

WRITERS VOICE



fawnsw.org.au

Article

Signing Up for a Writing Course: Advantages and Disadvantages

José F. Nodar

THIS MONTH I was asked my opinion on writing courses by a fellow writer at the Fellowship of Australian Writers. The question posed gave me a time to think of the various advantages and disadvantages that a writing course might have on an individual.

I start by admitting that I have not taken a writing course since high school English class with Ms Guscio back in 1964-1968 and I do not know if my thinking through the value of a course is correct, but in any case here is my opinion.

The first advantage I can think of is the structured learning that comes inherent in such a course.

Writing courses can often provide a well-organised curriculum that guides an individual through various aspects of writing, from grammar

and style to plot development and character creation. As a novice writer, I have an idea of what should be in a story or a novel, but the question is, do I get it right?

Second great benefit is the feedback and critique you can get from the course. I imagine that the course instructor would help me identify my strengths and weaknesses and would offer me an individual path to improvement while giving me an exposure to different genres and techniques.

The third big advantage is accountability. The course will surely have deadlines and assignments typical of writing courses, which can provide motivation and a sense of accountability. If you are a procrastinator or are unable to maintain a consistent writing routine, this can be a wonderful way to put discipline into your writing strategy.

Number four advantage can be potential networking. The writing course will often connect you with other writers, other instructors, and industry professionals if they are making presentations as guest in the course. You can build a solid support group with these connections.

I am sure there might be more advantages which I cannot see off hand since, like I mentioned previously, I never attended one just as there will be disadvantages. Here are some of the main disadvantages I see.

First is the cost. Writing courses

can be expensive. I have advertisements for courses ranging from AUD\$360/year for a Masterclass to over AUD\$2,000 at Open Universities Australia. Then there is Udemy, where a six-hour course might go for AUD\$30.

Choosing an online course is, of course, one of the next disadvantages since you miss out on the in-person networking potential.

My next disadvantage, which I see for a writing course, is that they require a considerable time investment. Balancing coursework with other life responsibilities can be challenging, particularly for those with full-time jobs or family commitments.

Next, there might be a potential for limited creativity since being told that you should follow a particular style or a more formulaic approach

Continued on Page 4

IN THIS ISSUE...

State Council News	3
Branch Reports	6
Competition Results	10
Writing Competitions	11
Poet's Voice	12
Short Story - The Bigger Picture	13
Reflection by Dame Mary Gilmore	14
Literary Achievements	16
FAW Members' Bookshelf	18
Branch Meetings & Contacts	19
About the FAW	20

HOW TO CONTACT US:

**PLEASE USE THE 'CONTACT US' FORM ON THE FAW NSW WEBSITE
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 NOVEMBER, 15 FEBRUARY, 15 MAY, and 15 AUGUST
for December, March, June, and September 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: fawns.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:

a) 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@fawns.org.au or mailed to the KEW NSW address at left.

b) indicate the Branch where the applicant is currently a member and the number of years of FAW membership.

c) 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 fawns.org.au/about-us/distinguished-service-awards/.

Guidelines for assessing recommendations for Distinguished Service Awards:

1. Recommendations must be the unanimous decision of a current Branch Committee.

2. Qualifications to include the following features:

(a) Length of service as a current financial member to be at least ten (10) years.

(b) Required to have a regular attendance record at Branch Meetings.

(c) 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.

3. All recommendations to be submitted, preferably online, to the DSA Assessment Committee c/- honsecretary@fawns.org.au or mailed to **4/11 Resort Road, KEW NSW 2439** by 30 June each year.

4. 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@fawns.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@fawns.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.

WRITERS VOICE

Spring Edition No. 285 Sep. 2024 – Page 3

State Council News

From the desk of the State President

SPRING is almost here and my move from warm Port Macquarie is now complete. I am settled in Sydney and the good news is that Seniors Card Vol 10 is completed as far as FAW is concerned and the results and appropriate data is with Seniors Card now. I thank the Project Team, including our webmaster, for their huge effort this year as we received 506 submissions.

Concurrently VP Cate, as Competition Convener, has advised that Jean Stone Poetry and the HL Students poetry along with Ernestine Hill and Rae Cerhan competitions are all underway again. I love to see the competitions because they encourage and motivate our writers. Publicity is building towards our participation in the 2024 Book Fair to be held in November at the Homebush complex, where all the important Sydney fixtures are held. Access by road and train is simple. Liz will advise all branches as we get closer, along with calling in your books for sale, and stall workers over the Saturday and Sunday.

A new leadership team for Isolated Writers has been discussing ideas and plans for more member involvement and participation and the Centenary Panel for our planned History Book in 2028, is set in place and meet regularly online.

We are constantly receiving a stream of new memberships and Annette keeps that organised along with Rick, our Hon. Treasurer, whose workload is



Colleen Parker

who use the post.

