

WRITERS VOICE



fawnsw.org.au

Article

WRITER'S VOICE EDITOR RESIGNS

Ken Driver

COLLEEN PARKER commissioned me back in 2005 to take over the role of Writers Voice editor from former incumbent Jeanette Doyle – now Jeanette Gilligan-Doyle. My first full edition as the new editor was Feb/ March 2006. That was over 18 YEARS ago!

Back then, the publication was all B&W and produced bi-monthly. It has since grown to become firstly, part colour, then full colour, now produced quarterly. And in 2012 we transitioned to the new logo, designed by Aeron Napper.

I have really enjoyed the role of editor, interacting and liaising with FAW branches and the various state committee people over that time, as well as 'keeping my hand in' with typesetting and layout, which I love doing. My background is in advertising, graphic design and commercial print production.

I would like to acknowledge the assistance of Derek Hammond, who has handled the print ordering and distribution of Writers Voice for many years. He has not been well and I wish him all the best for the future.

So, after 18 years as editor, it is time for me to step back from that role and give someone else the opportunity to put their 'own stamp' on the Bulletin. I am happy to pass the baton to Craig Cooper, who will be your Writers Voice contact, starting from the June 2024 Winter edition.

Craig has invaluable experience in publishing, computer programming and games development, and I wish him well in his future dealings with FAW NSW.

WEBSITE: In 2004, Colleen invited me to submit a proposal to build and manage the FAW NSW website. My proposal was accepted by the committee of the day, and I proceeded to develop the first new-look FAW website. The webmaster at that time was Barbara Simmons. Since then, there have been three iterations of the design of the site.

I am still responsible for managing and updating the website and expect to continue in that role



Left: Craig Cooper; Right: Ken Driver

for the foreseeable future.

I specially thank Colleen for her friendship and support over that time, while I wore 'two hats' – Writers Voice editor and webmaster of the FAW NSW website.

From the new editor:

I have been writing since I was a child, and have written and published several novels. I enjoy creating my worlds and selling my books at markets.

I am honoured to take up the role of editor, and look forward to working with FAW in this position.

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HOW TO CONTACT US:

PLEASE USE THE 'CONTACT US' FORM ON THE FAW NSW WEBSITE [FAWNSW.ORG.AU/CONTACT-US-2/](http://fawnsw.org.au/contact-us-2/)

PLEASE NOTE: All emails addressed to the wveditor address now go to Craig, so you can continue to use that address for your Writers Voice contributions.

Anything related to the FAW website should be sent to Ken Driver via the webmaster email address.

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QUARTERLY COPY DEADLINES:

15 AUGUST, 15 NOVEMBER, 15 FEBRUARY, and 15 MAY
for September, December, March, and June issues respectively.

FAW NSW Inc. State Council Delegates Meetings

The Executive Committee and Branch Delegates meet the first Saturday of **May** and **November** each year. Minutes are mailed to each Branch Secretary. The next meeting is November 2, 2024 (venue to be advised).

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 DEC. each year and *paid to the Branch Treasurer where a member attends meetings*. **Online banking preferred**, or cheques/money orders payable to Fellowship of Aust Writers.

Each Branch sets its own ANNUAL FEE from which the \$40 (or \$20 U21) affiliation fees are forwarded to FAW State Council for costs involved with printing and mailing *Writers Voice*, public liability insurance and administration.

PAYMENTS VIA ONLINE BANKING:

BSB: 082-936 Account: 172389833 Account name: Fellowship of Australian Writers. Please include your name as identification for payment.

ISOLATED WRITERS – \$40 pa (\$51 overseas, \$20 Youth U18)—see back page. Online banking preferred – **BSB 082-936, Account: 172389833**. If a cheque/money order is used, please make it payable to 'Fellowship of Aust Writers' and mail to **FAW State Treasurer, Rick Watkins, PO Box 690, Bowral NSW 2576**.

Writing Fellows

FAW Writing Fellows are listed here: fawnsw.org.au/membership/writing-fellows/.

The broad criteria for this class of membership, are that the applicant should have had a substantial body of work published and should normally have been a member of the FAW for at least two years. A committee of the State Council adjudicates on each application, which should be forwarded to the Registrar of Writing Fellows, FAW State Council, **4/11 Resort Road, KEW NSW 2439**. The application should:

- include \$50 fee preferably paid online **BSB 082-936, Account 172389833**, receipt for which should accompany the application; or be accompanied by a \$50.00 cheque, payable to 'Fellowship of Aust. Writers', which should be forwarded to the Registrar of Writing c/- honsecretary@fawnsw.org.au or mailed to the KEW NSW address at left.
- indicate the Branch where the applicant is currently a member and the number of years of FAW membership.
- have attached a list of published, performed or broadcast works, with dates and details of publication. Also list any literary prizes awarded, although such works may be unpublished. Unpaid contributions to newspapers etc. and self-published works (unless widely sold and acclaimed) should not be included.

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

Distinguished Service Award

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

Guidelines for assessing recommendations for Distinguished Service Awards:

- Recommendations must be the 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 – or to have served on the Branch Committee – for at least eight years.
- All recommendations to be submitted, preferably online, to the DSA Assessment Committee c/- honsecretary@fawnsw.org.au or mailed to **4/11 Resort Road, KEW NSW 2439** by 30 June 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

A FREE ISBN (one number per publication) is available to members—contact the FAW Hon. Secretary Jackie Laing honsecretary@fawnsw.org.au.

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 two chapters up to 7,000 words; \$25 (\$30 non-members) for one or two poems of no more than 60 lines each. To commence the manuscript assessment process please, **firstly**, contact the State Secretary honsecretary@fawnsw.org.au or phone ☎6559 5387 – **please do not forward your manuscript at this stage**. The Secretary will provide you with the contact details to enable you to forward the manuscript directly to the assessor.

State Council News

From the desk of the State President

THANK you for entrusting the FAW into my hands for another year everyone, I was proud to accept the Position at the conclusion of our recent AGM. I am also proud of the whole team who all put their hands up to continue the important work we started in 2023. We have some great results 'in the bag' but some more challenges ahead, but I believe we are 'up to it'.

The first thing I want to mention is the Life Membership awarded to our Vice President and Competition Convenor, Cate Plink, because her ability and patience to sustain working for ten years at this level, is quite a feat. Thank you Cate and congratulations.

I also share with you the bitter-sweet position I am feeling just now, bitter that we are losing our esteemed Editor, Ken Driver, my friend and colleague who accepted my invitation 18 years ago to take over the role as he had the skills and knowledge. We all know what a great help he has been to us, reliable, supportive and a willing tutor when necessary as well. Thank you Ken it has been a wonderful ride together. Sweet because Ken has introduced us to Craig Cooper who has taken up the challenge and is now our official Editor. Ken introduced Craig to us at the Award Luncheon and we were drawn to him immediately. I believe he has a love for poetry, so I know he is going to fit right in. Meanwhile Ken is staying as our website manager so they will be working together in many ways. Thank you to both men as we need our communication to be 100% reliable. Emails addressed to the Editor at WV has already been diverted to Craig, there is no change in what you have to do.

You will read in the AGM Minutes the work that is well



Colleen Parker

underway on the Constitution update and the Ernestine Hill Memorial Award Luncheon was a huge success as was the Rae Cerhan and Marjorie Barnard competitions. Another year of our Students' competitions was also well supported.

Each and every State committee member fulfilled their promise in pursuing competency in their various roles for which I am extremely grateful. Seniors Card Volume 10 workshops are completed and the entry submissions close on 2nd June and from what I hear, we are receiving plenty of entries.

Added to that we are looking at becoming involved in a Book Festival in November at Homebush, which we did once before where we can showcase your books. More on that from Liz, our Publicity Officer as we walk down that path.

It is with great pleasure that I announce and welcome two new administrators to assist the 2024 State committee: As mentioned earlier, Ken Driver is stepping down and our new editor is Craig Cooper and 'hot off the press' we also have a new Isolated Writers Convenor, Greg Mutton. Greg was a member of the North Arm Cove branch with Mo Kelly. Please support these two new members as they are 'stepping up' with good hearts and a desire to support us all.

In the necessity that I try to keep this report tight I extend my willingness to guide us through 2024 with support and encouragement to you all while wishing you much writing success.

Colleen

News From The Secretary's Desk

HELLO ALL, the big news this edition is the AGM and Inaugural Awards Lunch. Sadly I was unable to attend due to illness but from reports I have heard it was a great success. There will be photos and reports in this edition. I was extremely disappointed to miss the event as I was hoping to put names to faces and catch up with everyone.

My thanks to the rest of the committee for taking over my role, also Raylene Austin who read the winning ballad in my place.

My main undertaking recently has been booking people into workshops for Seniors' Stories. Over 70 writers contacted me and wished to participate. Which was very gratifying. I enjoyed talking to writers and would-be writers

and answering their questions. At the time of writing, I believe the stories were coming in thick and fast.

I know 2028 seems a long way away but the way time flies at the moment, it will be gone in the blink of an eye. This will be 100 years of FAW, quite a feat. We will need all your histories past and present so I urge all branches to start gathering together whatever they would like to go in our centenary book.

Just a reminder if you are looking for information regarding FAW first look on page 2 of the Writers Voice. If your answer is not there, I will be delighted to help you.

Happy Writing

Jackie Laing, Hon. Sec.

State Council News

A message from Patti Miller, FAW NSW Patron

FIRSTLY, MY apologies for not being at the Awards Luncheon in person. I was already booked for a library event in Bathurst for that day.

Secondly, my congratulations to all the prize-winners and to everyone who entered the competitions. It takes courage, because each time we write, we step off into the unknown. As French writer, André Gide, said: 'One does not discover new lands without consenting to lose sight of the shore for a very long time.' Each time you write you lose sight of the shore – a new world is not just being discovered, it is being created every time you sit down to write a poem or story. Winning a prize is wonderful, but each one of you has made something that didn't exist before – that is the real joy and wonder of writing.

The only real way to improve one's writing is... to write. From my experience of reading and writing, there are three things to keep in mind – all the rest can be used or put aside as necessary:

- Write with attentive awareness: whether you are writing from life or imagination, faithful observation will give truth and beauty of style.
- Write because it matters to you: this will give truth and beauty of voice.
- Write with a sense that you are making something: this will give beauty and truth of form.

Thank you and Keep Writing!

