Aman, Grafton NSW for 'Love me tender'

Third Prize: Mran-Maree Laing, Birchgrove NSW for 'Dark Soil'

Shoalhaven Resident Encouragement Award:

Karen Morrow, Bomaderry NSW for 'Losing Christina'

[Apologies to Shoalhaven FAW for inadvertently omitting these results from December Writers Voice—Ed]

Beatrice Fed the Ducks on Monday

cont. from front page

of the dozens of prize-winning roses her mother had cultivated. The thorny bush tore at Beatrice's tissue-thin skin, as frail as an heirloom wedding veil, so she didn't cut the flowers anymore, she simply watched them bloom and die.

Her mother inexplicably left the family home the day after Beatrice's sixteenth birthday, and was not heard from again. Beatrice remembered her with anger and sorrow. A ritual with a single red petal, plucked from the Lincoln and wiped gently across her cheek, mimicked the lost touch of her mother's hand. This memory brought on sudden tears that she caught in her hands. Childlike, she wiped them against the sleeves of her dress. It wouldn't do to show her emotions. Her father had insisted long ago that she keep her feelings in check, now a habit hard to break.

She poured herself tea and opened the greaseproof paper that wrapped her wholemeal toast.

Finally, she unclipped the little jar of strawberry jam, the last one she preserved before the Accident attacked and stole her cooking dexterity.

The Lions Club had installed the seat in memory of some community hero who died there trying to save a child from drowning. She was there when it happened, but right now she couldn't recall his name, or the child's. He went on to become Mayor. She turned to read the name on the little brass plaque on the back of the chair, trying to take it in as a new memory, but knowing she never would.

In her agitation she dropped the knife. It left a smear of red across her dress and she wiped off as much as she could. Wash day was on Wednesday, and she'd wear the frock 'til then.

The local hooligans had defaced the seat with paint-sprayed uncouth words and illegible scribbles. This annoyed her less than to share the spot on the water's edge with anyone else. Especially that Harold Whitaker, cantankerous old man that he was. He had a horrible barking dog, a terrier of some sort, and it always chased her Blackies away.

Here he was now—ready to interfere with her day. He'd stop and talk to her. He'd want to weed her garden. Paint her fence. Fix her guttering. Sometimes he'd say her home was going to wrack and ruin. Other times he'd go on about how she fed the ducks, that it upset nature's balance and encouraged vermin. Why did he not see she was doing exactly the opposite of all that? It was her determined choice to let the weeds, flowers, vegetables, garden creatures and ducks flourish—survivors all, just as she was.

She turned her body sharply to indicate her irritation and the ratty brim of her straw hat tipped to shade her damaged face. She had stopped speaking to him after last year's illness. He had no need to know how much she struggled to speak at all, or how much her once fine features had changed.

On this day he strode on past her with determined boot steps. He seemed in a hurry. He didn't have the dog

with him. He didn't even glance her way. Perhaps he was looking for his dog.

"How rude," she muttered.

Something niggled in her memory; a deep male voice; the scent of orange blossom; a vague picture of a strong, chiselled face; the sensual touch of a hand held tenderly; the taste of desire in a kiss. But it didn't coalesce into anything meaningful. She promptly forgot about Harold as her thoughts rambled on.

The day passed.

Her evening began as she poured a small glass of sweet sherry at eight o'clock. She looked forward to reading, a favourite pursuit since girlhood.

She laid her current selection of library books out in a fan shape around the table, herself the pivot point. Who afforded new books these days? Piles of overdue books with pages marked with coloured papers towered negligently on the floor and on the other chairs. She must return them soon or they would suspend her borrowing privileges again. Her planning and organising was corrupted by the damage to her mind, making her irritable, a feeling more and more common to her.

She sat in her dining room under the dusty Tiffany lamp until the carriage clock on the mantle chimed midnight to conclude her work.

She scrimped on her budget to leave room for stationery supplies, which she ordered by mail and paid for by cheque. A tall bearded man delivered them in his white van. Beatrice thought he was a sticky beak, always asking how she was when it was none of his business.

For many years Beatrice had written a commentary on every book or novel she read, both fiction and non-fiction, and posted it addressed to the author in care of the publisher.

Now, on this Monday, working to complete her evening's work, she tidied away the papers and pens. Beatrice wrote her letters by hand, in the beautiful, flourishing cursive script she was taught by the nuns of Saint Joseph's. She thought of her many years service to the Parish typing letters for Father O'Reilly and receiving a small stipend in return. She couldn't cope after the Accident and Father reluctantly let her go. That she was able to write at all was a Blessing.

She was working her way through several large and beautifully illustrated books. Today's tome was 'Every Australian Bird Illustrated.' Editors allowed so many mistakes to go through to publication, there were commas missing and don't get her started on the dashes!

One letter she received very plainly said she was not welcome to comment. She simply corrected the spelling and added a comma and sent it back without a stamp.

Infrequently, an editor's reply to her unsolicited corrections and critiques would thank her for her comments, and this spurred her on. She was sure that her correction of incomplete facts and distorted knowledge was helping future readers to a better definition or a better resource. She expected the publishers to rely on her exemplary effort, and reprint each corrected work, although she never checked. It would have been good to mention whether she had a career.

Her peeve of the moment was the Mynah bird, brought here from India to combat insects in the cane fields, a hundred and fifty years ago. Invaders like the feral ducks, they took up places in nature occupied by the little natives, like the yellow-eyed miners and the honeyeaters.

Beatrice contemplated poisoning all the feral birds. She read a Bryce Courtenay novel that told of a man who wrapped bread around snail bait pellets, and fed them strategically to pigeons, a last meal of sorts. But the thought of causing pain to any of God's creatures stopped her. They were doing what came naturally to them after all. They were in the wrong place and the wrong time for reasons of human choice, not their own. So she fretted over them, angry and sympathetic at the same time.

She didn't waste her time with magazines or newspapers, and never owned a television. The single social medium she allowed herself was the 1930s Astor Bakelite radio inherited from her father. He had set it on the ABC radio frequency and she saw no need to change it. Its crackly voice kept her company.

She had used the public telephone at the end of her street twice in her life. When she called an ambulance to her father after his heart attack and seven years later to call the doctor on the night he died. She hadn't needed to make a call since then.

She bathed with a flannel and a bar of yellow Sunlight soap in a chipped enamel bowl of warm water, filled by a kettle heated on the gas stove. She refused to pay for hot water and she switched her system off after her father's funeral.

The night Beatrice suffered the stroke was as ordinary as any other, until it was time to pack away her books. Stunned, she fell and hit her forehead on the chair. Thinking the fall was the cause of the excruciating pain in her head, she took herself to bed, guiltily foregoing her bathing routine. Next morning, as she tried to leave her bed, she realised something was terribly wrong with her left arm and leg. Stoically, as was her nature, she struggled against the semi-paralysis, and for the last time, drove her father's old Holden to the doctor in town.

Beatrice made ready for bed now, in an iron-framed single that had always been in her room. She wouldn't use her father's larger room, or double bed. She felt uncomfortable in there. It was a parental place, off limits as a child. But there had been no choice about nursing him so intimately in that room, after his heart attack had left him bedridden. She gave the room a thorough clean after he died, stripped the bed, and locked the door with a click of finality.

Beatrice listened to the familiar creaky sounds of her own bed, a soothing creak that had long been a lullaby. Her crooked body lay still and ready for sleep, cradled by the kapok in her musty mattress.

Her thoughts stirred in reminiscence. There came an idea of feeling loved and cherished, and somehow Harold's handsome young face came to mind. She imagined his strong arms around her and met the look of longing in his eyes.

A proposal of marriage; a delicious kiss; then the refusal she had to give—it was her duty to care for her father.

Was it a fantasy? Her recollection was not to be trusted.

She reached under her pillow, inside the cover, the one her mother decorated with embroidered violets, now threadbare but oh so smooth on a tired face. She withdrew a small blue velvet bag and took out a ring. Heavy gold told of its age, the ruby warm and glowing even in the darkened room. She put it to her lips, savouring the memory, and then gently replaced it under her pillow.

Beatrice fed the ducks on Tuesday.

Published in 'purple. emerald. gold'—Short Stories by Victoria Norton, Amazon.