My point for itemising what our State Committee members are doing is to remind everyone that they too only joined to mix with like-minded writers and develop their own skill like the rest of us, so just as the Branches have their generous committee members, the FAW must rely heavily on all these fabulous members who offer their best efforts to keep our Fellowship functioning. From where I 'sit' each and everyone is reliable, responsible and an absolute pleasure to be working alongside. Thank you for the privilege to lead you.

Colleen Parker

News from the Secretary's Desk

ALL THINGS in life wax and wane and it seems that the job of secretary is no different. The year started with the excitement of the inaugural lunch and all the preparations leading up to it. The event was a great success and I am sorry I had to miss it at the last moment.

Next came Senior Stories. Writers were booked into workshops held around NSW. This strategy clearly worked, well over 500 entries were received. These were sent out to readers who judged the stories sent to each of them. Colleen received 145 stories which she had to pare down to one hundred to appear in Senior Stories book number 10. Congratulations to all involved in this mammoth task. I have been asked by a few writers when they will hear the results. As usual the book will be launched in November at Parliament house in Sydney, all winners will receive an invitation to attend the event. There will also be a morning tea provided.

Then comes the wane, just a few enquiries from writers and a monthly zoom meeting regarding our Centenary book in 2008. We have a very keen committee who are already up and running with this project headed by Kath Berryman. They are assisted by Ken Driver our webmaster. I know 2028 seems a long time away, but with the manner in which time is flying it will seem like 3 months.

I realise from reading Branch Reports that members are still enjoying their writing and books are being printed which is very gratifying to hear.

Blue Mountains Branch are hosting a very thought-provoking workshop. Murder, Mystery and Mayhem. I would love to attend but sadly I can't leave my husband overnight.

Happy Writing to you all

Jackie Laing, Hon. Sec. FAW NSW

Article

Continued from front page

to writing, which may not suit you as an individual.

Last is the adage that things are not created equal. Writing courses are not all created equal. Instructor styles, in-person or online, can vary widely, thus the quality of instruction and feedback can also vary widely. The outcome will be you will have a poor experience which results in wasted time and resources.

Finally, deciding whether to enroll in a writing course depends on your personal goals and your finances and the time you have to put to the course. In person writing courses will provide some individuals with the structure, feedback, and community they want and can find this alone as invaluable. Others will not.

Personally, it is the cost and the time commitment which gives me the hesitation. I hope to overcome these two impediments one day and do the research which will help me become a better writer.

Let me know your thoughts on this.

Shoot me a quick email to info@jfnodar.com.au



Sydney 2024

FAW NSW will be attending

Please join us

Book Fair Australia presents a
literary festival of all genres

When:

02 Nov 2024, 10:00 AM – 03 Nov 2024, 5:00 PM

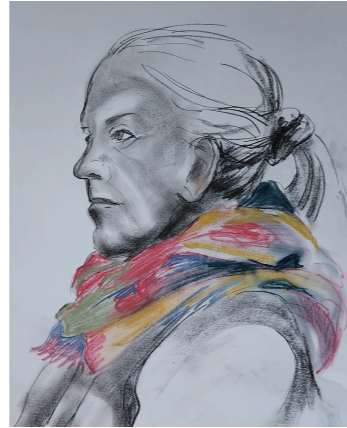
Where:

Exhibition Hall 5, Sydney Showground,
1 Showground Rd, Sydney Olympic Park NSW

Contacts:

Publicity Officer: Liz Shaw
Roster Email: liz@takemoreholidays.com
Vice President: Cate Plink
Manager for the weekend emails:
catedplink@gmail.com

Vale Joan McCarthy



Members of the Lake Macquarie Branch of FAW have learnt of the recent sad death of one of their members, Joan McCarthy. She had been a member of our group since 2021.

Joan instigated with enthusiasm the “Awe and Wonder” project we collaborated on with the Lake Macquarie Libraries in 2022, and brought several interesting pieces to our Critique sessions. Some of our members recently attended a function where Joan launched her book *The world through my eyes: an anthology on end of life* (the latest of her several books). After a full and rich life - where Joan worked variously as a milliner, a Meals-on-Wheels coordinator, a health educator in outback Australia, a model for life drawing sessions, and much more - Joan died in Switzerland utilising Voluntary Assisted Dying.

Can you help the Blue Mountains Branch?

In preparation of our history for the 100th Anniversary of FAW, the archives of the Blue Mountains FAW were searched recently.

Disappointingly, we found there were none of our past anthologies stored!

We appeal to readers for any copies they may have of past/early publications of Blue Mountains FAW and would be happy to pass on to us.

We shall be most grateful for any assistance, please.
Contact Pat Allen grannypat@bigpond.com or
02 4751 8892.