Patti Miller, BA, MA

Letter to the Editor

IHAVE received an email from John at Murderous Ink Press in the UK asking if there would be interest from Australian writers in contributing to an anthology of stories set in Australia written by Australian writers. He is thinking of also doing one based in New Zealand, or a combination of the two. I'm sure lots of people would be interested. Writers can see his publications on the website www.murderousinkpress.co.uk and contact him by email at submissions@murderousinkpress.co.uk if they wish to express interest.

Jill Bagget

Inaugural Ernestine Hill Awards Luncheon

WE WERE honored to meet for the Ernestine Hill Awards Luncheon at the Royal Automobile Club of Australia today. French inspired Macquarie room, with French ceilings, Doric columns, and art deco wood panelling. It's in the heart of the Circular Quay area, close by is the Sydney Harbor Bridge, Opera House, and ferries.

President Colleen Parker, Vice President and Competition Convenor Cate Plink, helped run the event and Liz Shaw Publicity Officer was the MC.

Speakers Colleen Parker gave a welcome and spoke about our deceased donor Rae Alison Cerhan and introduced Ernestine Hill's memory to all the members. Cate Plink announced the winning results and awards.

Treasurer/Judge Rick Watkins, Judges Pam Garfoot, Pippa Kay, and Brian Tolagson gave their relevant Judges' reports.

Rae Alison Cerhan Australiana Ballad award winner was FAW member Nola Vickery; second place Roger Chao; third Edith Speers; H. Comm. Julie Thorndyke; Comm. Colin Cooper.

Ernestine Hill award winner was Rachel Flynn, short listed Greg McFarland, Donna Picton, Ned Stephenson, and Hayley Elliott-Ryan.

Maria Isarris talked about audio books and the changes in the literature world. Special mention to Cate Plink as she was awarded her Life Membership of the Fellowship of Australian Writers at the AGM on the same day.

Liz Shaw

FAW NSW Publicity Officer



Some of the attendees at the Luncheon, held in the Macquarie Room, Royal Automobile Club of Australia.

Inaugural Ernestine Hill Awards Luncheon



AGM attendees – clockwise from left: Craig Cooper, Ken Driver, Victoria Chie, Rick Watkins, Kath Berryman, Colleen Parker (Chair), Liz Shaw, Brian Tolagson, Raylene Austin, Sandi Boyd, Cate Plink.



Cate Plink introduces short-listed entrants in the Ernestine Hill competition, L-R: Greg McFarland, Donna Picton and Ned Stephenson.



VP Cate Plink was surprised to receive her FAW Life Member badge from State President Colleen Parker, during AGM proceedings.



Colin Cooper was short-listed in the Rae Cerhan competition. Colin was unable to attend but was represented by his three sons – all poets – Chris, Matt and Ben Cooper



Treasurer Rick Watkins and FAW member Pam Garfoot (centre) present their Ernestine Hill judges' report, supported by Cate Plink. The winner (unable to attend) was Rachel Flynn for her story 'Griffith' (reprinted page 12)



Luncheon MC: Liz Shaw, FAW Publicity Officer

Nola Vickery accepts her award for the Rae Alison Cerhan Australiana Ballad competition. Her winning poem, 'Under Opal Skies' (reprinted on page 16), was read by Raylene Austin.

Branch Reports

BLUE MOUNTAINS FAW

THE RELATIONSHIP between intelligence and creativity is fascinating. So, when Denzil Jayasinghe gave us an introduction to AI and generative AI, at our March meeting, you can imagine this prompted lots of discussion about how we might engage with these tools as writers, with a caution to check any competition rules which might prohibit the use of generative AI.

Our next focus was the Seniors' Stories competition and the theme "What Made Me." After reviewing the rules and relevant dates for the competition, we looked at the elements of short story writing with emphasis on having a strong, memorable beginning and ending. We also did some brainstorming on the topic, to see if we could approach the theme in creative ways.

At our April meeting Annette Brown challenged us with a warm-up exercise inviting us to use a

made-up word, 'Xenob', in our story which prompted various interpretations.

Rosemary Baldry and Margaret Onus followed with a discussion on how to provide useful critique. Rosemary made an important point, that we generally have an idea of what kind of advice we are seeking when we ask for feedback. Margaret then described a checklist of various facets that improve our writing, which we used to critique our members' stories and to provide constructive feedback. Thanks to those who generously allowed their draft stories to be discussed in the meeting.

We were excited to have guest speaker Jan O'Loughlin conduct an interactive poetry workshop in May. By engaging in simple writing prompts and provocations, Jan showed us how poetry can make the invisible visible. We looked at various forms of poetry including Accidental, Ekphrastic, Ghost Line, Time Slip and Haiku. We certainly

had our minds opened up to a wide range of poetic possibilities!

Another development for our group is the enthusiastic support of Robyn Catchlove from 'Radio Blue Mountains 89.1FM'. She interviewed our Publicity Officer Jeanette Temesvary in April and May which was a great opportunity to promote our branch and the FAW to our community.

Thanks to members, Pat Allen, Rosemary Baldry and Margaret Onus who have taken the roles of facilitating meetings, sharing the workload. Another creative and intelligent solution keeping our branch vibrant.

Jeanette Temesvary

EASTWOOD HILLS FAW

Since the start of the year Eastwood Hills FAW has welcomed eight new members, each of whom bring various writing backgrounds and experience to our meetings and workshops. It is always great to hear fresh voices.

The February workshop on 'Memoir Writing' was led by member Cathy Jones. Twenty-two people shared their earliest memories, some from babyhood, most as young children. Emotions, feelings, and use of the senses emerged strongly in our writing exercises. We explored types of memoirs, structure, how to use sensory triggers and the all-important memory joggers. Cathy did a fabulous job in leading us to share humorous, traumatic, and poignant memories.

Our March workshop 'Unlock Your Creativity' was led by member Anne Howard who facilitated discussion and exercises that explored ways of drawing out the creative parts of our personalities to use as a catalyst to improve our



Blue Mountains Poetry Workshop. L-R: Pirie Klemmer, Monica Shannon, Rosemary Baldry, Pam Evans, Roger Reidy; Seated, Presenter Jan O'Loughlin

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Branch Reports

writing. We looked at what is creativity, as well as brainstorming and clustering as useful techniques. Using the five senses was a key tool to get us thinking about how a colour can be described using the senses. Much laughter, and outright hilarity emerged with Anne's clever exercise on writing an 'Agony Aunt' letter.

April saw us all unpacking "How to Write an Article". The workshop was ably led by our president Frances Moon who took us through key article writing steps – development of ideas, research, target audience, purpose, objective, and the importance of a strong title. Members brought along articles that resonated and explained why the article drew our interest. Frances encouraged us to make a list of interesting subjects. A vast array of fascinating ideas emerged from this exercise.

Our May workshop focused on 'Horror Story Writing' led by member Sally Lewry whose wonderful enthusiasm for the subject was infectious. Our rather fertile imaginations were put to the test to come up with gruesome scenarios to write about. Terror fiction, the supernatural and 'gross-out' stories were explored with excellent examples provided. Sally encouraged us to 'think of a bad situation, then make it worse'. Some of the ideas were quite chilling.

Linda King

FOREST FAW

As the weather cools down, our writing is heating up! We've had some wonderful achievements in the last few months, with our members sharing happy news of published work and other writing wins.

In March, we held our annual

general meeting. Once that was out of the way, Margaret Zanardo inspired us all with her 'Writing Poetry from the Heart' workshop. A graphic designer by profession, Margaret is an expert at "communicating a lot with a little," as evidenced in her new chapbook *In a Heartbeat*. The workshop covered finding your voice, using (and combining) the five senses, adding movement in poems, and how to use alliteration or light and heavy vowels to create a mood. We were then set an exercise to write a poem based on an item in our possession, which resulted in some beautiful sentiments shared by members of the group!

April saw author Pippa Kay present an insightful workshop on writing memoir. Pippa stressed the importance of thinking about audience and topic when writing a memoir - who is going to read your book and what is it really about? We then got to work to list out turning points in our lives which helped many of us find themes or common threads to build upon. Pippa suggested using timelines, maps and photos to add authenticity to setting. The workshop concluded with a fascinating discussion about honesty and perspective in a memoir, with Pippa providing valuable advice on gaining a reader's trust and being specific, and reminding us that memories are individual.

As we reflect on these two inspiring workshops, this quote seems fitting to share: "Fill your paper with the breathings of your heart." - William Wordsworth

Seetha Dodd

GOULBURN FAW

A hobbies EXPO was recently held at the Goulburn Mulwaree Library. For the 2nd year the branch of

Goulburn FAW participated, talking to attendees and handing out "Fellowship of Australian Writers" pamphlets. Approx 250 people attended the session. From last year's EXPO we picked up some new members and hope to do the same this year. Some of the enquiries we received were from people unable to meet during the day. We may have to change our meeting times to accommodate more interested people.

We are small in number but have enthusiastic members contributing at our meetings with their different genres of writing.

Christine Smith

LAKE MACQUARIE FAW

This year we have begun a new activity at our general meetings with a short 'Success Stories' segment. Members tell the group of any special achievements over the last month. Each achievement relates to their own individual writing goals, so might be as diverse as completing 1000 words of writing or completing the self-edit of chapter 1 of their book. We celebrate successes with awards.

Ellen Shelley, an accomplished local poet, led a great workshop for us in April. Ellen spoke of how her history led her to writing poetry, the rawest form of writing and one which reveals the writer's emotions. A lively discussion about the definition of poetry, in all its forms, followed.

Our members were involved in several ways with the FAW(NSW) Annual General Meeting and Awards Luncheon in Sydney. Of course, Cate Plink had a vital role as FAW(NSW) Vice President and Competition Convenor. Additionally she received a much deserved Life Member award. Sandi Boyd, our President,

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Branch Reports

was delighted to be able to attend both events. And I attended as one of those who ‘blind judged’ the Ernestine Hill Memorial Writing Competition and was delighted to be able to congratulate the shortlisted writers present, including our own Ned Stephenson.

This year our group would normally have held its biennial Alice Sinclair Writing Competition. However, we have decided to postpone it until next year, the 25th anniversary of the existence of our group. In the meantime we are focusing on planning for a Poetry High Tea, to be held in conjunction with our AGM on July 13th.

Pam Garfoot and Sandi Boyd

LAMBING FLAT YOUNG FAW

A change to our meeting format where we concentrate more on writing has enlivened and empowered our meetings. Further new members have increased our numbers. Their insights, contributions and backgrounds have added to the diversity and strength of our group. Thanks to Jeanette at Blue Mountains FAW for her suggestions and sharing how that branch functions. It was much appreciated.