Society of Women Writers 2014 Literary Luncheon Events

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

Venue: Dixson Room, Mitchell Wing, State Library of NSW

Time: 10am–11.50am Workshop

12.00 noon to 2.30pm Literary lunch with guest speaker and member talks.

Cost: Workshop \$20.00 for members (\$30 non-members).

Literary Lunch \$50.00 members (\$55.00 non-members). Workshop AND Literary Lunch: \$65 members (\$80 non-members).

Bookings are required by 10am on the Monday before the meeting—bookings by email preferred. **Email:** <swwlunchbooking@gmail.com> Subject: 'SWW Lunch Booking'. **SMS Bookings:** Alternatively, text your booking to 0403 177 208. Your message should be addressed to *swwlunchbooking* or *swwlunch* and should contain Luncheon date, your name and your mobile number.

09 April 2014

WORKSHOP: Presenter Victoria Urgate, 'Publish and Present your Book to the World on Amazon'.

MEMBER TALK: Dr Robyn Arrowsmith, author of *All the Way to the USA: Australian WWII War Brides*

GUEST SPEAKER: Karen Middleton, SBS senior political correspondent, 'An Unwinnable War: Australia in Afghanistan'.

14 May 2014

WORKSHOP: Presenter Kate Forsyth

MEMBER TALK: Felicity Pulman, 'A Ring through Time'

GUEST SPEAKER: Kate Forsyth, 'Bitter Greens'.

11 June 2014

WORKSHOP: Presenter Hazel Edwards, 'Authorpreneurship; The Business of Creativity'

MEMBER TALK: Beverley George, 'Araki and the Dreamcatcher'

GUEST SPEAKER: Hazel Edwards, 'Writing Non Boring History for Children'.

Roundup

BOOK EXPO AUSTRALIA



30–31 August 2014
Sydney Showground
at Olympic Park

FAW NSW will have a stall at the Book Expo to be held over the weekend of 30/31 August 2014. The Expo is designed as a method for new and emerging authors to sell their books. As we know the hardest thing for all authors is finding a channel to promote and sell their printed work—this is it.

If any members wish to have their books on display for sale they need to bring a maximum of five (5) copies to the Sydney Showground at Olympic Park over that weekend.

They should also commit to assisting in the running of the stall for a minimum of two (2) hours on either of the days. Should the books sell out would-be customers can fill in a form for further purchases; this information will then be sent on to the individual authors.

Those who wish to take advantage of this fantastic event must confirm their participation at the latest one month before the event so that full details can be provided to them.

It is suggested that all those who wish to sell their books at the Expo make sure that the details are also on the **Bookshelf page on the state website** as this will also be promoted as a source of buying their books.

Contact: Barbara Simmons, FAW Webmaster and Social Media Coordinator, email:

[<webmaster@fawnsw.org.au>](mailto:webmaster@fawnsw.org.au)

For more information visit the Book Expo Australia website: [<www.bookexpoaustralia.com>](http://www.bookexpoaustralia.com)



The Blue Mountains branch celebrates 40 years of Fellowship

Blue Mountains 40th anniversary celebration

Recently the Blue Mountains Branch of the Fellowship of Australian Writers held its 40th anniversary celebration at Springwood Court Function Centre.

Special guests included Councillor Brendan Luchetti, Deputy Mayor of BMCC; Trevar Langlands, President of FAW NSW Inc. and Dr Hilarie Lindsay, guest speaker, renowned poet and writer, and a former state president of the FAW.

Over the last forty years the Blue Mountains FAW has supported and encouraged young, and no-so-young, writers in our region to develop the art of writing. This has been done by workshops, constructive criticism and sharing their works with an audience. Poetry, prose and journal articles have been the main genres practised by members, and many have gone on to publications and competition wins.

Because forty years is a 'ruby' celebration the members wore



Guest Speaker Hilarie Lindsay

something red which was also the dominant colour in the decorations. After our guest speaker Hilarie, Brendan Luchetti and Trevar Langlands spoke before the cake was cut by Beryl Dundas and the party started. Whilst eating and drinking some members paused to read special pieces written for the occasion.

To celebrate their 40th further, and to commemorate the crossing of the Blue Mountains 200 years ago, the Blue Mountains FAW is publishing an anthology of members' works [see 'Invitation' opposite page].

Vale:

Edith Cruikshank

Long-term FAW member Edith Cruikshank died just after Christmas 2013.

She for a time was the State Council rep from Sutherland branch. According to her family she left behind a neatly organised (and very thick) folder of all her writings, especially her poetry.

She was published in a number of anthologies and well known in the Sutherland and Hurstville areas for her talented writing. A lovely and gentle lady, we will miss her.

Helen Armstrong, President, Sutherland Shire FAW

Calls for Submissions

Positive Words Magazine is seeking submissions of short stories, articles and poetry for upcoming issues of the monthly magazine. Stories and articles up to 1000 words and poetry up to one page. Open theme.

Send submissions and SSAE or email address for response to:

The Editor, Sandra James
PO Box 798

Heathcote VIC 3523

For further information please email <positivewordsmagazine@live.com.au> but please note submissions are only accepted in hard copy. Sample copies of the magazine—which aims to encourage new and experienced writers—can be obtained from the editor by sending \$2.40 in unused stamps.

FURIA, a journal for literary short stories up to 10,000 words, seeks contributions for its second issue. Forward to Philip Johns—email <furia@bigpond.com> or send with SSAE to:

The Editor, *FURIA*
GPO Box 1421
Melbourne VIC 3001.



Invitation

Anthology Launch

All members of the FAW are invited to the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre on **3rd April 2014** for the launch of our anthology entitled *Journeys*, shown here being held by Kerry Healey-Binns, the anthology coordinator and chief editor.

The title was chosen to mark the bicentenary of the crossing of the Blue Mountains. [*More info: <visitbluemountains.com.au/bicentenary.php>*]

There will be special guests and Greg North, a distinguished poet, will entertain us.

Copies of the anthology will be on sale on the day in the Seminar Room from 2pm to 3.30pm.

UNLOCK THE WRITER WITHIN

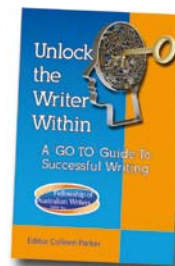
is a valuable resource for all writers; amateur and professional. The FAW presents numerous topics of interest in one publication. Just 'GO TO' the help you need to continue enjoying the writing experience and you will ...

Unlock the Writer Within.

Cost: \$30 plus \$10 p&h.

Cheques payable to *Fellowship of Aust Writers*. To order your copy, contact:

Hon. Secretary, FAW NSW Inc.
22 Promontory Way,
NORTH ARM COVE NSW 2324
<honsecretary@fawnsw.org.au>



FAW writers' resource guide covers it all

Unlock The Writer Within really does cover everything required to enable a would-be writer to achieve their dreams, whether they be aimed at a fairly low level, or at a more professional standard.

One thing that stands out to me upon reading the book is the vast amount of work put in to its production. Not only by Colleen Parker, the editor of the project, but also by the numerous FAW contributors, who, possessing a high degree of knowledge in their chosen subject, freely made it available to everyone.

The early nineteenth century US author and literary critic, Margaret Fuller, stated: "If you have knowledge, let others light their candle with it." The contributors have certainly done that, and have been most generous by 'gifting' their knowledge to readers of the book. Not everyone would have done so. Many would have hoarded such gems of literacy, as a squirrel would set aside acorns for its own use. I appreciate their contribution to this worthwhile book, and admire them for letting us share their knowledge.

Lew Parfitt,
FAW Port Macquarie Branch

NSW Writers' Centre Announces 2014 Festival Season

Playwriting Festival: Saturday 29 March

The NSW Writers' Centre 2014 Playwriting Festival, directed by award winning playwright Vanessa Bates (*Porn Cake, The Magic Hour*), features a keynote address from one of Australia's most original playwrights, Lally Katz. The Festival is the ideal day for an aspiring playwright.

Tickets (full price \$90) can be purchased from the Writers Centre website <www.nswwc.org.au>.

Kids & YA Festival: Saturday 28 June

The Kids & YA Festival, to be held on 28 June 2014, will be directed by acclaimed children's author Aleesah Darlison (*I Dare You, Totally Twins*). Aleesah says, "I'm very excited to have been appointed festival director for 2014. It's a huge honour. I'm looking forward to putting together an enticing program that will bring many of Australia's wonderfully talented authors, illustrators and writing industry professionals together."