Branch Reports

BLUE MOUNTAINS FAW

LIKE IT or not, our possessions define us. They act as clues as to what shapes our lives and is meaningful to us. This became evident at our June meeting warm-up led by Chloé Steward, where we swapped our keys. No, this was not an invitation to break into our fellow members' homes, it was an opportunity to write a story about the owner based on their keys. Some amusing and imaginative stories ensued.

Later in the meeting we invited members to share their poetry work, prompted by our May speaker, Jan O'Loughlin. We enjoyed hearing new levels of poetic experimentation and useful feedback was shared.

At our July AGM we recounted the year's achievements with pride. Outgoing committee members, Deb Harris (Acting President) and Margaret Onus (Secretary), were thanked for their hard work over several years. The new committee were elected: Rosemary Baldry (Membership Secretary/Treasurer), Jeanette Temesvary (Publicity Officer), Pat Allen and Mel Jones. Assisting the committee were: Susan Robinson and Chloé Steward (Facebook Coordinators), Cheryl Anderson (Contact for State Centenary Book Steering Committee) and Pat Allen (Branch History for Centenary).

The committee were also grateful for the support of Blue Mountains Gazette for providing free publicity and publication of various articles, Radio Blue Mountains who invite us for live radio interviews and Springwood Sports Club who provide us with meeting facilities free of charge. Additionally, we

recognised the essential contributions of all our members.

After the AGM formalities, Rosemary Baldry gave a Flash Fiction presentation, setting out the essentials of brevity, imagery, the importance of creating a climax and some element of surprise. Not an easy feat, when working with 100 or 500 word limits!

Rosemary recommended competitions such as the monthly *Furious Fiction* competition from the Australian Writers' Centre and *BAD Western Sydney: The Second Case*, (crime genre). So, for our August meeting, we invited members to read their draft entries and share their challenges.

Thanks to Pat Allen (July) and Deb Harris (August) for their stimulating warm-ups.

In September, we look forward to a Crime Writing Workshop with Siobhan Mullany where we expect to be looking for more clues about characters and their motivations.

Jeanette Temesvary

CANBERRA FAW

This year has been a more relaxed year for members of our group following the major work done to publish our Anthology called “Faces, Places and Spaces” at our last meeting for the year 2023. In 2024 our focus has been on writing and writing exercises. One exercise we tried was a round robin where members wrote a section of the story and passed it on to the next person. The final story was read out at the following meeting. A collaborative story created this way was based on “Odd Socks”. Five members of our group created the story and enjoyed the process of doing so. The resultant collaborative effort has been submitted to the final version of the Canberra Christian Writers' Group Annual Anthology for 2024. Everyone has an odd socks story.

In September we are moving location, our usual meeting place, the Nan Kivell Room of the National

Cont. next page...



Blue Mountains FAW Meeting - 7th July 2024

Branch Reports

Library, will be refurbished over the next 12 months. Our new venue is O’Conner Uniting Church on the corner of Scrivener and Brigalow Streets in O,Conner, Canberra, till November 2024.

Dianne Porter

EASTWOOD HILLS FAW

Our branch committee work hard to ensure our monthly meetings and workshops are purposeful, informative, and dynamic. We are fortunate to be able to share in varied, fascinating workshops which challenge us as writers.

Assignments build upon workshop content and the feedback given by the presenter is constructive and positive.

Our June workshop saw us revisit Shakespeare to further unpack his style of writing. We delved into the complexities of iambic pentameter, the beauty of sonnets and the intertextuality in Shakespeare’s plots. Laura Davis led us to explore the use of heightened language. Laura’s passion for Shakespeare and his ‘style secrets’ was infectious, leading to some rather moving and poignant sonnets written by members for the assignment.

At our July meeting member Julie Thorndyke led us on her ‘long and winding road’ to the publication of her creative fiction children’s book *Alice’s Shoe*, the story of Alice Betteridge’s childhood as she navigated illness that left her deaf and blind. Julie shared her thoughts on point of view and how to write in close third person. Her book features this prominently and is key to the story of how a little girl prefers to explore her world without her shoes. Sensory detail and the importance of an object throughout the story were examined as crucial components that publishers look for. Julie

concluded her fascinating workshop with a timeline to publication, pitfalls and positives that led to her book launch in August 2023.

Our August meeting was held via Zoom. Many of our members joined with short-listed writers from around Australia (and one from New Zealand) to hear the announced winners of The Eastwood-Hills Annual Literary Competition. First and second place winners read out their entries. It was fabulous to hear such amazing heartfelt writing from the winners who competed in the following categories – Poetry, Bush Poetry Verse, Flash Fiction, Memoir and Short Story. We had a strong team of judges who provided constructive feedback. Our appreciation is extended to each judge as well as to our member Carolyn Alfonzetti who did a superb job coordinating the competition.

Linda King

FOREST FAW

The Forest FAW branch is going from strength to strength with great turn-outs at our meetings and some new faces too.