Congratulations to our member Maree who won both a first and third place in the 2024 Elyne Mitchell Photo Story Awards at the ‘Man From Snowy River Bush Festival’ held at Corryong in Victoria. This festival celebrates traditional high country and bush culture. As a passionate photographer she has been able to combine her love and expertise in that field with her writing. She acknowledges the encouragement offered by other Lambing Flat members.

As the June edition of Writers

Voice goes to press we are finalising details for our 42nd Annual Writing Competition. Entries will open in July 11th and close on October 11th 2024. Entry forms will be available from July 1st 2024.

Jennifer Haynes

MUDGEY VALLEY FAW

We are currently working on a book of children’s stories which we hope to publish before Christmas if we can obtain a suitable Grant. It is proving to be a challenging learning curve needing our artistic creativity as well as writing skills. We are glad of the assistance we receive with putting our anthologies together from ICOE Press, always so helpful. So the next few months are going to be busy, and very enjoyable no doubt. It’s exciting to have another project to work on and we are hoping to run a competition for local children as well so we, or they, can read their winning stories at our book launch.

Jill Baggett

MACARTHUR FAW

On behalf of the Macarthur Branch, I would like to congratulate several people who have made valuable contributions over a period of many years to the NSW State branch of the FAW, beginning with State President, Colleen Parker, who has been awarded an OBE in honour of the tireless work she has done on behalf of members. Congratulations, Colleen.

Congratulations, also, to State Vice-President and Competition Convenor, Cate Plink, who has been made a life member of the FAW in acknowledgement of her dedication and hard work. Thank you, Cate.

We are also grateful to Ken Driver, who recently retired as editor of the flagship of the FAW, Writers Voice, just one of his many

efforts on behalf of the organisation, and wish him all the best in the future. Ken is succeeded by Craig Cooper. Thank you, Craig, for taking on this important position.

Macarthur bi-monthly writing competition continues with a one-thousand- word story entitled Betrayal. I shall follow William Faulkner’s advice: “Get it down. It may be bad but it’s the only way you can do anything worthwhile”. (I hope.)

Our representative at the State AGM which took place May 5, 2024, was Macarthur Branch President, Victoria Chie. As well as reporting on proceedings, Victoria told us that she was very impressed by the venue, the Royal Automobile Club in Macquarie Street, ‘a beautiful Art Deco building with marble columns and soaring, decorated ceilings.’ Certainly not your average garage.

Finally, I would like to tell you about a novel that I have been reading, written by an author familiar to many. This writer was born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1932 and died in London in 1961. She wrote only one novel, the rest of her output being poetry. To quote from the Encyclopaedia Britannica, “Her works express a sense of alienation and self-destruction closely tied to her personal experiences”. Though she was a wonderful writer, I would not recommend her to anyone in need of a quick cheer-up.

The writer in question is, of course, Sylvia Plath. As I read her novel, *The Bell Jar*, I was impressed by her ability to convey her psychological state in just a few words. Wondering what to do during her summer break, she writes, “plan after plan started leaping through my head like a

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Branch Reports

family of scatty rabbits.” When she goes to see a psychologist about her insomnia, she is annoyed by his pencil tapping ‘at the same point on the green blotter, like a stalled walking stick’. Needless to say, she has little patience for him.

Best wishes from the Macarthur Branch to all members of the Fellowship of Australian Writers.

Bernard Smith

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS FAW

This year has continued to be a beehive of activities for us at the Port Macquarie Hastings branch. We conducted our elections at the end of February, and most of the members in the previous executive committee came back but there were new faces.

As part of our efforts to connect and engage with the community we are making plans to have a consistent presence in the Sunrise Markets which is hosted on the premises of the Charles Sturt University by Rotary. We would use the event to showcase the books we’ve written both as individuals and as a group and invite the community to take part in some of our activities. We anticipate that being there and sharing our events with the community could attract new members to our group.

We have also been conducting a series of presentations by some of our experienced members on how to improve our writing and make it richer and more vibrant. Our member Jackie Laing led a presentation on ‘back to basics’ where she asked us a simple but poignant question: “Why do we write?” we thought about it at a deeper level and the responses that came were very insightful and thought provoking for us.

President Ian Keast also led a

session on language technique, how to make our writing colourful and memorable to hook the reader. This also spun a very engaging discussion with members sharing their experiences and gaining from each other.

Critiquing each other’s work is also a big part of our activities this year as we continue to encourage members to publish and send entries into competitions. Member Emma Gaulton has been taking part in several competitions some of which she completes within a very tight deadline of 3 days.

At our April meeting we had guests from the Dementia Australia office in Port Macquarie. They shared their vision with us to educate the community by sharing stories of people living with Dementia and creating a publication for them. They said approximately 5000 people suffer from Dementia in the Port Macquarie Hastings district and it is very important to create awareness about it within the area. As a group we are willing to collaborate with them by compiling stories with details provided by those people willing to share their observations. It is another thing we’re very much looking forward to accomplishing this year.

Pina Waba

REVESBY WRITERS FAW

Our last meeting was held on the 4th of May; subsequently we were unable to attend the Annual General Meeting, plus the Ernestine Hill Memorial Short Story Award Luncheon, for which we apologise. Unfortunately we had several members not able to attend our meeting either, a couple because of health problems, plus others with family commitments. However we did have 11 in attendance, including a new

member Eddy who read out a wonderful story we all really enjoyed.

We always have a topic which is chosen to write about, but it is up to our individual writers to make their own choice, consequently there were several totally different and very interesting topics. The actual topic was Mondayitis, which two of our writers wrote quite different and interesting variations of it. It’s amazing how everyone looks upon one subject in a totally different way. That is the beauty of writing, how individuals are be it male or female, that have a different aspect on looking at topics or subjects in their own way. Isn’t that what writing is about?

The topic for our next meeting chosen is “Prejudice” look how well Jane Austen did with her novel? We will have to wait and see what happens! As Simon says “Keep writing, all writers, that’s what we are in our group for”.

We would like to thank all the Committee Members of the FAW and of the Writers Voice for all their dedication and hard work in keeping our writers going especially Colleen Parker, Cate Plink, Ken Driver and all the other hard working members of the FAW and Writers Voice. THANK YOU.

Shirley Galloway

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS FAW

In February, Kathryn Litchfield, Paula Goh and Uta Purcell attending the Seniors Expo to promote FAW and writing. The AGM and March meeting were well attended with 18 members and 2 visitors. Outgoing president, Kathryn thanked committee members for their work during the past year. Brian Haydon took over as Presiding Officer for the election of the 2024-25

Cont. next page...

Branch Reports



Senior's Expo 2024. L-R: Paula Goh, Katherine Litchfield.

committee as below.

President: Rick Watkins

Vice President: Kathryn Litchfield

Treasurer/Members' Secretary:

Gail Leighton-Daly

Secretary: Uta Purcell

Web Manager: Greg Baker

Committee: Deb Ritchie

March also saw a celebratory inhouse launch of our anthology 'Tilting at Windmills'. There was great excitement and many copies were sold on the day. A great effort by members and a wonderful achievement to see it in print.

Kathryn Litchfield displayed her recently completed poetry book 'Looking at Life', a collection of her poetry written over many years. FAWSH is proud to celebrate publishing achievements by its members and Kathryn received many messages of congratulation.

Normal meeting activities followed, with Greg Tome's etymology challenging us, Rick's Rants, Greg B's Grammar Gripes, clearing up some finer point to help

make writing clearer and more accurate. Several members read some of their work from the anthology.

In April we were privileged to have a talk by member Pamela Waugh on building 3D characters. Using the poem 'The Walrus and the Carpenter' by Lewis Carroll 1871, to illustrate this. She stressed the importance of motivation, intention and

how these are shaped by the character's own values to achieve their goals. All this helps to make a 3D character.

'Quote of the Month' is a new item on the agenda to kick off the meeting. It was introduced by President Rick Watkins. A quote from a well-known mystery novel is read out and members need to name the novel. Rick chose a quote from 'Wuthering Heights' by Emily Bronte.

Congratulations to Rick who was elected FAWNSW treasurer at its AGM on 4 May. Rick, Kathryn, Gail and Uta represented FAWSH at the luncheon.

Many members are now volunteering to run some of our writing activities. These entertain, encourage and improve our writing skills.

Rick Watkins, Uta Purcell

WYONG FAW

The Wyong Writers Group AGM was held in April. Very exciting news: We have a brand new executive. All very new to the task, but eager to see Wyong Writers stay strong and work successfully, personally and as a group.

President: Lorraine Munt

Vice President: Mandy Byrne

Secretary: Carolyn McCulloch

Treasurer: Esther Schifano

Publicity: Glenn D'Cruz

Welfare: Maureen Trotter

The new executive is challenged by the formidable work done by the previous committees, especially the standard set by the outgoing President, Mei-Ling Venning who steered the ship for 12 years with hard work and dedication to the group. Her shoes will be very hard to fill and the Wyong Writers will always be grateful for her constant interest, information and the care she brought to our programme. Thanks to all who have assisted her over the last few years.

Our Collection of short stories has been published. Massive thanks to Sam Munt for the fantastic illustrations and to Bob Venning for all the intricate and time consuming techy work necessary to bring our stories to publication. Copies available; cost \$10.00. Available to buy by post, (+\$4.00 for P&P) within Australia. See the website for details.

Our new Scribblers group began in January and we are grateful to the Wyong Golf Club for offering us a meeting room, free of cost. This is the third Scribblers Group for Wyong Writers, so we are thrilled with that.

Lorraine Munt

Poet's Voice

Stronger Together

Every two years,
 The best castells gather in Tarragona, Spain,
 To compete without fears,
 To make the tallest and most complex human towers.

Each team spans,
 All ages and social backgrounds,
 And involves hundreds of people's plans,
 To build the best castells in the rounds.

The best castells,
 Form human towers,
 Nine or even ten stories high with bells,
 From the base.

At the base of the towers,
 The strongest men grip each other tight,
 As the tower grows and empowers,
 Smaller, lighter men, women, and children form each tier.

To complete the tower,
 A child of seven or eight,
 Clammers up the stack as a flower,
 Of human bodies to take their place at the pinnacle.