Emerging Writers' Roadshow: Saturday 8 November

The final Festival for 2014 will be the Emerging Writers' Festival Roadshow on 8 November 2014. This will be the third time the NSW Writers' Centre has brought the popular Melbourne-based Festival to New South Wales.

Poets Voice

UNVEILED

The rain sets in,
cold, thin, insistent drops
and the mist rolls through the valley
like a veil.

The face of the escarpment,
the trees, our neighbour's house and stables,
in a mystery of grey and white,
soften like a bride,

in modesty and grace
floats ethereal and pure
the long nave of hills and sky.

Until in time the morning comes,
another sky unveiled, naked, clear,
her gorgeous gown unhooked, discarded,
the waiting, carnal, bridegroom sun.

John Egan, Sydney City FAW

MY STREET

A million frogs croak
in this swamp every summer.
A hundred brown snakes
hunt them down.

Along Peckmans Road
some people live ensconced
in their domestic bunkers
never noticing the place
its moods, its ghosts.
For some, it is just a place to live.
Then there are the ones, like me,
who are awake to everything,
notice the seasons of the birds,
listen to the stories,
the sounds of frogs, foxes and dogs
watch anxiously for fires.

We see the specialness,
the hidden refuges of the hermits.
Breathe deeply, embrace the cold,
revel in the fogs.

Sometimes, I listen for the sky-spirit,
Midje. That one says:

"This land is stronger than people.
When all fellers gone, it will be here."

Kerry Healey-Binns, Blue Mountains FAW

ECHOES

When nights are long and leaves turn gold and fall
And even simple things become some pleasure
Then may one rose still linger bold and tall
To add to winter's dreary treasure

As in the closing of each darkening day
The chapter closes, being lightly written
With time's stubborn march we must obey
And age a destiny with which we all are smitten.

Now memories of those early enterprises,
Ambitions faded, yet once strong forces grew,
Then recollections of one's youth arises
To gild the saddened life that fairly flew

Heav'n grant one constant friend may prove that flower
To cheer your day in ev'ry lonely hour

Rina Robinson, Lake Macquarie FAW

SUBMISSIONS FOR POETS VOICE

Please send your poem for consideration, to:

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

Include SSAE for a response.

Or, send a Word attachment by email to
David Berger <davit2@hotmail.com>.

Please provide your name and your FAW branch.

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

Literary Achievements

BONDI WRITERS [EASTERN SUBURBS FAW]

Cynthia Rowe:

tanka published in *A Hundred Gourds* 3:1 December 2013;
haiku published in *A Hundred Gourds* 3:1 December 2013;
haiku 'sundowner' 3rd Prize *Kokako* Haiku and Senryu Competition 2013, to be published *Kokako* #20;
5 haiku published in *paper wasp* 19(4) summer 2013;
3 tanka published in *paper wasp* 19(4) summer 2013;
2 tanka published in *Eucalypt* 15 2013;
haiku and 2 senryu published in *cattails* UHTS Premier Edition January 2014;
'ebbing tide' haiga published in *cattails* UHTS Premier Edition January 2014;
'star jasmine' haiku in published The Haiku Foundation haiku app;
Stone Circles, an eChapbook Award winner Snapshot Press;
'on the pine' haiku Highly Commended IHS International Haiku Competition 2013;
2 haiku published in *Windfall* Issue 2;
2013 Bernard Lionel Einbond Award for Renku Grand Prize Award: 'Early Morning Heat' published in *Frogpond* 36:3 and on HSA website.

Carol Chandler:

Short story 'The Gorge' awarded second place, Seagull Competition.

CENTRAL COAST FAW

Pat Lindsay was awarded by *The Port Stephens Examiner* Literature Award 2013, a Most Highly Commended Award for the short story 'The Spare Room' and a Commended Award for 'The Secret Drawer'.

Pat was also invited to be guest speaker at the Kariang Library Book Club where she enjoyed meeting and talking to twenty three members, all of whom are enthusiastic readers and reviewers.

EASTWOOD/HILLS FAW

Carolyn Alfonzetti:

1st Eastwood/Hills FAW haiku Assignment;
1st Eastwood/Hills FAW Book Review Assignment.

Anne Benjamin:

Poem 'Wind at Paranui' published in *Zine-West* 13;
1 tanka in *Eucalypt* 15.

Beverley George:

10 Favourite haiku selected and published on haiku NZ website;
2 tanka published *Skylark* 1:2 2013; review by Claire Everett of *Eucalypt* 14 *Skylark* 1: 2 2013 [UK];
'Across Forgotten Hills' a renga with Kent Robinson published *Ribbons* 9 (2) Fall 2013 p. 54 [US];
3 tanka from *Women's Work*, Pax Press, 2013 read on Radio National *Poetica*;
The haiku Foundation: Videoed interview of Beverley by Jim Kacian of *Red Moon Press* at haiku Aotearoa 3 [NZ] published on the Foundation's website in November 2013;

haiku and tanka published bilingually in Chinese and English on *Never Ending Story*, December 2013 [Canada];
haiku in *Blue Giraffe* #12 2013;
haiku in *still heading out*, Anthology of Australian and New Zealand haiku for *paper wasp*, 2013;
Tanka and a renga with Michelle Brock in *Ragged Edges* edited by Kathy Kituai Limestone Tanka Poets 2013;
haiku in *The Scent of Music: haiku with a touch of music* edited by Marlene Buitelaar 2013 [Netherlands];
Review of *Hazy Moon* by Satoru Kanematsu. Nagoya, Gakuhōshu, 2013;
Review of *The Prism of Mokichi* from the collected tanka of Mokichi Saito tr. by Fusako Kitamura, Reiko Nakagawa and AyaYuhki Tokyo, 2013;
Featured poet: Inaugural issue of United haiku and Tanka Society (UHTS) <www.unitedhaikuandtankasociety.com/3spotlights134.html>.

Anne Howard:

3 letters published in *Australian Doctor Weekly* Magazine.
Samantha Sirimanne Hyde:
Short story accepted for *New Asian Writing* anthology;
2 short stories (under 25 words) published in Hint Fiction anthology *Short and Sweet*;
Haiga in *cattails*;
2 haiku accepted for *Ardea*;
haiku accepted for *A Hundred Gourds*.

Alice Suttie:

Poem 'Houses' published in *Zine-West* 13.

David Terelinck:

2 tanka in *Eucalypt* 15;
1 tanka in *red lights* Vol 10, No 1;
1 tanka sequence in *red lights* Vol 10 No 1;
2 tanka in *Ribbons* Vol 9, No 2 (one of which features as selected tanka by the editor);
1 tankart on the *Skylark* journal website (Jan 2014);
1 haiku accepted for *Writing the Difficult Thing* Per Diem theme (to be published Sept 2014).

Julie Thorndyke:

3 tanka in *Gusts*;
Highly Commended, Adrian Abbot Short Story Prize;
Featured Poet on *Uneven Floor* (online journal).

EUROBODALLA FAW

Suzanne Newnham:

'Ethics of a Psychic Reading', Balboa Press July 2012;
'Psychic Ethics: Is it okay to read someone in public?', *mypsychicsearch* 14 May 2013 <www.mypsychicsearch.com/2013.05.01_arch.html>;
'Invasion of your energetic space', *mypsychicsearch* 20 Aug 2013 <www.mypsychicsearch.com/2013.08.01_arch.html>;
'The Light at the end of the tunnel', Moruya Womens and Children's Service Inc/ Ithaca Project (MW&CS) Dec 2013;
'Eighteen' Vicarious, Moruya Womens and Children's Service Inc Dec 2013.

cont. next page...

Literary Achievements

Eurobodalla

cont. from previous page

Cat Sheely:

Cat's blog and publications can be accessed on her website <www.catharinasheely.com>.

Cassandra Webb:

Kemla Saga, an epic fantasy one post at a time <lifefamilymagic.wordpress.com> and <www.cassandrawebb.com>;

Book 2 in the *Kemla Saga*, available on Amazon <tinyurl.com/amazon-kemla-saga>.