In June, Margaret Zanardo guided us through Three Steps to a Short Story in which we discussed techniques to make a short story shine, including tone, structure, dialogue, symbolism and setting. July saw our president, Heleni, conduct exercises on character, a topic that was of great interest to the group. In August, we had a workshop on editing by Rita Shaw. This was a fascinating look at the importance of consistency, as well as what to look out for in a first, second and third review.

With the skills acquired over the last three months, the group is now well-equipped to write a sparkling short story with wonderful

characterisation, and then edit it to perfection!

Rita’s advice to read your work as if you are seeing it for the first time echoes this quote from Zadie Smith: “The secret to editing your work is simple: you need to become its reader instead of its writer.”

Seetha Dodd

LAKE MACQUARIE FAW

In May Sandi Boyd led us through a rather madcap and fast-paced exercise in writing to prompts. Many of us were somewhat daunted by the tasks (some of which involved working in teams) but ended up being able to rise to the fun challenges, which is always encouraging.

Lake Macquarie’s Write Here Festival was again an opportunity for our group to present a panel discussion, this time on the theme of ‘Genre Hopping’. Panelists Alison Ferguson, John Franks and Kristen Mair were in conversation with Sandra Joy, touching on different genres and how readers (and book buyers) connect with them.

As always, our group continues to forge ahead with many different activities. We have begun the task of preparing for a publication to mark our 25th anniversary in 2025 – not as easy as it sounds. Although we had planned a Poetry High Tea for July this year, it was decided to postpone it until a later time.

Liane Morris’s workshop in June was something a bit different for us. Liane makes her living as a copywriter (see <https://www.lianemorris.com.au/>) and her experiences were fascinating, not only for those members who would like to be able to use their writing to support themselves. Particularly timely was Liane’s discussion of using AI to support her work.

Cont. next page...

Branch Reports

At our AGM in July I was elected once again into the position of President and Correspondence Secretary. John Franks was elected as Vice President and Minutes Secretary. George Graves was elected as Treasurer.

Pam Garfoot

LAMBING FLAT YOUNG FAW

Entries are now open for our 42nd Annual Writing Competition held in conjunction with the National Cherry Festival.

The competition was successfully launched by our local Federal Member, Michael McCormack and Hilltops Mayor Margaret Roles on July 15th at the Young Services Club. Mr McCormack spoke on his first writing competition win at age 12 through to his career in journalism and the role of writing as a politician. Mayor Roles addressed the launch from the perspective of a career English teacher. Two of our previous student prize winners were present. They were encouraged by both speakers to continue with their writing. Other messages of support were received, encouraging all writers of all ages and experience to ‘seize this opportunity to share their unique voices and stories.’ We were reminded by another message of support that whether we love to write or struggle with it ‘each ... shared something in common: they all had something to say – and a story worth telling.’

Our branch aim for this year’s competition is encouraging writers. Whether ours or one of the many others available let’s take those words to heart, put pen to paper and push the send button.

Our August meeting was addressed by Edwina Mason a journalist for on-line publication *About Regional*. Edwina described

her history and pathways in journalism from small regional papers to the Nine Network. We all joined for dinner afterwards.

Members Helen and Roz have had success in their fields of short story and screenwriting respectively. Well done.

Jennifer Haynes

MUDGEY VALLEY FAW

We are busy working on our book of children’s stories and Marilyn’s sister, Judith Kidby, is painting us some beautiful illustrations. We decided to write for the 5 to 8 year old age bracket and it’s proving to be an interesting challenge. With luck we hope to have it ready for Christmas.

Bob has a big October long weekend coming up with a concert celebrating forty years of his *Home Rule* band. Past and present members of *Home Rule* will be making guest appearances around Gulgong over the Back To Gulgong Weekend.

Jill Baggett

MACARTHUR FAW

On Sunday June 9th, Branch President, Victoria Chie, attended Wollondilly Branch for a talk by Sue Butler, a retired editor of *Macquarie Dictionary*. As a result, Victoria bought Sue’s book, ‘New Words 2023 Changes in Australian English’ in which her favourite word was ‘unalive’, a euphemism for murder or kill: ‘My mother will unalive me if I’m home late.’ Victoria said it had been a very enjoyable afternoon.

Victoria has also been busy researching our Macarthur branch history and would like to thank Narelle and Gaynor of Wollondilly FAW, who was able to assist her with a letter from 1985, listing the names of the then President, Treasurer and Secretary. Prior to

that, the early history of our group was proving difficult to trace.

On the theme of history, I recently received a reminder of how language has changed over the years. It came in the form of a local newspaper account of my mother’s 1924 wedding in Bowral, NSW, sent to me by my cousin, Lyndal, in Moss Vale: “Magnolia satin with a coronet of orange blossoms was chosen by (the bride). (Her) veil was lent to her by her sister, and she carried a charming bouquet of white and pink flowers. The sister of the groom was bridesmaid and wore a pink frock with shoulder veil and carried a bouquet of pink blossoms. The bride’s going-away frock was of pink marquisette trimmed with lace, worn with a lightweight coat, with beige accessories.” No lack of detail there.