Only the physically, strongest members,
 Can hold the foundation of the tower –
 But their true power remembers,
 To enable the physically smallest to climb to the top.

They are a beautiful example,
 Of being 'stronger together'.
 A castell's success is a sample,
 Not built on an individual's performance.

It is built upon,
 The quality of the grip,
 Between the individuals everyone,
 Who can support each other.

It is only when,
 We can support each other,
 And depending on men,
 We create a winning team culture.

Debra Widdicombe, Eastwood Hills FAW

Summer Shadows

Summer shadows are very short, while winter shadows long.
 And so it just seems to me, that this just may be wrong
 In winter we need the sun, shining on our bod
 We need a dose of vitamin D, so doesn't it seem odd,
 That summer shadows being short we may get too much sun
 So I would like to say to you, when all is said and done
 Maybe he got it wrong and on the seventh day
 He should have changed the shadows round and that would be okay.

With sunburn in the summer and chilblains in the fall
 I think you will agree with me, it isn't right at all.

Jackie Laing, Port Macquarie-Hastings FAW

Silver Plane

Giant bird:
 no flap of wing
 no living cry
 only the engines' roar.
 You surge
 fast
 and faster rise
 released from gravity's mammoth grip
 in a slow ascent
 over houses, city, water
 the swell of hills.
 High above drifts of cloud
 you catch sun's unblinking eye
 tease wind, soft air
 dance loose in unfettered space
 understanding the bargain made
 between the earth and you.
 First freedom
 then the settlement
 when gravity will claim its own again.
 The silver plane turns home
 glides down
 reserving ambition for another day
 and with slow dignity
 surrenders.

Wendell Watt, Moocooboola FAW

Cockatoos

Cockatoos squawking
 tree fronds falling to the ground
 the noise of feasting
 what a banquet, what a mess

Jenny Polglase, Stroud FAW

The Vote

They stand in line
 looking ahead
 wearing silence as a shield
 their clothes drab
 alongside yellow red blue
 posters
 claiming omniscience

There is a gauntlet to be run
 hard-eyed creatures
 effusing congeniality
 offering insistence
 stamped onto paper sheets

Inside the sanctuary
 bureaucratic smoothness
 lubricates process

Simple pencil strokes –
 two letters or three –
 squarely imprisoned
 the force able
 to slash the hearts
 of our countrymen
 and the nation's face.

Greg Tome, Southern Highlands FAW

SUBMISSIONS TO POET'S VOICE:

Send your poem in the first instance to the **Poetry Editor, Brian Tolagson:**
brian.tolagson@gmail.com for review and inclusion in the next edition of *Writers Voice*. Deadlines are the beginning of February, May, August or November, for the following month's edition.

NB: Poems accepted for inclusion on this page will be deemed to have been published and therefore are not eligible for entry into FAW competitions. Members are reminded to include your name, membership number and FAW branch with all submissions to ensure that all works presented here are from financial members.

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Competition Results

Ernestine Hill
Short Story Competition 2023

WINNER:

Rachel Flynn, Fitzroy North VIC, for 'Griffith'.

**Prizewinning Story:
Ernestine Hill Competition**

Griffith

by Rachel Flynn

GRIFFITH WAS halfway up the Westgate Bridge. There was no exit and no possibility of turning around. A concrete barrier separated the eastbound from the westbound lanes, and a row of orange cones encroached from the left. Roadworks, the sign said. Griffith knew all about the statutory requirements regarding health and safety, but there was no visible work going on just here. He hunched one shoulder, then the next, and pressed his fingers into his eyeballs. A horn sounded from the black Lexus behind and he shoved his foot down hard on the brake to stop rolling backwards. Eventually the road opened in front and he cribbed ten metres forwards before it closed again.

He thought of the water a hundred metres below. How long would it take for a car to sink? How many cars were on this bridge, bumper to bumper? He crept forward another few metres and came to the top of the arch. To the left he could see the petrochemical works in Spotswood and to the right the rooftops of Yarraville; million-dollar houses trapped on Melways map 42. There were trucks streaming along Francis Street full of newly imported Christmas merchandise – landfill by Easter. Finally the road cleared, and he set forth towards the rocky plains of the west with their cheerfully named new suburbs.

He was twenty minutes late already. He knew what would happen when he got there. His siblings would be sitting up the front, Warwick with a protective hand on Mum's arm, Joy sobbing quietly into her tissue, her burly husband and son filling the pew. They'd turn around when he walked in late, the chapel door squeaking as he tried for a noiseless entry. No, maybe he'd fling it open, let it bang against the wall and bounce back. After all, the old man could hardly leap up with a swift backhander across the ears. Griffith flinched as if he was still ten years old. He put his hand to his left ear until the throbbing subsided.

He got as far as Sunshine before the traffic slowed again. There was another row of orange cones, one man with a SLOW sign, another with a STOP sign, a piece of heavy machinery and two men staring down a hole. His neighbour, Wes, was digging a hole in the backyard.

Griffith had poked his head over the fence to see what the noise was. Wes had hired a mini-digger and was operating it himself.

'It's a bunker,' he'd shouted.

Griffith knew the regulations regarding licences and earth-moving vehicles but didn't mention them on this occasion. Wes had a manic look about him. Griffith saw Missus Wes peering through their kitchen window, on the phone to someone, their daughter maybe, or that emergency squad that deals with social malcontents. The hole was like a grave but without the sharp edges and neat corners. Griffith wondered about the sewer below and the shed above, now slanting dangerously to the left.

Luckily his non-conversation with Wes had been cut short when Georgia had called through the wire door.

'Your brother's left a message on the phone. You better come and listen to it.'

And that's how they found out his father had died, or as Warwick put it, 'passed away'. They listened a couple of times before they'd realised the message had been left the Friday before. By then it was Tuesday and the funeral would be on Thursday back home. Georgia couldn't come, with such short notice, and her students anxious about their exams.

So here he was, alone in the car on the first Thursday in November, heading west to his home town. The horn of the same black Lexus startled him again and he put his foot down on the accelerator instead of the brake. The man with the SLOW sign stepped backwards and showed Griffith the length of his finger.

He was only eleven minutes late, having made up some time speeding for the last fifty kilometres. He pulled into the car park and calculated where the shade would be in an hour, then reversed into the most likely spot. The other cars were all clustered under the trees where it was shady now.

'See, Dad,' he said, 'that education wasn't entirely wasted.'

Fuckin' smartarse know-it-all, his father said, inside Griffith's head.

As the engine ticked he closed his eyes, kept perfectly still and counted backwards slowly: ten, nine, eight ... but his father's voice was relentless.

You're late, as usual. You'll be late for your own funeral.

'No, Dad, but I am late for yours. How do you like that?'

The chapel door was still open. Warwick's boy Josh was manning it, handing out programs.

'They've saved a space for you up the front, Uncle Griffith,' he said. 'Dad said to keep the door open cos you'd be late, and that there'd be no way he'd want you to miss out.'

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Griffith

cont. from previous page

‘Very thoughtful, your dad,’ said Griffith.

He glanced toward the front. Warwick was occupying the aisle seat next to Mum. Joy was on the other side of her, with Ron and young Ronnie filling the pew just like he’d thought. Warwick’s wife Lucy was behind him with their two skinny girls. Warwick turned and waved, indicating a spot next to Lucy.

‘What about you, mate?’ Griffith said to Josh.

‘I’ll be good up here,’ said Josh. He closed the door and sat down in the empty pew, spreading both arms across the back, then looked up at Griffith with that familiar family smirk. He could imagine Georgia muttering manspreading, which is how she describes men on the train on the commute home after work.

Griffith wiped his hands down his trousers. His shoes squeaked all the way up to the front, reminding him of his first wedding. That was one event he never wanted to attend, frog-marched there by the old man.

Her dad’s been round, he’d explained. You’ve been in her bed, now you can make yours and lie in it, so to speak.

He was always one for rearranging a metaphor.

The wedding didn’t go well; the marriage played out like a Carver story. Her dad paid him to leave. He hasn’t seen the kid since.

He squeezed in beside Lucy and she patted his arm.

‘Sorry about your dad,’ she said.

Griffith nodded, his dad rushing to mind as if he’d stepped back forty-five years. This particular image was of him unbuckling his belt and Mum pleading with him not to use the buckle this time.

Griffith trembled as if those welts were still red raw. He put a hand to the back of his leg, the scar still raised.

Lucy patted his arm again, perhaps imagining him to be suffering from grief.

Warwick turned around. ‘You’re late,’ he said. ‘We’ve all been waiting for—’ he checked his watch ‘—sixteen minutes now. The cleric’s got another funeral at eleven.’ He turned to the front and nodded to the funeral director, a Dickensian type with a cheerless expression and slim-fit black suit.

Griffith listened to the cleric, then to the representative of the care home, then to his brother and finally to his sister’s son, young Ronnie, and wondered if they were talking about the same bloke he remembered. It turns out the old man was an upstanding Christian, a hero who’d served his country, a great sportsman and team player, a lovely charming gentleman, the best father ever and a much-loved grandpa. Griffith lowered his head at the appropriate times along with the rest of the assembly and murmured Amen only a half-beat behind them. This was followed by some practical instructions about the

movement of the coffin and the orderly procession to the cemetery.

Griffith was required to take his share his father’s weight on his right shoulder; he and Warwick at the front, young Ronnie and Josh in the centre, Ron and one of Dad’s drinking mates at the rear. It was the same shoulder that had been dislocated that time when the old man hauled him out from behind the tank. It had developed an ache recently.

‘Probably a touch of arthritis coming on,’ the doc had said. ‘You’re a bit young, but if it’s an old injury, well ... Did you play sport as a youngster?’

‘Could call it that,’ Griffith had answered.

He could feel it now, a sharp pain surrounded by a dull ache. He imagined it to be a spot of bright red with a light switch next to it and concentrated on switching it off with his imaginary thumb.

They followed the funeral director and the cleric down the aisle while the mourners stood in their pews, possibly thinking ahead to the refreshments to come.

‘Fuckin’ keep in step,’ hissed Warwick across the coffin. ‘It’s left right, left right – right?’

The six of them made it to the door and out into the unseasonal heat then slid the coffin into the back of the hearse. The funeral director stood to one side and nodded briefly at their effort. He closed the two doors with a click then climbed into the passenger seat.

The truth came out in the car park before the hearse had even left.

‘You were always his favourite,’ Joy said.

Griffith felt obliged to query that. ‘What?’