HUNTER FAW

Jan Dean and Jo Tregellis read at the Hornsby Library launch of *100 Tanka by 100 Poets* on Sunday February 16.

ISOLATED WRITERS

Rae Luckie, Ron Stevens, Doreen Bolton, Barbara Snel, Diane Fordham and Sharon Hammad had their work included in *Unlock The Writer Within*.

Heather Bird:

Her book, *I Hear You*, was published in 2013.

Doreen Bolton:

Her book, *The Gene Bank Hacking*, was published, with a launch in Port Macquarie in February;

Book Reviews of Sarah Gruen's novel, *Water For Elephants*, and Carmen Bin Laden's *The Veiled Kingdom*, in *Writers Voice* (Sept 2013).

David Campbell:

Won the 2013 FAW Marjorie Barnard Award for his short story 'The Numbers Man'.

Carolyn Cash:

Article, 'Saint Charles The Martyr' published on her blog 30 January 2014 <tinyurl.com/m75qtd6>;

Article, 'Wakey Wakey Call From The BBC!' published in *Writers Voice* (Sept 2013).

Jeremy Gadd:

Book, *Selected Poems* published Dec. 2013 by Arcadia.

Angela Johnson:

Book, *Endlessly Passing*, published by Ginninderra Press in 2013, with the book launch in February.

Vickie Walker:

Highly Commended for short story, 'The Icy Fingers of Dawn', *Port Stephens Examiner* Literary competition; Highly Commended for 'Blue Poles' in the Morrison Mentoring short story competition.

MACARTHUR FAW

Robert Bee: Astronomy article 'Jupiter joins a stellar arc' published in February issue of *Macarthur Advertiser* newspaper.

Margot Shugg: Her second book of short stories *The Irish Fisherman* was published and launched in September 2013. Copies are available on application to Margot Shugg.

MUDGE VALLEY WRITERS

Kevin Pye :

7th place, International Cowboy/Bush Poetry Competition (Serious Section) for 'The Wilgowrah Wagon'; Shortlisted, Australian Laureates' Award for book *Lawson Country*;

H/Comm Blackened Billy Competition for 'Three out of Ten';

1st Tamworth Songwriters, Lyrics Award for 'The Saddle in the Shed'.

Jill Baggett:

Short Story 'Confusion' published in *FreeXpresSion* and 'Colours' in *Beyond the Rainbow*.

NORTH ARM COVE

Bob Bush: Between November 15, 2013 and February 15, 2014 read poetry from his latest book *From A Bush Poet's Pen to Aged & Retired Persons Association, St Peters Men's Church Fellowship, Probus Club of Morpeth on Hunter, Cardiff Combined Probus, Newcastle Parkinson's Support Group, Lakeside Retirement Village, Nelson Bay Men's Probus, Woodlands Retirement Village and Adamstown Men's Probus*.

NORTH SHORE BRANCH

[FAWNS]

Valwyn Edwards Wishart:

Poem, 'Bird World' published in November issue of *Positive Words*.

Marilyn Humbert:

tanka and tanka prose published in *Skylark*; tanka published in *Eucalypt* and *Moonbathing*; haiku published in *still heading out*, Anthology of Australian and New Zealand Haiku, 2013.

Robin Brodie:

Poem 'Technology' published in *Writers Voice* Summer Edition, Dec, 2013.

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SHOALHAVEN FAW

Shona Gibson:

Commissioned to write individualised children's books.

Irene Wilkie:

Second book of poems published, *Extravagance* (Ginninderra Press) 2013;

Poem, 'Tropical' published in Australian Poetry Ltd Members' Anthology;

Poem, 'The Cicadas Are Late This Year' published in *fourW twenty four*;

Poem, 'Undersong' published in a film by The Kitchen Table Poets;

The Kitchen Table Poets, five of whom are also members of the FAW, had a successful event, organised by **Irene Wilkie** at the RhiZomic Readings in Glebe. Nine members travelled from the Shoalhaven to perform and were rewarded by a small but welcoming audience. Host, Lyn Vellins and MC Micah Horton-Hallett conducted a most entertaining evening with an open mic to follow. Surprise guests were David Musgrave and Tug Dumbly.

Dale Harcombe:

Latest novel *Streets on a Map*, published originally by Ark House Press, is now available as an E-book.;

Two poems, 'God's Breath' and 'Once Owned' included in the Poetica Christi Anthology *Taking Flight*. This anthology recently won The Caleb Poetry Prize for 2013;

Poem, 'Grief' in the recently launched Poetica Christi anthology *Exploring the Depths*.

[Apologies to Shoalhaven FAW for inadvertently omitting these achievements from December *Writers Voice*—Ed]

SUTHERLAND SHIRE FAW

Elaine Staples:

Hurstville Discovery Writers Literary Competitions:

1st for short story 'Stalking George Clooney', 2nd for short story 'Little Boy Lost' and Commended for 'Bella and the Bikies'. These were published in Hurstville Discovery Writers winning entries Anthology 2013;

Poem, 'Pink Petals' published in *Positive Words Magazine*.

Kathryn Yuen:

1st for a poem in Hurstville Discovery Writers Literary Competition, 3rd for a short story. These were published in Hurstville Discovery Writers winning entries Anthology 2013;

More exciting news coming for Kathryn resulting from her comedy writing—watch this space!

Elizabeth Klein:

Did a Master Class on Fantasy Writing, book launch and panel, Queensland Writers;

Has been doing interviews and blog tours for her *Bethloria YA* fantasy series;

Gave a workshop at last minute for *Writers Unleashed* Festival (planned speaker suddenly taken seriously ill) and did a brilliant job;

As Lizbeth Klein launched the first book of her series, *Firelight of Heaven*, published by Wombat. The next three books are already with her publisher.

Jodie Wells-Slowgrove:

Wilderness Fairies series of children's books being published by Penguin, four books already on their web page to be released soon;

Workshop article, 'The Proactive Route to Publication', *Writers Voice* Sept 2013.

Helen Armstrong:

Part of panel on self-publishing at *Writers Unleashed* writers festival 2013;

Piece on bushfires in *St George & Sutherland Shire Leader*, 19 Jan 2014;

Article on *Writers Unleashed 2013* in *Writers Voice* Dec 2013;

Some professional manuscript editing work.

Gwen Willats:

Poem, 'Father', in *Writers Voice* Sept 2013.

Lyn Sutherland:

Press Releases for Lioness Club of Sutherland Shire.

SYDNEY CITY FAW

Ava Banerjee:

Presentation of paper, 'Structuring reading for breadth, depth and life-long learning while supporting the curriculum (Years 7-10 and beyond)'. Abstracts—23rd Australian School Library Association Conference, 1 October 2013;

Article, 'An iPod Experience of Legendary Olympians', in *It's All about Learning*, SHORE Sydney Church of England Grammar School in-house publication, 2014;

Lecture, 'Promoting wide reading with the new English curriculum', presented at the State Library Day Symposium, *Literacy through the Library*, 1 March 2014.

Pip Griffin:

Poem, 'Waitete Bay (again)' in *Tamba*, the bi-annual magazine of the Goulburn Valley Writers' Group Inc., Issue No 53, Summer 2013;

Two poems, 'Observations at the King Wah Restaurant, Pahia', and 'Tommy at the Mt Maunganui Hot Pools', in *The Kookaburra Anthology*, Poetry from the Society of Women Writers Postal Magazine, 2011-2013.

Hilarie Lindsay:

Two poems, 'Believers' and 'Ebb and Flow' in *This Strange World*, the Youngstreet Poets Anthology 9, 2013.

WYONG WRITERS

Beryl Stirling has been given accreditation to judge poetry by the Australian Bush Poetry Association.

Derek Recsei won the In House prose competition with his 'Bushfire' story.

Mei-Ling Venning and **Elizabeth McVie** were joint runners-up in the same In-House prose competition.



Book Reviews

Anonymous Caller

Carol Chandler

CAROL CHANDLER is an award winning author and a writing Fellow with the FAW. Carol has been widely published in Australia as well as in North America and is Editor of *Bondi Tides*, an anthology from Bondi Writers group.

The Manuscript of this book was awarded First Commended for Best First Book in the IP Picks Awards 2012 under the working title 'Sphinx'.