I shall finish with a poem that the bride later wrote, entitled ‘Snapshot’.

*Pretty girls and handsome boys,
The church hall decked with flowers,
Long frilled dresses and ‘good blue suits’,
And magic, moonlit houses.*

*In my mind I see them all,
The smiles and flirty glances
And some found a heart forever true
At one of the old bush dances.
(Maureen Smith)*

Bernard Smith

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS FAW

In the Port Macquarie Hastings Branch we have continued to delve into exercises that improve our writing especially as we prepare towards our annual showcase, the stories we collate and produce in a book each year from the homework pieces that we write every month.

Cont. next page...

Branch Reports



Southern Highlands FAW 20th Anniversary Party.
Left Photo: Paula Goh, Jan Murray, and Sarah Wallace
Right Photo: Rick Watkins and Brian Haydon

We have explored how to plan suspense – a visceral fear of the outcome, and tension in writing. There were a few illustrations from the master of suspense himself, Alfred Hitchcock who said, “there is no terror in the bang, only in the anticipation of it.”

President Ian Keast challenged our creativity with an activity that required the use of objects seemingly unrelated to produce short pieces of not more than 250 words. We used a box of tissues, a pen and a phone. At the end of the exercise, we reflected on our relationship with the craft of writing – the way we write, what inspires us, our vision and how we express our imagination.

We’ve also been exploring the fascinating, or perhaps the not so fascinating world of AI, depending on the way you see it... *foe or friend?* Fellow member Brian Toglason led a presentation on the AI tools and what they offer. There

was a robust discussion on the ethics surrounding the use of AI and its possible impact on originality and the process of traditional writing as we know it. At the end of the day the word which aptly described the central argument was “Change” as AI tools are here to stay but as they evolve, we have a duty as writers to be responsible users. However, its future from what we can see now is no doubt another exercise of suspense.

Pina Waba

REVESBY WRITERS FAW

Our last meeting was held on the 3rd of August when we had 12 members in attendance, including two new ones whom we were happy to include in our Writers Group. One is Witt Elk who read an excellent story for his first meeting with our group.

Our President, John Coyne spent a couple of weeks in Hospital after surgery and we all would like to wish him a speedy recovery.

Fortunately Simon Kaddissi came back to help us out in John’s absence, for which we would like to thank him very much for standing in as President.

We now have two new members and are looking forward to catching up with them at our next meeting on the 7th September in our usual venue being the Macarthur Room, 12 Dixon Lane, Revesby, at 1.00pm.

One new member being Pitt Elk, who read out an excellent story for all our members to listen to. He received excellent applause from our members being

approximately 12 in attendance. We have a different topic each month, and then hopefully have our book published at the end of the year which makes a good Christmas gift for family and friends.

The topic for our September meeting chosen early this year is “He or She Walked through the Door.” However, if our writers have their own topic they wish to write about it is optional.

Would like to thank all the Committee Members of the F.A.W. for their hard work throughout the year, also for publishing the Writers Voice. Our best wishes to you all and our grateful thanks!

Shirley Galloway

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS FAW

Interest in FAWSH membership continues to grow and we welcomed Bonnie, Natasha, Sean, Jacob and Meg all very keen writers,

Cont. next page...

Branch Reports

who visited in April, June, July and August respectively. It is the active involvement and volunteering to run activities by members that make the meetings so enjoyable.

June saw six members present a piece of their written work and fourteen respond to the writing prompt ‘imagination’ supplied by Brian using exactly 50 words. Rick’s unseen 10minute writing exercise on adding emotion into a piece to make characters real produced a wonderful variety of responses. This time it was the emotions of ‘argument and anger’ which followed on from the previous one of ‘love and affection’.

FAWSH celebrated its 20th anniversary at the July meeting, with twenty members and four visitors in attendance. Most dressed up for the occasion to add to the party atmosphere. Jennie shared the ‘Quote of the Month’ from “*The Great Gatsby*” by F. Scott Fitzgerald to open the meeting. MC Brian then entertained us with poetry and jokes as he announced items to be presented by members.

Fourteen items ranging from plays, poetry, short stories and memoirs were presented. “*Walking the Dog*” written by Rick and performed by Jim and Greg B had us all laughing at the antics of the two old men and Ropy the dog. This was followed by a scrumptious morning tea and fellowship.

Kathryn managed to contact Margaret Symonds and Jenny Crozier who were members when the group started in 2004 and read out their good wishes.

Deb presented a challenging quiz of twenty questions with Jennie, Bonnie and Sean being our most knowledgeable members.