‘It was you that got the education,’ she said. ‘And then you wasted it. All Dad’s hopes on you.’ She paused to wipe her eyes. ‘What about me? I never got a chance.’

‘Well, you did get a chance,’ Griffith said, quite reasonably he thought. ‘You could have passed your exams, instead of failing them.’

Joy’s wailing brought Ron and young Ronnie over.

‘What did’ya say to her?’ said Ron. ‘You don’t think she’s upset enough? You want to upset her more?’

Griffith wasn’t sure that these were questions, so didn’t answer them.

‘Well?’ said Ron.

‘He said it was my fault I failed my exams,’ she said.

‘Hardly fair to bring that up,’ said Ron.

‘Sorry, sorry,’ said Griffith. ‘But don’t tell me I was the favourite.’

‘Well you were.’ Warwick had tuned in to the dialogue and turned towards them. ‘Dad parading you around with your fuckin’ school report. Fuckin’ smartarse know-it-all.’

Griffith put both hands up. ‘How about we leave our childhood traumas here and see that the old man is well and truly buried.’

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Griffith*cont. from previous page*

He headed towards his car, now covered in shade. 'I'm leading the procession,' Warwick shouted after him. 'You follow me.'

Griffith steeled himself for a punch to the middle of his back like Warwick used to deliver, but he had rushed back to his car, shouting at his wife and daughters to 'fuckin get in.'

The drive to the cemetery was comparable to a state funeral. Griffith suspected that the route had been pre-determined during a conversation between Warwick and the funeral director. They took a devious set of streets that included the length of the main road, the numerous public houses where his father drank, and the golf course where he was known for being club champion for five consecutive years, and more recently, for shooting under his age. As the convoy meandered around the town, retirees paused on the footpath and took off their hats while Generation Next stared at the stream of cars with their headlights on in the middle of the day. Wage earners continued to scurry about their business, harried by responsibilities and deadlines, no time to consider death till it stalks one of their own.

The cemetery was a ten-minute drive out of town so as not to remind the living of the dead. It had been serving the local community since the gold rush, Catholics on one side and Protestants on the other. There was a small historic Chinese section, but no evidence of any diversity since. They turned into a gravelled parking area alongside a row of peppercorns. Griffith meant to wait until he'd counted ten slammed car doors, but he was only up to six when Warwick knocked on his car window.

'Wake the fuck up,' he said. 'Come on.'

To see the old man lowered into his grave should have given Griffith some closure, as his therapist put it yesterday. He wasn't sure he was getting value for money there.

They were lined up around the gaping hole like it was the opening scene of a small-budget Aussie movie. All the usual tropes were there: eucalypts, cicadas, dust, flies, glaring sunshine and gloomy shade, the possibility of a brown snake lurking among the decrepit tombstones, remnant patches of kangaroo grass, a family of watchful magpies, a sinister looking fellow (Josh) with his reflective sunglasses and a gorgeous woman (a nurse from the care home perhaps) in her cherry sundress and oversized straw hat.

From tragedy comes comedy, thought Griffith, remembering his undergraduate film studies. He looked around to see the most likely source. The cleric droned on in the usual monotone, his lacy frock slightly tattered

around the bottom. The funeral chap was standing stooped and gloomy with his hands clasped in front of him. Warwick positioned himself at the head of the grave, assuming the role of head of the family. Lucy stood to his right with the girls beside her, neither quite dressed for the occasion, their skinny legs ending in over-sized boots. Joy and Ron stood together, arms about each other, heads bowed. Griffith was opposite them with Mum clutching his arm. Josh and young Ronnie had slipped to the back, keeping their distance. Josh held his phone low in his left hand, his thumb flicking across the screen.

The other mourners were standing away from the family, but close enough to provide a Greek chorus of sorts, murmuring agreement with the cleric as required, pulling out tissues when appropriate, pulling out their car keys when the end was in sight.

Griffith stared down on the coffin, thinking of his father nailed in, resting peacefully as the cleric had suggested, his hands no longer weapons, his voice silent. He could hardly believe it. He listened intently, but there was only the sound of early cicadas and his mother's sighs.

Soon enough it was over. They had all thrown a handful of dirt onto the coffin then wandered back to their cars. The refreshments would be provided at Mum's house. Griffith wondered if he should have brought a plate. Maybe he would just offer Lucy some cash. Surely it would have fallen to her to do the honours.

Griffith took the river road; the same one he had always taken as an unlicensed teen. The curves and dips were so familiar that he fell into musing. Here was the bend where he'd found the brown dog. Two weeks he'd had him before the old man thought of a better plan. Here was the water hole where he'd spent that summer with Tina. Here was the spot where he used to take her parking. There was an old-fashioned term, he thought, parking – to take a girl parking. Still, that's what you did in those days. He thought about Tina back then – sixteen and pregnant. He'd take a different view of such a matter these days, now that he had a daughter at home. No wonder his dad took the position he did. Fuckin' come back here and I'll fuckin' shoot ya, he'd said, showing him the two barrels at the back of the wardrobe. He wondered how Tina's life had panned out. Christ, she'd be forty-six now, and the kid would be coming up for thirty, maybe with his own kids. Griffith silently wished them well but felt no eagerness to get in touch.

He was only slightly late to Mum's place, but the hot finger food was already gone, only flakes of pastry left and the stale smell of trans fats. He picked up a

cont.next page...

Griffith*cont. from previous page*

sandwich and took a bite. It might have been ham. He thought better of handing some cash to Lucy.

Everyone was standing in closed clumps: the care home people at the window, the drinking and golf mates around the table where young Ronnie was acting as bartender, Josh and the cherry sundress girl chatting on the veranda and Warwick's daughters in the yard, together but apart, both checking their social status. Griffith observed them through the window – too skinny both of them, too anxious, too all sorts of things. He imagined what Georgia would say about them – anxiety disorder, maybe an eating disorder. They were standing near the grave of the hapless brown dog, still marked by the pile of stones that Griffith had arranged, what, thirty-five years ago. He didn't want that old scene to play out in his mind just now. He forced his attention back into the room.

Warwick and Joy and their spouses were in a tight little circle with Mum. All Griffith could see were backs – creased shirts and skirts, shiny trousers and worn out shoes.

Mum turned around at last and came over to him. 'I'm sorry about your dad,' she said.

Griffith looked down at her. She was such a small woman now, shrunken, wrinkled, a stoop to her back, no colour at all left in her hair.

'I should have left him.'

'Could you have?' he asked. 'Could you have left him?'

'I did once,' she said, 'but he came and got me before I'd made it to the bus stop. Anyway, where could I have gone? No job, no money, three hungry kids and no one to offer a helping hand.'

'No need to leave now, Mum. He's gone. You've got all the money, if there is any.'

'And he liked the other two,' Mum went on. 'I couldn't take them away from their dad, could I?'

Griffith hadn't heard this story before. He'd heard the stories about how naughty he was, how he deserved it, how he was the favourite but a great disappointment with it. He'd heard all those, over again. But not the story about the old man liking the other two. He hadn't heard that before. He looked across at them, the other two – Warwick and Joy. Warwick turned then, as if he could feel Griffith's eyes on the back of his sunburnt neck.

'I should have stopped him,' Mum went on. 'I should have stepped in when he—'

Griffith nodded. He put his arm around her.

'You did once or twice, Mum. It cost you though, didn't it?'

She pulled an ancient hanky from her sleeve then and wiped at her eyes.

Griffith tightened his arm around her, surprised at

how close to the surface her bones were. He saw Warwick cross the room, dragging Lucy by the hand. He had a half smile on him, ready to say something. He had the look of the old man about him, the tilt of his chin, the muscular shoulders and chest. Lucy drooped like a rag doll he'd picked up off the floor. She looked at Griffith from behind Warwick, across his shoulder.

Griffith closed his eyes and put his hand to his forehead. He knew that look. He'd seen it on Mum's face at times when he was a kid. So, this was how it was for Lucy. Now it was Lucy who needed a helping hand. He opened his eyes and gave her a slight nod, nothing Warwick would notice. He was busy offering to oversee Mum's financial matters.

There was no urgency about the drive back. The sun was sliding towards the west now, glancing off his side mirror. Dry paddocks of brown sheep flashed by, then golden crops of canola, and occasionally a few optimistic rows of wine grapes with their fresh green leaves. He wouldn't see any orchards till he was closer to home.

The first time he'd made this trip was as a nineteen-year-old hitchhiker with all he owned in a backpack and fifty-three dollars seventy in his pocket. That trip was away from home to an unimagined future. This time it was towards home, with those suppressed memories of his bobbing up like turds off Altona Beach. He'd have to deal with them, so his therapist had said on various occasions, but for now he would just count backwards: ten, nine, eight, seven, six, five, four ...

It was Georgia on the phone.

'How'd it go?' she said. 'Is he buried?'

'Yep, dead and buried,' said Griffith. 'But Warwick's channelling him now.'

'Could have guessed that.'

'And Joy feels aggrieved cos I was his favourite.'

'Lucky for her she wasn't. Did you tell her that?'

'Nah, why ruin her misery? Anyway, I'll take the scenic route home, through Coburg – avoid the bridge. What about Wes next door? How's the hole going?'

'It collapsed,' said Georgia, 'with him in it. Up to his chest in black dirt. Any deeper and it would have been his grave.'

'Crikey!'

'I heard Missus Wes calling for help, so I felt obliged to jump the fence and dig him out with the trowel.'

'Shit eh! Lucky I dropped it there among the milk thistles.'

'Yep, and lucky I found it. And lucky she'd called the paramedics.'

'So, no bunker, next door.'

'Not this year anyway. The site has been fenced off by the health and safety squad – it's a designated hazard.'

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Griffith*cont. from previous page*

‘Thought it might be.’

There was silence for a while as Griffith navigated the entrance to the freeway. He checked for any aggressive drivers in black vehicles. There were none just yet – only family sedans and a few nomads. A third-hand Astra appeared in the next lane, its paintwork faded and blotchy. Griffith noticed the single teenage occupant with his back seat full of household goods, setting off into the future. Good luck to you, he thought.

‘Are you still there, Griffith?’ asked Georgia.

‘Yep, still here,’ he said. ‘Hands free, on Bluetooth.’

There was another pause.

‘Lucy’s in a bit of a situation with Warwick,’ he said.

‘Not surprising,’ said Georgia.

‘I’ve given her the key to our back door,’ said Griffith.

‘Righto.’

‘She might have the girls with her.’