I had the pleasure of attending the launch of Carol's book *Anonymous Caller* shortly before Christmas 2013.



Anonymous Caller is a collection of short stories. Carol Chandler writes in a very special way and has the ability to bring her stories to life quite vividly. There are “writers” and “Writers”—Carol is able to develop a special tension with her characters and they flow especially well. There are some very interesting and descriptive images.

Reading a book one usually comes away with some favourites and I have done with this book, but it is difficult to narrow it down to just a handful. ‘Skin’ made an impression on me as did ‘Alpha and Omega’, plunging you into the sounds and flavours of the Mediterranean.

Another factor of Carol's writing I find so interesting is her opening to a story; take for instance... *A sliver of crow's wings cut the air, harbingers of doom, reminding her of the jet stones he had given her on their honeymoon, then lonely harbour and the raucous cries of gulls wheeling and careering towards the rocks* (from ‘Alpha and Omega’).

Or from ‘Silkworm’... *As she played with the gossamer strands of the silkworm's cocoon she tasted the mulberry, running her tongue over the rich purple fruit, tiny indentations, indigo black with a sheen of crimson, succulent and glowing...*

Now if that does not keep you wanting to read on what will?

If people are interested in purchasing the book they can contact the author via the publisher's website <www.publicious.com.au>. The cost of the book including postage is \$25.

Reviewed by Trevar Langlands

Riders on the Wind

David Campbell

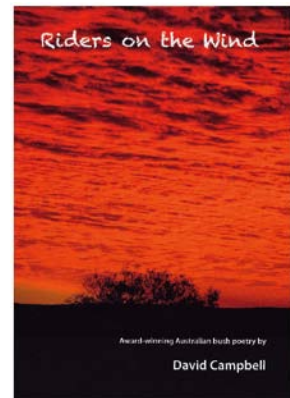
It was a great pleasure to meet up personally with our FAW Marjorie Barnard Short Story winner David Campbell, who came from Victoria to be with us at the 2013 FAW Awards Lunch in December.

David's new book of Australian bush verse is a delight to read and he took out the special Golden Gumleaf award in the Australian Bush Laureates awards at Tamworth this year. Congratulations David. The award was for his book *Riders on the Wind* and also his winning poem ‘Year for the white man's way’.

There is such variety in the book it's really difficult to single even a couple out for special mention, they are all so special. David writes with such ease... *Riders on the Wind* has us racing through the bush on horseback, bringing early memories to the fore. Love the C J Dennis ‘*So-ci-er-tee*’ and enjoyed reading it aloud. ‘Walking Away’ is very pertinent in regard to the hard times farmers are having on the land. There's lots of fun with ‘Mulligans Pub Ballad’. ‘Hannas Moon’ is such a tender and emotional poem I urge you to read it. ‘The Pollios Plague’ says what many of us think... *they'll turn up at a barbecue an scoff a charcoal snag ter show that they is one of us and not an utter dag; they'll listen, nod and frown a lot an say “I'll make a note; I'm sure that we can fix that up—if you give us yer vote!”*

How true is that!

We are taken back to the swag days in ‘Jumping the Rattler’—something younger people today would not recall but the whole feel of it is in this poem; riding the midnight trains for free, looking for work—history in a poem! A bit of licence taken with ‘Said Hanrahan’ is lots of fun; another I loved doing aloud is ‘A day at the Op'ra’—a bit of fun with C J Dennis and Doreen.



David is a Melbourne based writer of poetry (both traditional and free verse), short stories and newspaper articles. He is a Judge for Australian Bush Poets Association and does regular workshops. He is also winner of many competitions: Bronze Swagman, Ipswich Poetry Fest, Bush Lantern, Blackened Billy to name a few.

David's 104-page book *Riders on the Wind*, containing 40 award-winning poems plus photos, is available for purchase from the author's website <www.campbellwriter.com> for \$23 including postage and handling. There is also a CD containing 16 of the poems from the book; the book and CD together cost \$33 (incl. postage). An **eBook version** is also available to download via the website for \$9.99.

Alternatively, phone David on 0400 468 500 or write to him at 1 Spicer Street, Beaumaris Vic. 3193.

We are delighted to have David Campbell as one of our FAW members. Want to know how to write marvellous and alive verse? Check out David Campbell at <www.campbellwriter.com>

Reviewed by Trevar Langlands



Six-Legged Soldiers

Jeffrey A. Lockwood

After you read this book you won't be so concerned about natural disaster such as earthquakes, cyclones and the like—even global warming.

What will be of greater concern are the facts in Lockwood's book and his warning, "Expect the unexpected."

As well as a haunting read—using insects as weapons of war—it has fascinating facts about common insects. He explains their behaviours in easy to understand language. Take for instance "Thrips" females produce up to 200 offspring in their two to three week life cycle; compared to humans it equates to six billion offspring in 110 days.

And the mobility of a cockroach using its six legs as double tripods, i.e. front leg on the right side, middle leg on the left and hind leg at the rear, it can dash 50 steps per second which compares to a human running hurdles at 200 miles an hour. The tiny insects use their wings like oars (flying in the air density) as if they were swimming through it.

EW = Entomological warfare = the theme of this book. I found it strange to learn about how scientists are experimenting with the tiny firefly and the light organ at the tip of its tail. Chemicals luciferin and adenosine triphosphate are stored in all organisms. Strange names—*LUCIFERin* and *adenosine triphosphATE*.

The book poses a serious question: will science succeed in creating six-legged Guardian Angels to cancel future entomological warfare? We must hope so.

Reviewed by Doreen Bolton

The Gene Bank Hacking

Doreen Bolton

Isolated Writer, Doreen Bolton of Port Macquarie, launches her eighth book

FAW NSW Outreach Convenor, Colleen Parker launched Doreen's latest book on 11 February 2014 and provides this review of the book and launch event...

AS ONE of Doreen's many friends, I was pleased to accept the invitation to launch her latest novel.

Doreen is beginning her 'bucket list', and launching her book began the process to bring her many friends together—the first item on her list. Publishing this novel was the second item listed. Nearly 50 friends gathered at the Port Macquarie Library who enjoyed the morning tea and the early entertainment.

Doreen's friend Kathy Edwards, a bush poet, had us laughing as she unleashed three humorous poems on us. The first one, 'Revenge', covered 'how to deal with an unwanted invitation at the age of seventy-something, to move in with adult children'. Second was 'how to address God on arrival at the Pearly Gates' and last was 'Casanova' where that same aged lady believed that a younger chap at the bus stop was flattering her. It was only when their bus arrived that she noticed the mobile placed to his other ear. The performance was brilliant and lifted the level of the audience's tone to one of excitement.

Doreen's first novel *Vintage*, introduced detectives, Inspector Shore and Sgt Barnes to us. Discovering them again in this latest book was the first of many pleasures I had when reading. Inspector Shore married Opal in the first book, so she and her niece, Sandra are here too. It heightened the pleasure reading about these familiar characters investigating another mystery. This very new, very rare idea for a crime plot is original.

What research Doreen has done to write this story. Not only her effort but her comprehension of what she was learning and thereby reveals through the plot of this story.



Doreen Bolton (left) and Colleen Parker

Doreen is one of our most prolific writers in our community as she has penned seven previous memoirs and novels.

The Gene Bank Hacking covers international intrigue and the fear that it instils in those of us who don't understand this technology age yet, ensures the novel is a page turner. We've heard about stem cells, DNA, traits, genes etc but do we really understand them? Doreen obviously does, she has woven a mystery around modern science and scientific procedures—a daring challenge, one which she has conquered. When we hear that banks are hacked into, or ASIO has been compromised or even how Wikileaks operates, it is still science fiction to me, but it is reality and some of us are a bit slow catching up.

Doreen explained that for her, 'writing is therapy'. So whether we are successful writers like Doreen and publish work for others to enjoy and or learn from, or whether we just write for ourselves, it is a rewarding exercise.

If you have children, grandchildren or friends in the 25-55 age group especially, this novel would make a suitable gift because the theme is very new and thought provoking, as well as being an excellent read.

Helping Doreen with her bucket list and crossing off the first two items with her friends all gathered and her latest novel published was a morning of sheer pleasure.

Copies can be ordered through Doreen on (02) 6583 3516.