In August Greg T presented an in-depth poetry study of ‘*Driving Through Sawmill Towns*’ by Les Murray, for members. A great discussion followed. Quote of the month by Rick, Greg T’s Etymology Exercises, Rick’s Rants, the Dribble prompt ‘escape’ by Jennie, 10minute Unseen Writing Exercise on the interaction of characters run by Paula and Members’ Presentations made their return for a very productive and enjoyable meeting.

Rick Watkins and Uta Purcell

STROUD FAW

Here in Stroud we are all looking forward to some warmer, and hopefully drier, weather, especially those members who live far afield. Consistent rain and roadworks have reduced attendance at our meetings over the past few months.

Last month we decided on a change of venue for our meeting, visiting Peach Trees in the beautiful Mill Creek Valley. This proved to be a great success. We sat around the log fire with a view of cows grazing in the adjacent paddock. Many writing topics were discussed. Margaret and I read our entries into the Seniors Writing Competition. Lunch followed and we decided another similar meeting down the track would be good. Elizabeth suggested the next meeting at Peach Trees could focus on the letters of Rachel Henning, a pioneer in this valley in 1867-1872.

We have undertaken some interesting writing assignments over the past few months, one of which involved the accidental meeting on a platform at Central Station of two people from entirely different walks of life. We were given the background of the two characters and, individually, had to

advance the story. The results made excellent reading.

At the moment we have a circulating story on the go, each member adding around two hundred words before passing it on. We are looking forward to seeing how many twists and turns there will have been when the story ends.

Congratulations to Jenny Polglase for the publishing of her poem ‘Cockatoos’ in the June edition of Writers Voice.

In November, well-known author, Lee Christine, whose latest thriller, *Glenrock*, is set in Newcastle, has kindly accepted our invitation to attend Stroud Library on 17 November to talk about her journey as an author. We are all very much looking forward to her visit.

Hilary Heanly

SUTHERLAND FAW

Unfortunately the president of the FAW Sutherland, Julianne Miles Brown, is not well and has had to step back for the time being from this role.

Thank you Julianne for all the work you done for the group and I hope you will return soon.

The FAW Sutherland has had a successful second half of the year.

The group had a number of successful guest speakers who encouraged members in their writing journey.

In June, Pamela Cook spoke to the group about publishing either the traditional way or by self-publishing. She also discussed the importance of character development.

In July Elizabeth Storrs, a historical writer, led the workshop in the importance of research in the writing of historical fiction.

In September Pat Simmons spoke about writing Children Books.

Cont. next page...

Branch Reports

Planning has started for the Sutherland FAW's new anthology 'Living Dangerously'. This will be published and launched in October 2025.

An open microphone was held in August. This gave members the opportunity to read one of their pieces of writing and have feedback from members discussing this piece of writing and giving feedback.

Each meeting has been well attended and new members have joined the group this year with a the group now having a total of 30 paid members.

Fiona Johnstone (Vice President)

WOLLONDILLY FAW

Wollondilly members are enjoying a good year with Annette Pearce as our new President. Annette is also Registration Secretary for FAW NSW. With the help of myself and Jean Mills, Annette put together a proposal for a grant to produce a new anthology which we like to publish every four years. We are still waiting to see if we were successful, but our plans are in the process already.

We have had two guest speakers recently and invited our neighbouring FAW branches to attend. It was great to see our friend, Victoria Che from Macarthur with us as Sue Butler, OA presented a history of colloquial lexicon in Australian English. Sue explained the use of slang how it marks intergenerational difference, provides a coded language and is a response to be innovative and identify ourselves. She gave examples from convict days to the more recent.

Our other guest speaker was Marjorie Kay, a local artist, who specialises in small works of art and publishes beautiful books of her paintings along with stories she writes to go with them. She gave a talk on how she goes about setting up her pages. We hope to persuade Marjorie to become a member and share her talent with a broader audience.

Two of our members are working on publishing books with an anticipated launch at our October meeting. We are excited to follow their progress and have been pleased to have been given the opportunity to give ideas or make suggestions at our meetings. Follow this space.

Lastly, and perhaps best of all, we welcome members Bob Morrison and Eddie Sharp. We look forward to sharing a love of written expression in its varied forms and learning from each other.

We hope all FAW members have survived winter successfully now enjoy the inspiration spring brings. Happy writing.