There was a pause in the conversation. Griffith focussed on the traffic. The speed limit might have been a hundred, but a few drivers were not cognisant of that fact. They sped past him; dirt bikes swaying in trailers, loads on roof racks inexpertly strapped, a formation of bikers weaving between the cars. Organ donors Georgia might have called them.

He could almost hear her thinking, counting the beds in her head, including the fold-out couch they’d impulsively bought on spec that time, working out how not to disturb their own girl, half way through high school.

‘Might bring the dog, too,’ said Griffith. ‘Save it getting kicked.’

‘Okay, love,’ said Georgia. ‘See you soon.’

Rae Alison Cerhan

Australian Ballad Competition 2023

WINNER:

Nola Vickery, Frenchs Forest NSW, for ‘Under Opal Skies’.

**Prizewinning Ballad:
2023 Rae Alison Cerhan Competition**

Under Opal Skies

by Nola Vickery

In the sun-scorched land past Walgett, where there’s far less folk than flies
The Grawin Opal Field sprawls under endless azure skies
So dry out there – the trees chase dogs! It’s hot and harsh – windblown
It doesn’t seek the tourists and it’s pretty much unknown

Every now and then, a visitor is seen to wander in
He’s decided on a detour with his outback venturing
Rocks up in his new Pajero, complains of scratches on his car
But he’s been lured by the spell which Black Opal casts afar

As he picks his way over the mullock heaps and through the hills of rubble
He tries to blend in, but he does stand out – despite his 3-day stubble
His RM Williams boots are new – haven’t seen much action yet
And his wrap-around sunnies are more suited to the pilot of a jet!

You can tell the city slicker from the true-blue Opal bloke
Yuppies looking for a shortcut – but who won’t risk going broke
He wants a quick fix yesterday – dollar signs in his eyes
Loves the concept of making it rich – but can’t deal with those wretched flies!

You may hear tell of fortunes, but such fortunes are not made
By sighing ‘wow, that’s beautiful’ and sitting in the shade
Whilst better men than we go out and dig the cruel, hard ground
With pick ‘n shovel, mattock, spade – until the colour’s found

Backbreaking work – but when the sun strikes patch that flashes fire
There’s a wholesome reassurance which fulfils a man’s desire
With a bit o’ spit, there’s rainbows – oh, it justifies the pain
The blessing of achievement – as the cutter reveals the gain

The sun – she’s done her dash today – she’s on her downward slide
Baking the shacks and miners’ claims with her warm glow far and wide
The golden orb flirts with feathered clouds – then right before your eyes
The drama builds – she’s hit pay dirt – we’re under Opal skies

Our visitor gazed heavenward – mesmerized, he was taken aback
For there’s a quietness in the evening that the city dwellers lack
There’s a trillion stars a-sparkling in the way they used to do
Before smog and high-rise buildings cut them off from city’s view

He slept soundly that night in the miner’s hut – a humpy roofed with bark
Dreams woven by peace and beauty – in a moonscape totally stark
He was on his way next morning with a new appreciation
Of the Opal miner’s world – built on grit and determination

And when his mates ask about his trip, he shares some of what he saw
The flies, the dust, the crazy heat and the hut’s bare splintery floor
‘Gee, it sounds like Hell!’ He shakes his head – they’re puzzled by his sigh
For he’s got eternal memories now of Grawin’s Opal sky.

Writing Competitions



**Fellowship of Australian Writers
New South Wales Inc**

Closing date 31 August 2024:

HILARIE LINDSAY YOUNG WRITERS 2024 POETRY COMPETITION FOR AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL STUDENTS

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Entries are sought in the following categories:

SECTION 1: Years 10, 11 & 12	(max lines 60)	Prize \$125
SECTION 2: Years 7, 8 & 9	(max lines 40)	Prize \$90
SECTION 3: Years 5 & 6	(max lines 40)	Prize \$65
SECTION 4: Year 4 & under	(max lines 20)	Prize \$50

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

The entry fee is **\$5.00** per poem submitted.

All entries and payments should be done via the submission form on the fawns.org.au website with the entry attached where indicated as a word document.

Should an online submission not be available, students may request an entry form and payment details from compconvenor@fawns.org.au.

Entries must be student's own work, unpublished and not having won any competition at time of entry.

Normal Competition Conditions apply (*opposite page*).

**Closing date for the competition is 6pm
31st August 2024.**

Winners will be notified prior to 31st October 2024.

For any further information please contact the competition convenor, Cate Plink:

The Convenor
Hilarie Lindsay Young Writers Competition
Email compconvenor@gmail.com
Phone 0492 833 522

Closing date 31 August 2024:

JEAN STONE AWARD 2024

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

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

- The Award is for a poem or group of poems up to 60 lines.
- Entrants must be permanent residents of Australia.
- Submitted entries must not have previously been published, nor be under consideration for publication. Entries may have been entered in other competitions but not won a monetary prize.
- Multiple entries are permitted, a separate Entry Form must be submitted with each entry.
- Entry Fee is **\$15.00** per entry.
- The closing date is 6pm Saturday 31st August 2024.**
- Entries are to be submitted and paid for online, using a secure credit card payment system via the form available on the FAW website at www.fawns.org.au. The entry document can be attached before submitting (Word format only please).
- For those unable to use the online form, a separate form will be forwarded by email from compconvenor@fawns.org.au
- The author's identity must appear on the Entry Form ONLY. The author's name must NOT appear on the entry document.**
- The results, and the judge's report, will be emailed to all contestants after 31st October 2024.
- 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. Unsuccessful entries will not be returned.
- Entries must be original, creative and inspiring works which present to the audience an engaging work of literary excellence.
- The judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. There will be no individual appraisals.
- FAW NSW reserves the right not to award any prizes if, in the judge's estimation, no entries of sufficient merit are received.
- Normal Competition Conditions apply (*opposite page*).

THE AWARD

PRIZE: \$500

Enquiries:

Cate Plink, Competitions Convenor
8/15-21 Gosford Avenue
THE Entrance NSW 2261
OR email compconvenor@gmail.com
Phone 0492 833 522

Writing Competitions

Open 11 July, 2024- Closing 11 October, 2024:

LAMBING FLAT YOUNG FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS 2024 NATIONAL WRITING COMPETITION

Entries are invited for our 42nd Annual Writing Competition. In our Adult Open Section for open themed short stories of up to 1,500 words and poetry maximum 50 lines. (entry fees apply and an official entry form must accompany all entries).

Schools Section. Entries are welcome from school students in short story and poetry section (free entry for school students). Limited to one entry per section per student. Categories are Junior Primary (Years 1-2-3) Primary (Years 4-5-6) Secondary (Years 7-8-9 and 10-11-12)

Entries can be posted or emailed. All emailed entries will be acknowledged.

Entry forms, competition guidelines and information available from July 1, 2024.

Please contact Helen Auld 0408-112- 622, Jennifer Haynes 0457-903-240.

Closing date 30 June 2024:

SCRIBES WRITERS 'POETIC LICENCE' OPEN POETRY COMPETITION 2024

Style: Bush Verse

Theme: Open.

Line count 60 maximum (excluding title)

Prizes: 1st \$200 2nd \$100 Highly Commended and Commended Certificates at the judge's discretion

Entry fee: \$10. Entry via email or post. Please note all postal entries must be postmarked on or before closing date. **Please note we can no longer accept cheques. All entry fees must be via EFT.**

For full **competition details, conditions and Entry Form** please visit the Scribes Writers website and follow links to the Poetry Competition page.

www.scribeswriters.com

Closing date 28 June 2024:

2024 RD WALSH NATIONAL WRITING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT COMPETITION

The Sutherland Shire Environment Centre's 2024 RD Walshe Memorial Writing for the Environment Competition is now open. This year's topic is Through the eyes of Nature. It invites writers to write from an alternative perspective – to write as if looking at the world through the eyes of nature. The writing must, of course, consider elements related to the environment and broader sustainability concepts.

Participation is free, and there are three age categories – Under 19, 19-26 years, and Over 60 – with cash prizes of \$500 for the winner of each category. The Sutherland Shire Writers Group also offers the \$100 "Pat Strong Award for a Young Writer." Runners-up will also receive a cash prize.

Details about the competition and how to submit your entries can be found here: <https://www.ssec.org.au/grants-and-awards/rd-walshe-memorial-writing-for-the-environment-prize/>

For further media information contact Phil Smith at rephilled@hotmail.com

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.

Memoir

DANCING WITH THE 'ISTS' AND THE 'OLOGISTS'

Uta Purcell, Southern Highlands FAW

AT SENIOR social functions the conversation more often than not turns to the 'ists' and 'ologists'. This can be attributed more to the age group at the function, rather than the social event. It is what people of a certain age find fascinating as it is a path they are already walking or one they will be walking soon enough. Time to compare notes, make assessments of needs, learn from those who have already been there and have experience.

Life used to be simple. Regular monthly outings to the chemist, twice yearly visits to the dentist, an annual visit to the optometrist and the family GP. A few years later the podiatrist joins them. A physiotherapist will help with that annoying backache. Psychiatrists to help with mental issues. Just a few 'ists' to organise appointments for. A sharp eye has to be kept on the calendar to accommodate these and not miss any of them.

Next enter the 'ologist'. This a whole new level of care and usually necessitates more planning, as they tend to be further away and harder to get appointments with. The audiologist is the closest and easiest to book into. The Cardiologist, the gastroenterologist, the oncologist, the dermatologist, the psychologists and the rheumatologist are further afield and need more planning. Regular visits are now necessary to keep the body functioning. Life dances to a new rhythm and the calendar needs more days in it to accommodate this.

Counting the 'ists' and 'ologists' almost seems to be a competition necessary to hold a conversation at senior social functions. A few are needed for you to be part of the group and add to its discussion. Everyone needs 'ists' and 'ologist' to dance through life.

Throw in joint replacements, teeth implants and the work of future archaeologists and anthropologists will be very interesting. What will these 'ologists' to make of history's dances with the 'ists' and 'ologists'.

Suffix:

'ist': denote a person who practices or is concerned with something, or holds certain principles or doctrines.

'ologist': ologist a person who studies or has knowledge of a particular kind of science.

WHAT NOW?

ANOTHER WHO, WHICH, WHEN, WHY, WHAT, WHERE, HOW ADVENTURE

Greg Baker, Southern Highlands FAW

'I want the five of you to introduce yourselves,' said WHO.