□

Writing Competitions

Closing date 31 March 2014:

POSITIVE WORDS MAGAZINE MARCH 2014 MINI-COMPETITION.

Write a poem in ten lines or less, or a short story in 100 words or less including the word – CORNFLAKES – at least once.

Entry fee is \$1.20 in unused postage stamps. The prize is a six-month (6 issues) subscription to *Positive Words Magazine*. No entry form needed. All entries must be post-marked by 31 March 2014.

Send entries to:

The Editor, Sandra James,
PO Box 798

Heathcote Vic. 3523

For further information about the magazine or competitions please email <positivewordsmagazine@live.com.au> or check the website/blog <positivewordsmagazine.wordpress.com>

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

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

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

2014 QLD BUSH POETRY PERFORMANCE CHAMPIONSHIP

in conjunction with 19TH BUNDY BUSH POETRY MUSTER to be held July 4th, 5th & 6th at Across the Waves Sports Club, Bundaberg QLD. **Performance poets** can download a separate entry form and program for this event from the ABPA website <www.abpa.org.au> (Events page).

Closing date 31 May 2014:

EASTWOOD/HILLS FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS LITERARY COMPETITION 2014

All Categories are Open Theme.

Category 1: Short Story.

Max 3,000 words
First Prize \$200, Second Prize \$100

Category 2: Poetry.

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

Category 3: Memoir.

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

Category 4: Pauline Walsh Award for Short Short Story.

Max 800 words
First Prize \$100, Second Prize \$50.
For **ENTRY FORM, full Conditions** and enquiries, contact Elizabeth Collins <elizabeth.ac3@gmail.com> or phone 9873 2941.
Entry fee: \$5 per entry or \$20 for 5 entries. Each entry must be accompanied by a signed entry form.

Two copies of each entry are required. Cheque or money orders in AUS\$ payable to: Eastwood/Hills FAW. No name to appear on manuscript. Pages to be numbered, with a short title of the entry on top or bottom of each page. Entries will be numbered for judging.

Entries not meeting all normal competition conditions will not be judged and entry fee will not be refunded.

Entries to:

Competition Secretary,
Eastwood/Hills FAW
PO Box 4663
North Rocks NSW 2151

Winners will be notified by mail and announced in *Writers Voice*. Presentation of prizes will be at an event on Saturday 2 August, 2014. Results and Judges' comments will be published on the Eastwood-Hills FAW website <hillsfaw.webs.com> as soon as possible after the presentation. Entrants with NO access to the website may enclose a business-sized SSAE for Results and Comments Sheet.

Closing date 23 May 2014:

BUNDABERG POETS' SOCIETY INC. BUSH LANTERN AWARD 2014

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

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

2nd Prize: Certificate + \$100

3rd Prize: Certificate + \$75

Entry fee \$8.00 per poem or \$20.00 for three (3) poems.

Entries must be your own work and not been placed first in a written competition prior to closing date (May 23rd, 2014) and must not have been published in any form.

An **ENTRY FORM** containing **full Conditions of Entry** can be downloaded from the Australian Bush Poets Association's website <www.abpa.org.au> (Events page). Submit poem/s, entry form and appropriate fee in a suitable envelope to:

Closing date 31 May 2014:

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

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

Ballad to be written in perfect rhyme and metre, with maximum 80 lines, and an Australian bush theme.
First Prize: \$100 plus a trophy and certificate
Certificates awarded for Highly Commended and Commended entries.
For **ENTRY FORM, full Conditions** and enquiries, contact Elizabeth Collins <elizabeth.ac3@gmail.com> or phone 9873 2941.

Entry fee: \$5 per entry. Each entry must be accompanied by a signed entry form. *Two* copies of each entry are required. Cheque or money orders in AUS\$ payable to: Eastwood/Hills FAW.

No name to appear on manuscript. Pages to be numbered with a short title of the entry on top or bottom of each page. Entries to be in English, the original unpublished work of the entrant and not to have won a cash prize in another competition.

Entries to:

Competition Secretary, Boree Log
Eastwood/Hills FAW
PO Box 4663
North Rocks NSW 2151

The winner will be notified by phone and published in *The Australian Bush Poets' Association Newsletter* and *Writers Voice*. Presentation of prize will be at an event on 2 August, 2014. Results and Judges' comments will be published on the Eastwood-Hills FAW website <hillsfaw.webs.com> as soon as possible after the presentation.

Entrants with NO access to the website may enclose a business-sized SSAE for Results and Comments Sheet.

Closing date 30 June 2014:

FAWNS VIBRANT VERSE POETRY COMPETITION 2014

Pique our interest with your poetry

Category A: Free verse, open style, open theme.

Category B: Traditional, rhymed or structured verse, open style, open theme.

The same conditions apply for both categories. Maximum 60 lines.

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

Entry fee: \$5 per poem. Cheques or money/postal order should be made out to Fellowship of Australian Writers North Shore Branch, or entry fees can be paid by direct deposit to Fellowship of Australian Writers BSB 082 289, Account No. 50667 2584.

No entry form required, but a separate cover sheet should be attached for each entry, containing

NORMAL COMPETITION CONDITIONS

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

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

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

title, category (A or B), line count, name, address, telephone number, and email address (where applicable), and details of payment if made by direct deposit. Title and text only to appear on manuscript. Entries must be typed, single-spaced, on one sided of A4 paper, 12 pt font, no fancy fonts, bold, clipart or decorations of any kind. No email entries will be accepted.

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. Entries that flout this rule will be disqualified.

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
5 Clement Street
STRATHFIELD SOUTH NSW 2136
Enclose SSAE for results and judges' report.

For further information, email <fawnorthshore@gmail.com>

Results will be posted on the FAWNS

website <<http://sites.google.com/site/fawnorthshoreregional/>> by Friday 15 August, 2014.

Closing date 14 July 2014:

ALL POETRY COMPETITION

Australia-wide.

No entry form required.

A competition for all genres of original, unpublished poetry, 14–40 lines written in English and poem(s) not to have won a cash prize in any other competition.

First Prize: \$200. Second Prize: \$100. Third Prize: \$60.

Winners to receive a copy of *Tangents*, poetry by The Kitchen Table Poets, cover drawing by Robert Dickerson.

Entry Fee \$7.50 per poem. Cheques or money orders made out to 'All Poetry'. Send *two* copies of each poem.

No author name on ms. Please use a cover sheet showing name of author and poem, address, phone, (e-mail). Entrants must be 18yrs or over.

Feedback comments will be forwarded to thirty or more entrants.

cont. next page...

Writing Competitions

All Poetry Competition

cont. from previous page

Include ssae for this and results (optional).

Send entries to:

All Poetry

PO Box 3268

North Nowra NSW 2541

Conducted and judged by members of The Kitchen Table Poets, Shoalhaven.

Visit <www.kitchentablepoets.com.au> (news) for information and

results. For featured poetry from the South Coast, see also <www.artsrush.com.au>

Entries can be post-marked up to and including July 14.

Closing date 30 September 2014:

FAWNS SUPER SHORT STORY COMPETITION 2014

Category A: Super Short Story.

Category B: Memoir. A memoir is defined as a memory in the writer's life of an incident, or a number of incidents relating to a single theme.

The same conditions apply for both categories. Maximum 700 words.

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

Entry fee: \$5 for each story or memoir entered. 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.

Enclose a business-size envelope SSAE if you would like a copy of the results.

No email entries will be accepted.

No entry form is required but you must attach a Cover Sheet to each story or 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 story or 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 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

5 Clement Street

STRATHFIELD SOUTH NSW 2136

For further information, email

<fawnorthshore@gmail.com>

Results will be posted on the FAWNS website <<http://sites.google.com/site/fawnorthshoreregional/>> by Friday 7 November 2014.

Closing date 30 September 2014:

SCRIBES WRITERS OPEN LITERARY COMPETITION 2014

Category A: Fictional Short Story

Category B: Memoir

(For the purposes of this competition, a memoir is defined as an incident or series of related incidents from the writer's own life. It is not a mini autobiography or an obituary.)

Open Theme. Max 1,000 words in either Category.

1st Prize \$200. 2nd Prize \$100.

Highly Commended and Commended certificates will be issued at the judge's discretion.

Entry fee: \$7 per entry, per category.

Two copies of each entry required. No email entries will be accepted.