Narelle Noppert

Competition Results

Eastwood Hills FAW 2024 Literary Competition

FLASH FICTION

1st place: Heading Off David Brelsford
2nd place: Walking to the Strand Thom. James
Highly Commended: The Whisper of Trees Dianne Morton
Highly Commended: An Ordinary Day Karen Payne
Commended: Voices Christabel Strehle
Commended: Farewell Francesca Robyn Knibb

PHILIPPA HOLLAND AWARD FOR POETRY

1st Place: Two Canticles Colleen Keating
2nd Place: Breathe... David Campbell
Highly Commended: ungraspable Colleen Keating
Highly Commended: Languid Ribbons David Terelinck
Highly Commended: Embarking on a Poet's Lighthouse Residency
Ronald Atilano
Highly Commended: Cloud Reading Richenda Rudman
Commended: The Human Heart is 73% Water David Terelinck
Commended: No Drone Ronald Atilano

ALAN RUSSELL AWARD FOR MEMOIR

1st place: Peril Beyond the Moment Karen Payne
2nd place: Tough Cheryl Lockwood

SHORT STORY

First Place : The Seat at Table Rock David Campbell
Second Place : The Gift Mike Woodhouse
Highly Commended: Blind Faith Gayle Neighbour
Highly Commended : The Driving Lesson Ivy Jacqueline Higgs
Highly Commended : Lunch Meeting Tania Park
Commended: The Aroma of Coffee David Brelsford
Commended: Children Know Best Tania Park
Commended: On Second Thoughts Robyn Knibb

2024 Boree Log Award

First Place: MET AT A COUNTRY PUB Jim Kent
Highly Commended: Changing Times Terry Piggott
Highly Commended: My Country Show David Judge
Highly Commended: Reminders of the Past David Judge
Commended: A Returned Man David Judge
Commended: NED'S EPITAPH Tom McIlveen

Writing Competitions



Fellowship of Australian Writers New South Wales Inc

Closing 11 October, 2024:

LAMBING FLAT YOUNG FAW NATIONAL CHERRY FESTIVAL WRITING COMPETITION FOR 2024

Encouraging Writers since 1982

Entry Fee of \$5 per entry for all adult sections
Entry form is required. Email for fillable form to lambingflatfaw.competitions@gmail.com OR send SSAE to address below. Post entries to

LAMBING FLAT YOUNG FAW
PO BOX 498
YOUNG NSW 2594

ADULT OPEN SHORT STORY and POETRY SECTIONS

Word Limit 1,500 Short Story, Poems 50 Lines.
1st Place \$200, 2nd Place \$75, 3rd Place \$25, Highly Commended and Commended.

If you are entering both short story and poetry sections, please use a separate entry form for poetry and stories. No names or pictures on entries for judging purposes.

SCHOOLS SECTIONS

Free entry for School Sections but only one child's entry per section. School & Name, Class & Age on your entry please. Parent or teacher to sign that it is the student's own work.

Junior primary: Years 1-2-3

2 sections – Short Story and Poetry
Word Limit up to 250 words story or 15 lines poetry
1st Place \$30, 2nd Place \$15, Highly Commended and Commended.

Primary: Years 4-5-6

2 sections – Short Story and Poetry
Word Limit up to 750 words story or 25 lines poetry.
1st Place \$50, 2nd Place \$20, Highly Commended and Commended.

Secondary: Years 7-8-9 and 10-11-12

Short Story and Poetry Sections
Word Limit up to 1,000 words story or 40 lines poetry.
1st \$100, 2nd \$30, Highly Commended and Commended.

Enquiries Contact John Dwyer 0408-699-507 or Jennifer Haynes 0457-903-240

Closing date 31 October 2024:

2024 ERNESTINE HILL MEMORIAL AWARD

Short Story up to 4,000 words
Australian Country Theme
Award: \$1,000
Entry Fee \$20 per story
For full details and entry form, visit: fawnsw.org.au/conditions-2024-ernestine-hill-memorial-award/

Closing date 31 October 2024:

RAE ALISON CERHAN AUSTRALIANA BALLAD

Poetry up to 100 lines
1st Prize: \$600
2nd Prize: \$200
3rd Prize: \$100
Highly Commended and Commended Certificates also offered.
Entry Fee \$18 per entry
For full details and entry form, visit: fawnsw.org.au/conditions-2024-rae-alison-cerhan-australiana-ballad/

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.

Poet's Voice

Whatever

Whatever happened to faith and belief
dignity and the right to life.
Sunday best and thanksgiving
families gathered together
for a roast lamb lunch?

Whatever happened to knowing your
neighbour
if they were poorly
or just needed a hand?

Whatever happened?

Oh! Hang on
I'll google
I can download all I need to know
After all social media has the lot
with world wide web what more could
you want?

Bugger the neighbours
Hell; I don't even know their names!

Nonetheless;
I can't help but wonder 100 years on
if someone may ask
whatever happened to Mrs Google?
To which the neighbours reply
Hell mate; she's long gone
just fell out of the sky!

Lyn Yates, *Lambing Flat (Young) FAW*

The Limerick Limerick

A limerick once thought it was real.
It ordered a drink and a meal.
The waiter said "my, you're such a nice guy,
perhaps you'd like something surreal".

Brian Tolagson, *Port Macquarie-Hastings FAW*

On the ball

'Good fences make
good neighbours'
Robert Frost

Angular, whip-smart, teenager
looking over a neighbour's fence -

"Oi! You there!
Chuck back me ball!"