'I have prepared a schedule with your time to speak.

'If WHERE decides to grace us with his presence he can talk later.

'Working backwards, we'll have WHICH, then WHY, WHEN and HOW.'

'But let's start with WHAT. Now.'

Help for Writers

José F Nodar, a member of the Isolated Writers branch of FAW NSW, is a published author with a lot of experience in all matters relating to the written word. José offers a comprehensive range of services to writers through his extensive business network, including...

- **Camden Books:** Promote your novel on Facebook, LinkedIn and NextDoor Australia, each month
- **World Book Reviews:** A cost-effective book review service
- **Quick Story Tales:** A quick and easy way to get paid for your short stories or poetry and get them published (and receive a free e-book at the end of the year!)
- **Writer Services:** Services at reasonable costs for authors, from mock-ups to videos and the rest.
- **Northport Booksellers:** A free service to newbie authors, with a request to consider a donation if the individual is happy with advice or service received.

For more information, visit José's website
<https://linktr.ee/jfnodar>.

Literary Achievements

BLUE MOUNTAINS FAW

Pat Allen, Rosemary Baldry, Pirie Klemmer and Jeanette Temesvary

Each had an untitled Tanka published in *Eucalypt: A Tanka Journal*, Issue 36, May 2024.

EASTWOOD HILLS FAW

Beverley George

Poet of the month for May 2024 TANKA TAKE HOME: 1st May, 2024 Beverley George - poet of the month (trivenihaikai.in)

Rob Scott (immediate past President of The Haiku Society) started this special edition of featured haiku with work of one of the two poets to whom the anthology was dedicated, Beverley George. <https://australianhaikusociety.org/2024/05/06/featured-haiku-under-the-same-moon-australian-haiku-anthology/>

Cathy Jones

'Happy Nights Make for Sorrowful Mornings' Commended Pauline Walsh Short Story Award 2024

Commended in Shakespeare's Style Secrets for my story 'Deconstructed Education.'

Presented Workshop on Memoir Writing on 3rd February to Eastwood/Hills FAW

Linda King

'The Melody' - Commended - Shakespeare Techniques assignment November 2023

'Jacko Climbs a Mountain' to be included in FFACT 2023 anthology Every Family Has a Story: short stories from the 2023 EM Fletcher Award

'A love/Hate Relationship with Mrs Blobby' short story - The Best of Times Short Story Comp - Highly Commended December 2023

'The Stranger' acrostic poem - Highly Commended - Unlocking Your Creativity Eastwood/Hills April 2024

Karen Lieversz

Published With or Without Trust, the second book in her Hot Cops Series.

Margaret Longhurst

1st place 'The Rescue' Eastwood/Hills Monthly comp: Shakespeare's Secrets, using rhetorical devices.

'Kentucky... Not Fried Chicken' Highly Com. Memoir Eastwood/Hills Monthly comp

'The Old Graveyard In Darkness. 2nd Place. Acrostic Poem.

Julie Thorndyke

'Grandfather's Fiddle' [poem] Highly Com. Rae Cerhan Australiana Ballad Competition

'Times Past' [tanka sequence] published in International Tanka No. 15 2024 (Japan)

Three tanka published in GUSTS no 39 (Canada)

One haiku published online in Echidna Tracks #13

Weidong Tian

One tanka published in *Eucalypt* 36

Debra Widdicombe

'The Rose Prose' [short story] 2nd place November 2023 Monthly Assignment on "Shakespeare's Style Secrets - Part 2".

Vera Zegarac

'The Last Stop' [short story] High Distinction in the Pauline Walsh Award competition 2024.

FOREST FAW

Beatrice Yell

Novel, *Rosita the Gypsy Baby*, featured in Susannah Fullerton's monthly newsletter as Book of the Month (May 2024)

Book review in Society of Women Writers NSW journal (March 2024)

Book review in Australian Bronte Assn newsletter *The Bronte Thunderer*

Two poems in *Australian Haiku* and read out at Kirribilli Community Centre in May 2024

Two tanka published in the Tanka Society of America's Journal *Ribbons*

Three stories in book four of *Spill the Beans* publication
One tanka accepted for the next issue of *Eucalypt*.

Margaret Zanardo

Chapbook, *In a Heartbeat*, published in March 2024 by BA Printing (Sydney)

Poems published for first time in this book: 'In a Heartbeat', 'Only if', 'Second Guess', 'Bouncing Boogie-Woogie', 'The Song They were Playing', 'Goodness Gracious', 'Variations on a Theme', 'In the Key of C', 'Fab Four', 'Sixty-seven', 'The Dance', 'A Merry Covid Christmas'

Conducted an interactive workshop, *Writing Poetry from the Heart*, at Forest FAW March meeting

Delivered Member Talk, *The Power of Emotion*, at Society of Women Writers, March meeting.

Heleni Sutton

Poem, 'Young Man', published in *The Mozzie* magazine (Vol. 31, Issue 5, Feb 2024)

Seetha Dodd

Short story, 'Asha and Nani Search for Words', published in *The School Magazine's* 'Blast Off' (May 2024)

Poem, 'Big bad wolf', published in *Tyger Tyger* magazine - an online journal of poems for children (May 2024)

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS FAW

Anthology, 'Tilting at Windmills' Anthology published February 2024

Kathryn Litchfield

'Looking at Life' Poetry Book published March 2024

'Nursing at St George' Article in *St George Nursing*

Literary Achievements

Magazine March 2024

Lorraine James

'Trade Fair/Feria' Short Story published in Writers Voice March 2024

Greg Baker

'Not So Hard' Drabble published in Writers Voice 2024

Greg Tome

'The Vote' included in Ginninderra Press Poetry Anthology
'Telling Australia's Truth'

LAMBING FLAT YOUNG FAW

Maree Myhill

'Early Morning' First Place 2024 Elyne Mitchell Photo Story Awards

'Mountain Beauty' Third Place 2024 Elyne Mitchell Photo Story Awards

LAKE MACQUARIE FAW

Irina Frolova

Longlisted for the Heroines Anthology (for volume 5 Global Poetry Edition), poems 'The Firebird's Feather' and 'Polunochnitsa'.

Olga Korlevic

Published her fourth children's book, *Not What You Think: DIY folding surprise book* (available <https://indigo.net.au/product/not-what-you-think-by-olga-korlevic/#page-content>).

Deanna Lang

Launched (with Steve Shipley) a website offering services for authors, on the website Inkit Publishing (<https://www.inkitpublishing.com/home-page>).

Cate Plink

Awarded Life Membership of Fellowship of Australian Writers (NSW) at FAW(NSW) Annual General Meeting.

Steve Shipley

Launched (with Deanna Lang) a website offering services for authors, on the website Inkit Publishing (<https://www.inkitpublishing.com/home-page>); commenced a blog on the same site.

Ned Stephenson

Shortlisted in the 2024 Ernestine Hill Memorial Short Story Award, short story 'Thor's Goats'.

Linda Visman

Has gathered her stories for an anthology about teaching in an indigenous school in the Northern Territory, proposed title 'Tales of the Northern Territory: Remote Teaching 1990-1994'.

MOOCOBOOLA FAW

Elizabeth Hamlin

Story: 'How to adopt a grandmother'. *Positive Words* March 2024

Story: 'Taking a chance on love'. *Positive Words* March 2024

Colin Kilduff

Biography: 'A.E.Coryers'. *Descent* March 2024

MUDGEY VALLEY FAW

Jill Baggett

Story *The Winding Trail* published in *Pink Lily Magazine*

Story *To Catch A Falling Star* *Specul8 Anthology*

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS FAW

Brian Tolagson

Poem 'Remembrance and Reflection' WV No 283 March

Colleen Parker

Meet your State Committee: Part 1. WV No 283 March

Emma Gaulton

New York Competition Midnight Short Stories - "The Millfield Murders" first round selected to participate in second round. April 2024.

ISOLATED WRITERS

Jenny England

Short Story, *The Dry*, in *Kiama Bugle*

Short Story, *The Music Box*, in *Kiama Bugle*

Short Story, *Priceless Entertainment*

100 word story, *The Perfect Man*, in *Village Observer*

Issy Jinarmo

[members **Jill Baggett (Mudgee)**, **Narelle Noppert (Wollondilly)** and **Maureen Kelly OAM, Isolated Writers**]

The Artist in Residence, *DoubleSpeak Magazine*

A New Day, *Wicked Shadow Press*

Family Connections, *Lit eZine*

A Different Shade of Green, *Aether Avenue Press*

Window on the World, *The Village Observer*

Bookshelf

FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

Tilting at Windmills

An eclectic collection of poems, short stories, plays and memoirs that are sure to delight and entertain the reader. There is something for everyone from short insightful pieces to longer works that take the reader to different worlds. It is the group's 6th Anthology.

ISBN 978-1-923038-27-1 RRP \$20 plus postage FAWSH fawshnsw@hotmail.com

KATHRYN LITCHFIELD

Looking at Life

A collection of poems written by Kathryn over many years, celebrating life, family, philosophy and nature. Kathryn's poems delight with their ability to sensitively capture the essence of her subject and bring it to life.

ISBN: 9781923038288; RRP \$20 plus postage; Kathryn Litchfield kathylitchfield@icloud.com

Bookshelf

UTA PURCELL

Fairholme

Arthur, who joined the 1915 Kangaroo Recruitment March at Goulburn, and Betty, a young trainee nurse at Fairholme Red Cross Repatriation Home Burradoo, must deal with all the hardships that the ongoing world war inflicts on them and their relationship. This historical fiction novel tells the story of personal growth and hope set in the background of “the war to end all wars”.

ISBN 978-1-923038-14-1 RRP \$20 plus postage Uta Purcell dupurcell@iinet.net.au

MUDGE VALLEY WRITERS

Footprints in the Valley

Footprints in the Valley showcases the lives and achievements of local residents. Mudgee is known as ‘the nest in the hills’. The surrounding areas are home to many folk with stories to tell. In this book nineteen locals have their stories told through interviews with Pamela Meredith and Connie Eales. Copies can be purchased for \$20 including postage. Contact Jill at j.baggett@bigpond.com

JOSÉ F. NODAR

Quick Stories & Poems

This is a collection of short stories and poems written in 2024 by thirteen diverse and talented authors from around the world, including Australia. Dive into a captivating world of emotion, imagination, and profound insight with this extraordinary collection of short stories and poetry. Each page invites you on a journey through the depths of human experience, exploring themes of love, loss, resilience, and the intricacies of the human spirit. Purchase ‘Quick Stories & Poems’ on this website: quickstorytales.online/shop/ The authors thank you for your support.