Cover Sheet/ENTRY FORM and full Conditions of Entry available at <www.scribeswriters.com/conditions.html>

Entries must be post marked on or before the closing date. Late entries will not be considered.

Send entries with Entry Form and payment to:

Scribes Writers Open Competition

South Barwon Community Centre

33 Mt. Pleasant Road

Belmont, Victoria 3216.

Closing date 31 August 2014:

2014 FAW HILARIE LINDSAY YOUNG WRITERS

POETRY COMPETITION

for Australian SCHOOL STUDENTS

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

Section 1: Years 10, 11 & 12

(max. 60 lines). Prize: \$200

Section 2: Years 7, 8 & 9

(max. 40 lines). Prize: \$175

Section 3: Years 5 & 6

(max. 40 lines). Prize: \$175

Section 4: Year 4 and under

(max. 20 lines) Prize: \$50

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

Prizes for Sections 1, 2 & 3 will be presented at the FAW NSW Inc Annual Presentation Luncheon in November 2014. The prize for Section 4 will be presented at the winner's school. Results will be published in *Writers Voice* and on the FAW NSW website. Please download an **ENTRY FORM** from the FAW NSW website <www.fawnsw.org.au> or request one by email from the Competition Secretary <compconvenor@fawnsw.org.au>. Alternatively, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the postal address below. Entry form may be photocopied.

ENTRY FEE: \$2.00 per entry.

Cheques or money orders should be made payable to 'Fellowship Aust. Writers'. Entry Fee can also be sent electronically to the FAW NSW bank account—BSB: 082-936 Account: 172389833—please include the words "Hilarie Lindsay Award" in the message line and submit a receipt with the entry.

Send entries with *signed* Entry Form and Entry Fee to:

The Convenor,

FAW Hilarie Lindsay

Young Writers Competition

5/15 Bogan Road

BOOKER BAY NSW 2257

For more information phone 02 4341 1138 (ah only).

Closing date 30 September 2014:

THE FAW WALTER STONE AWARD 2014 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.fawnsww.org.au>.

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

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 **\$25.00 per entry**. Only one cheque or money order is required for multiple entries or fees can be sent electronically (see Entry Form for details).

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

Two copies of each manuscript are required.

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.

Normal Competition Conditions apply [see page 23]. Failure to comply with all 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.

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

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 Convenor,
FAW Walter Stone Award 2014
5/15 Bogan Road
BOOKER BAY NSW 2257

For more information, contact the FAW Competition Secretary on 02 4341 1138 (ah only) or email <compconvenor@fawnsww.org.au>.

Closing date 30 September 2014:

THE FAW JEAN STONE AWARD 2014 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.fawnsww.org.au>.

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

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 FORMS containing the **full conditions of entry** may be downloaded from the FAW NSW website <www.fawnsww.org.au> or by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the postal address below. Entry form may be photocopied.

Entry Fee is **\$10.00 per entry**. Only one cheque or money order is required for multiple entries or fees can be sent electronically (see Entry Form for details).

Two copies of each poem are required.

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

Normal Competition Conditions apply [see page 23]. Failure to comply with all 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 an engaging work of literary excellence. 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 Convenor,
FAW Jean Stone Award 2014
5/15 Bogan Road
BOOKER BAY NSW 2257

For more information, contact the FAW Competition Secretary on 02 4341 1138 (ah only) or email <compconvenor@fawnsww.org.au>.



Branch Meetings and Contacts

BANKSTOWN WRITERS

1st Saturday – 1.00 to 4.00 pm

Banksia Room,
Revesby Workers Club

Enquiries:

Carney Vaughan 4268 5383

BLUE MOUNTAINS FAW

1st Sunday – 1.45 to 4.45 pm

Springwood Court Function Room,
133 Macquarie Rd, Springwood.

Enquiries:

David Berger (Pres.) 02 4759 2438

<davitit2@hotmail.com>

PO Box 125, Springwood 2777

CENTRAL COAST FAW

3rd Sunday – 10.00 am

Gosford Hotel, 179 Mann St,
Gosford.

Enquiries:

Wanda Senamoglou (Sec.) 4333 9771

or Helen Luidens (Pres.) 4363 2627

<centralcoastfaw@live.com>

BONDI WRITERS

3rd Sunday – 2.00 pm

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

Enquiries:

Frankie Dowling 0422 090 868

PO Box 701 Bondi Junction 1355

<www.bondiwritersgroup.org.au>

EASTWOOD/HILLS FAW

1st Saturday – 1.30 pm

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

Enquiries: Philippa Holland 9456 2723

<philandmike@hotmail.com> or

Shaun Lennon (Sec.) 9876 8276

<seanlennon43@yahoo.com.au>

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

EUROBODALLA FAW

1st & 3rd Wednesdays – 10.30am

The Community Centre
Page Street, Moruya.

Enquiries: Rosie Toth 02 4473 6474

<rosieandtib@bigpond.com>

Web: <www.eurobodallawriters.org>

FOREST FAW

3rd Saturday – 2.00 pm

Forest Community Arts Centre
Darley Street, Forestville.

Enquiries:

Maggie Gowanlock 9948 3882

PO Box 248, Balgowlah NSW 2093

GREAT LAKES FAW

2nd Friday – 1.00 to 4.00 pm

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

Enquiries:

Christine Hayes 6555 9904

PO Box 47, Tuncurry NSW 2428

HUNTER FAW

1st Wednesday – 10.15am

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

Enquiries:

Eileen Dillon-Smith (Sec.) 4928 2116

or Jan Dean (Pres.) 4954 9895

KANDOS

4th Monday – 2.30 to 4.00pm

The Library, Angus Avenue,
Kandos

Enquiries:

Kath Luchetti 6379 4679

<kluchetti@bigpond.com>

LAKE MACQUARIE FAW

4th Saturday – 2.00 to 4.00pm

Multi-purpose Centre
9 Thorn Street, Toronto.

Enquiries:

Jan Mitchell (Pres.) 0429 987 195

<lakemacaw2@gmail.com>

LAMBING FLAT (YOUNG)

3rd Monday – 5.30 pm

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

Enquiries:

Mary Reeves (Pres.) 6382 7703

<thatsisterofmine@yahoo.com.au>

Branch email:

<lambingflatbranchfaw

@hotmail.com>

LIVERPOOL CREATIVE WRITERS

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

<rick@vincenti.com.au> or

Rhonda Rice (Publicity)

<ricey38@optusnet.com.au>

MACARTHUR FAW

3rd Sunday – 1.00 pm

Campbelltown RSL Club
(Jade Room), Carberry Lane.

Enquiries:

Pauline Twemlow (Sec.)

<macarthur@fawns.org.au>

Fellowship of Australian Writers NSW Inc.



ABN 59 557 152 715

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

Internet: <www.fawns.org.au>

Facebook: <www.facebook.com/FAWNSW>

ABOUT THE FAW

The aims of the FAW are:

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

Branch Meetings

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

MOOCOBOOLA FAW

3rd Thursday – 1.30 pm

Gladesville Library
Pittwater Road, Gladesville.

Enquiries: Vicki Harrold 9878 3005

PO Box 318, Hunters Hill 2110

MUDGEY VALLEY FAW

2nd Tuesday – 12 Noon

Club Mudgee,
Mortimer Street, Mudgee.

Enquiries:

Colleen O'Sullivan 6379 6902

PO BOX 356, Mudgee 2850

NORTH ARM COVE FAW

3rd Thursday – 7.00 pm

Community Centre, The Ridgeway,
North Arm Cove.

Enquiries: Maureen Kelly 4997 3237

22 Promontory Way,

North Arm Cove NSW 2324

<northarmcovefaw@live.com>

NORTH SHORE FAW

[*FAWNS*]

3rd Sunday – 1.00 pm

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

Enquiries:

Maria Encarnacao (Pres.),

35 Eyre St, Smithfield NSW 2164 or

Richard Brookton (VP) 9744 1567

<fawnorthshore@gmail.com>

Web: <sites.google.com/site/fawnorthshorerregional/>

PARRAMATTA FAW

2nd Saturday – 12.30 pm

Top Floor, Parramatta Library,
Darug Room, Civic Place,
Parramatta.