JOSÉ F. NODAR

Stories to Share with My Partner Book 5

This is a collection of short stories and poems written in 2024 as thoughts and ideas came to me. Writing has become a passion, and

FAW members:

Send details of your recently published books to
wveditor@fawns.org.au

that passion has generated over 25 stories and poems in this book that will give the reader an opportunity to spend some time reading to their partner, smile and know that good times can be shared with them. Enjoy!

Purchase e-book here: jfnodar.com.au/epub/

Purchase paperback here: jfnodar.com.au/paperbacks/

CHRIS WESTON

The Way You Kiss

Since her recent breakup Kayla has stayed away from a relationship. After relocating to another country, she begins her career as a horticulturalist near Los Angeles. She cannot believe her good fortune when she meets Jared Ruz, a rock and roll legend. Jared was badly burnt by his previous girlfriend.

Situations keep bringing them together, eventually they decide to start a relationship. The one night Jared sees Kayla kissing his neighbour, putting their future at risk. ISBN: 979-8-3694-9169-0. Price \$27.49 paperback, \$5.49 e-book. Distributed by Xlibris.

MAVIS GUNTER

Bits and Pieces

My 4th book is a compilation of all the short stories, poems and thought pieces I wrote over the years in classes and just thoughts of today. Many times I would have my hands in water or driving and the stories would come into my head and I had to stop what I was doing and write them down. Sometimes I extended them into a story and other times I left them as short pieces.

Although I have written it for mainly family and friends, people are welcome to contact me 02 4358 1453 if they wish to buy it. Price is \$6 (plus postage and handling).

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD HONOUR ROLL



FAW NSW LIFE MEMBERS

Irene Acland*
Denise Aldridge
Carolyn Alfonzetti
Patricia Allen
Ellen Ash
Gavin Austin
Barbara Aylott
Eileen Backhus*
Jill Baggett
Rosemary Baldry
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Dorothe Squires-Cooper
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Greg Tome
Frank Urban
Carney Vaughan
Mei-Ling Venning
Linda Visman
Ted Webber
Margaret Wilkinson
Margaret Young*

Elaine Burton *
Maureen Kelly OAM
Trevar Langlands *
Dr. Hilarie Lindsay *
Colleen Parker
Jean Paddison *
Peter Pike
Cate Plink
Barbara Snel
Ron Stevens *

*Deceased

Branch Meetings and Contacts

We list on this page, our branches and their contact details for members, visitors and writers keen to meet with other writers for support, critique and to develop skills. New members are particularly welcome.

BLUE MOUNTAINS FAW

1st Sunday – 1.45 to 4.45 pm

Springwood Sports Club
Enquiries: Jeanette Temesvary
Phone: 0423 908 199
91 Buena Vista Rd, Winmalee 2777
Email: temesvary.jns@gmail.com

Facebook page:

Blue Mountains Writers FAW

CANBERRA & REGION FAW

Second Sunday – 2:00 pm

The National Library of Australia (Friends' Room)
Parkes Place West, Canberra. ACT.

Enquiries: Dianne Porter (Pres.)

Email: porter.32@bigpond.com

Phone: 0428 138 503

EASTWOOD/HILLS FAW

1st Saturday – 1.30 pm

Pennant Hills Community Centre, Cnr Yarrara & Ramsay Rds, Pennant Hills

Enquiries: Frances Moon (Pres.)

Email: riaraebeam@gmail.com

or Laura Davis (Sec.) Email: lauracedee@yahoo.com.au

Web: hillsfaw.wordpress.com

EUROBODALLA FAW

1st Wednesday – 10.30 to 2pm

The Red Door Anglican Church Hall

Page St, Moruya

Enquiries: Rosie Toth

0437 627 756

Email: rosietoth102@gmail.com

Night group:

1st Monday – 6.30pm to 8.30 pm

Various homes.

Enquiries: Karen Kentwell

Karen2Kentwell@gmail.com

0406 377 148

FOREST FAW

3rd Saturday – 2.00 pm

Forest Community Arts Centre Darley Street, Forestville.

Enquiries: Helen Sutton

0414 964 336. Email:

hlnsttn@yahoo.com.au

GOULBURN FAW

Third Wednesday – 10:30am to 12:30pm

Meeting Room, Mulwaree Library 194 Bourke St, Goulburn.

Enquiries: Janice Jensen (Sec)

Email: yens3580@gmail.com

GRIFFITH RIVERINA FAW

This branch is ceasing operations.

HUNTER FAW

1st Wednesday – 10.00 am

Hudson Room of Sydney Junction Hotel, Beaumont St., Hamilton
Enquiries: Christine Brotherson (Sec.) 0412 030 427

ISOLATED WRITERS FAW

This group of writers do not meet in person but keep in contact through Greg Mutton, their Convenor, either through the state FAW website fawns.org.au or isolatedwriters@fawns.org.au (See *Isolated Writers page (back cover)*)

LAKE MACQUARIE FAW

2nd Saturday – 2.30 to 4.30pm

Toronto Multi-Purpose Centre, 9 Thorne Street, Toronto.

Enquiries:

lakemacaw2@gmail.com

Facebook: /LakeMacFAW

Web:

lakemacaw2.wordpress.com

X formerly Twitter:

[@lakemacaw2](https://twitter.com/lakemacaw2)

Instagram: [#lakemacaw2](https://www.instagram.com/lakemacaw2)

LAMBING FLAT YOUNG FAW

2nd Monday – 5.30 to 7.30pm

(Except December and January)

The Young Services Club Cloete Street, Young

Enquiries: Maree Myhill (Pres)

Phone: 0427 017 884 or

02 6382 3640

Email: lambingflatbranchfaw@hotmail.com

MACARTHUR FAW

3rd Sunday – 1.00 pm

Campbelltown RSL Club (Jade Room), Carberry Lane.

Enquiries: Victoria Chie 4862 2771

Email: vchie46@bigpond.com

MOOCOBOOLA FAW

3rd Thursday – 1.30 pm

Gladesville Library Pittwater Road, Gladesville.

Enquiries: Robert Dickens 9713 8048

Dai Fei Yang 0422 432 130

MUDGE VALLEY WRITERS FAW

1st Monday – 1.00 to 3.00 pm

[Note change of date and time]

Enquiries: Jill Baggett

0409 609 869

Web: mudgevalleywriters.wordpress.com

PARRAMATTA FAW

1st Saturday – 12.30 to 3.00pm

5 Phive, Parramatta Square, Parramatta

Enquiries: Cecilie McCarron (Sec.)

Email: qsteps15@gmail.com

PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS FAW

Last Saturday – 1.00 to 4.00pm

121 Bridge Street, Port Macquarie

Enquiries:

Ian Keast (Pres.) 0437 006 202

PO Box 67 Port Macquarie 2444

Email: iankeast74@gmail.com

PORT STEPHENS FAW

3rd Thursday – 10.00 am

Tomaree Library, Salamander Bay

Enquiries: Susan Bowen (Pres) 0410 002 828

Email: susanbowencreative@gmail.com

Web: portstephensfoaw.wordpress.com

REVESBY WRITERS FAW

1st Saturday – 1.00 to 4.00pm

Macarthur Room, Dixon Lane, Revesby
Enquiries: Shirley Galloway 9709 4117. Email:

revesbywriters@gmail.com

Web: revesbywriters.com

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

2nd Saturday – 10.00am to 1pm (Except January)

Welby Hall, Welby.

Enquiries: Uta Purcell (Sec.) 02 4862 1793

Email: fawshnsw@hotmail.com

Web: fawsh.wordpress.com

STROUD WRITERS FAW

Fortnightly Thursdays

9.00 am to 12 noon

Stroud Library, Church Lane Stroud

Enquiries:

Dianne Foster 0429 487 601

Email: stroudwriters@gmail.com

com

SUTHERLAND SHIRE FAW

Last Saturday – 12.30 to 3.30pm

Sutherland Multi-purpose Centre 123 Flora Street, Sutherland

Enquiries: Sylvia Vago (Sec.)

0402 016 883

Email: sutherlandshirefaw@gmail.com

Web: www.writersunleashed.com.au/faw-meetings

SYDNEY CITY FAW

This branch is ceasing operations.

WOLLONDILLY FAW

2nd Sunday – 1.00 pm

Enquiries: Annette Pearce (Pres.) 0432 857 236

wollondillybranch.faw@gmail.com

com

WYONG WRITERS FAW

4th Saturday – 1.30pm

Woodbury Park Community Centre 1 Woolmers Cres. (off Woodbury Park Drive), Mardi.

Enquiries: Glen D'Cruz (Publicity) 0413 291 129

glen@ozemail.com.au

Web: www.wyongwriters.org

This page has been updated as at 15 May 2024—Ed.

FAW ISOLATED WRITERS BRANCH

MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES:

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ASSISTING THE CONVENOR:

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MEMBERS' ACHIEVEMENTS:

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AFFILIATION FEES:

FAW NSW Affiliation Fees are due
31 December yearly...

Isolated Writers: \$40.00 pa
Under 21/Youth Rate: \$20.00 pa
Overseas Members: \$51.00 pa

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

At the same time, please advise the
Membership Registrar, Annette Pearce, that
you have paid. Email:
fawmembership@fawns.org.au. This will
ensure that you are included on the mailing list
to receive *Writers Voice*.

ELECTRONIC ROUND ROBIN (ERR):

The ERR is currently on hold, following the recent
passing of coordinator Brian Armour.

Fellowship of Australian Writers NSW Inc.



ABN 59 557 152 715

General correspondence: Hon. Secretary, FAW NSW Inc.
4/11 Resort Road, Kew, NSW, 2439

Email: honsecretary@fawns.org.au

Internet: www.fawns.org.au

ABOUT THE FAW

The aims of the FAW are:

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

Branch Meetings

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

INTERSTATE BRANCHES

Tasmania:

Fellowship of Australian Writers (TAS) Inc.
PO Box 234, North Hobart TAS 7002
www.fawtas.org.au

Western Australia (FAWWA):

Fellowship of Australian Writers (WA) Inc.
PO Box 6180, Swanbourne WA 6910
www.fawwa.org

Queensland (FAWQ):

Fellowship of Australian Writers Queensland
(FAWQ)
www.fawq.com.au



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