Enquiries:

Lyn Leerson (Sec.) 9639 8394

<lynleu@optusnet.com.au>

PORT MACQUARIE- HASTINGS FAW

Last Saturday – 1.00 to 4.00 pm

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

Enquiries:

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

PORT STEPHENS FAW 3rd Thursday – 10.00 am

Tomaree Library, Salamander Bay

Enquiries:

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

SHOALHAVEN FAW

2nd Saturday – 10.00 am

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

Enquiries: Liz Carter

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

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

3rd Saturday – 1.00 pm

The Henrietta Rose Room,
Library, Bowral.

Enquiries:

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

STROUD WRITERS

Fortnightly Thursdays

9.00 am to noon

Stroud Library,
Church Lane, Stroud.

Enquiries:

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

SUTHERLAND SHIRE FAW

Last Saturday – 12.30 pm

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

Enquiries:

Helen Armstrong (Pres) 9527 1525
PO Box 602, Sutherland 1499
<sutherlandshirefaw@gmail.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:

Rosemary Peters (Pres.)
0409 177 369 or Olivia Mulligan
(Sec.) 0402 091 903
<wollondillybranch.faw@
gmail.com>

WYONG WRITERS

4th Saturday – 1.30pm

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

Enquiries:

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

The Fellowship of Australian Writers

INTERSTATE BRANCHES

Victoria:

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

Tasmania:

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

Western Australia:

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

Queensland:

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

FAW ISOLATED WRITERS BRANCH

MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES:

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

MEMBERS' ACHIEVEMENTS:

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

AFFILIATION FEES:

FAW NSW Affiliation Fees are due 31 December each year.

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

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

ROUND ROBIN:

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

Please limit your submissions to:

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

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

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

Round Robin Closing Dates

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

Round Robin Submissions

POSTAL:

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

Electronic Round Robin (ERR):

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

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

FAW Members' Bookshelf

VICTORIA NORTON

purple. emerald. gold

This collection of short stories showcases Victoria's love of writing. Winning awards for her writing has encouraged her to write stories from the heart, full of truth and written with the aim to take the reader's imagination to another place. From this mix of stories, such as a teddy bear's life as Victoria's lifelong companion, one woman's attachment to her native ducks and to a rendez-vous in a French Café—you will find a story for everyone. Currently studying a Degree in Creative Writing, Victoria wants to put her High School English teacher on notice... Mrs. K, the novel is on its way! 156 pages. Available from <Amazon.com> \$11.99

BRIAN TOLAGSON

Evocative Verse

This is the first collection of rhyming verse from a new poet who started by writing songs in 1961. It is locally acclaimed and includes several competition placegetters. 72 pages. Contact the author (02) 6583 4384 or by e-mail <brian.tolagson@gmail.com>.

HEATHER BIRD

I Hear you

The story begins in the early 1950s with the lead-up to the writer becoming ill with tuberculosis. As a young woman sent from home to be isolated for two and a half years in three hospitals, the last two in the then Princess Juliana Hospital in Turramurra, NSW. Heather takes the reader into the unusual world of living with an illness that made her 'a danger to the community' and therefore excluded from life with her family at home until she had recovered. ISBN 9781922050120. Cost \$18 includes postage. Available from Heather Bird, 4a Royal Street, Chatswood NSW 2067.

MIKE ROBINSON

The Maryborough Matches

It has all been forgotten now, but it did happen. The City of Maryborough, Queensland was chosen to host an International Cricket match that would highlight the sporting prowess of the Wide Bay region. This is the real story of this important match, based on factual reports recorded in the Maryborough Chronicle in 1883, by the journalists of the time, who had never before written any cricket reports, but were more used to writing farming, domestic, political and fashion columns. This book tells how the game was organised and presented, how an English team of International Cricket Representatives found itself 17 runs for 5 wickets down against an Aussie pub team. It also tells how an English cricketer found his way, in romantic fashion, to influencing the future life of a wartime family in Tropical Queensland... maybe.

104 pages. \$15.00. Available from the author/editor Mike Robinson <mikerobo@hotmail.com> or through Eurobodalla branch of the FAW.

JEREMY GADD

Selected Poems

These *Selected Poems* are representative of a lifetime crafting and coaxing words into poems. They capture the optimism and humour associated with young adulthood, the poignant truths and observations that become apparent in maturity and reflect on the transitoriness of existence. Published by Arcadia, paperback, 108 pages. ISBN 9781925003291. \$19.95. Can be purchased online at <www.scholarly.info/book/357/>

MIKE ROBINSON

Don't Wake the Kids

The author was unwittingly given the task of being Father Christmas in the Batemans Bay region over the Christmas season of 2010. The result was that he had the most enchanting Christmas ever and this is his story. 42 pages. \$10.00. Available from the author Mike Robinson <mikerobo@hotmail.com> or through Eurobodalla branch of the FAW.

KAY ANDOS

Rocky Mountain Spirit

A social history of Kandos, NSW. This very large, hard covered book has 448 pages and 600 photos of life in a small country town. The stories are relative to everyone who lived in Australia, in a small country industrial town during the Twentieth Century. It is told by the descendants of original settlers and New Australian's stories before and after WWII. It also contains 146 genealogy trees of the 150 people interviewed for this book which celebrates the Kandos Centenary. Price \$70 plus \$15 postage. Available from Pamela O'Connor, 28 Russell Rd, Kandos NSW 2848. Phone 02 6379 4613.

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IRENE WILKIE

Extravagance

This is Irene Wilkie's second collection of poems. Throughout the 67 pages she demonstrates a delight in the natural and human world. She treats, often with a wry humour, the more serious aspects of growing older, loss and environmental concerns. There is a strong enquiry with empathy into the dilemma of humankind in the face of a vast and mindless universe, a question lightened by colour in the visual and aural image. She says, 'In the mornings, familiar, light-washed, wind-tipped things change. I walk with dawn birds, searching for the difference'. *Extravagance* has a very attractive cover by Lea Hawkins. Cost: \$22 plus postage, from Ginninderra Press, or \$24 (inc postage), from Irene Wilkie PO Box 3268 Nth Nowra 2541

PETER J. UREN

The Old Mechanic

The Old Mechanic is Peter Uren's debut novel. It tells the story of an old motorcycle mechanic who takes on an apprentice and, together, they restore a classic 1959 Norton 500cc ES2. The story takes the reader right through the process of restoring an old classic motorcycle, from rebuilding the engine to getting the bike on the road. Along the way, they maintain, repair and service many classic old British motorbikes. The book is available for sale by the author for \$14.99 plus \$8.00 postage within Australia. Contact the author on <theoldmechanic1@yahoo.com.au>. It is also available as an eBook on Kindle Reader through the Amazon website for USD\$4.99.

JOIE BLACK

Stories of Matilda Mouse

A small A5 size colour illustrated story book for children from five upward. It is a story of Matilda Mouse, her life in Australian pioneer times and Charlie her boy friend who tells of his adventures as a seafaring *ship's cook* mouse. Written and Illustrated by Joie Black, it is a fun, colourful 24 page story book which is also educational with colouring in pages at the back. ISBN 978-1922050-17-3. \$6 plus postage, obtainable from the author; phone [02] 6585 3520, or email enquires to <joie10@bigpond.com>

MARTYNA PARSONS

Through the Eyes of a Child

Sitting down with her childhood diaries and notes scribbled before, during and after World War II, Martyna has created a faithful account of the war years in Poland for an ordinary family. It is beautifully descriptive and sometimes magical as she describes her eventual escape to Italy to be reunited with her father. A captivating read.

ISBN 9780646570532. Cost \$20 plus postage. Email <martynawrites@y7mail.com>.

NOËLLE WHITE

Up Over to Down Under

The love that Peter White and Noëlle Thorne had for each other not only endured for close to fifty years but flourished despite the vast distance that separated them. Through their intimate and moving correspondence they provide us with a revealing snapshot of what it was like to live a world away from each other, him in Java and Sydney, then the Netherlands East Indies, and her in London, while making wedding arrangements and plans for a life together on the family sheep property at Murrurundi, NSW. This is a book that will make you laugh as it will also make you cry, as seen through the eyes of an Aussie bloke from the bush and his bride from post-war London, accustomed to performing in the entertainment venues of Europe. 325 pages. Contact Noëlle on 02 6555 5366.



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