Startled, the old curmudgeon
straightened for the reply -

"Young man. If you had been
in my French class, I would
have given you the strap
across your derriere."

"Nah. Not me. Never did
much French at school.
Be a sport. Throw it back
mate. S'il vous plait."

The ball lobbed over the
fence. "Merci monsieur."

Ian Keast, *Port Macquarie-Hastings FAW*

Escape from Chivalry

The king was in his counting house,
Counting out his money;
The queen was in the parlour,
Eating bread and honey.

The Princess in her pink boudoir
Was trying on her dresses
When in came brother Ced-er-ic,
Full lips and blonded tresses.

He slipped his clothes off quick-er-ly
And 'fore she could resist
Her newest lacy bodice was
Adorning Cedric's chest.

Next, he took her flowing gown
And slipped it o'er his head.
Then her rich embroidered cape.
"It's just not fair!" He said.

A silver tear escaped his eye,
While slipping on her pumps
'The leather, tin and mail we wear
Reduces us to frumps!'

Next, he donned her feathered hat
While gazing at the glass.
And smiled in satisfaction
As he whispered, 'You've got class!'

Then, turning on his patent heel
He called down for a horse.
'Side saddle, silver stirrups
And it must be grey, of course!'

So off they rode into the sun
The stable boy and he,
Holding hands so tenderly
In love, for all to see.

Then, over hill and dale they rode
Until Kings Cross they spied
And there they lived in happiness
Until the day they died.

Stafford Ray, *Eurobodalla FAW*

Short Story

The Bigger Picture

Andrea Robinson, *Lambing Flat Young FAW*

ROSE GATHERED up her dusters and spray polish to do the
weekly dusting and polishing. She liked polishing, it
was a part of housework she didn't really have to
concentrate on so she could let her mind wander about the
coming weekend. It's her and Paul's 50th anniversary and
the family have organised for Rose and Paul to fly to
Melbourne and enjoy a weeks stay in a five star hotel and
see the sights and a couple of shows. A celebration party is
planned for in a couple of weeks when all of their four
children and their families can get together.

Rose had taken all the photos off the top of the old
upright piano so she had a clear surface to polish. It was
when she was putting them back that she realised that
there were two missing. She looked round the room to
see if they had been put somewhere else. "Of course
they haven't, I would have noticed wouldn't I." she said
thinking aloud. Rose was still pondering about the
photos when she heard a noise outside and saw the end
of a ladder going past the window. What is that man up
to now Rose muttered. He's banned from even touching
ladders since his fall trying to render the wall near his
shed.

Rose went to investigate and found Paul with a tin of
paint, what looked like chalks, some coloured pencils
and some of Rose's glass jars she keeps for jam making.
The ladder was up against the wall.

"What on earth are you doing, she asked. You know
you're not allowed to climb ladders, and what's all the
other stuff for."

Paul a man with a quirky imagination came up with, "I
was going to paint a picture of a rose on this bare wall
so that when I'm in my shed I can look at the rose and
think of you."

"But you've only got grey paint, chalks and coloured
pencils" Rose replied.

"Yes, but its magic paint. If I tip some into another pot
and add some coloured chalk and stir with a coloured
pencil it turns to the colour I've chosen."

"You silly old Duffer. But that's not what I came out
for. Two photos are missing off the piano, do you know
where they are. They are the ones of us when we had
the motor bike."

Paul thought for a moment before he answered. I
took them to get them enlarged and nicely framed as an
anniversary present for you. Those photos were taken
the week before we were married."

"You sentimental old man" she said and went inside to
finish her housework and get the suit cases ready for
packing. She smiled and regarded herself very lucky to
have Paul for a husband even if he did come out with
outlandish explanations to try and keep a secret.

The day for Paul and Rose's trip arrived, Len and Julie
their son and daughter-in-law drove them to the airport.
"It's been a few years since we had a plane ride" said
Paul sounding a little anxious.

"I'm really excited, can't wait. I love Melbourne. The
theatres, shops, the Old Gaol." said Rose.

The flight was finally called and after the cheerios and
have a good times were said Paul and Rose made their
way to the waiting plane.

The flight itself was uneventful but they enjoyed it all
the same. After they had collected their cases Paul and
Rose made their way out to find a taxi. They were
surprised to see a man holding a card with their names
on. He had been booked to take them to their hotel.

Melbourne lived up to its reputation of rain, sunshine
and more of the same, it didn't dampen Paul and Rose's
spirits. They went to a couple of shows, Rose loved The
Lion King and of course wiped away a tear when 'Can
You Feel The Love Tonight' was sung. Paul preferred the
singing and dancing of 'Anything Goes'. They both
enjoyed the Gershwin Concert by the Melbourne
Symphony Orchestra. Their trip to The Old Gaol was a
repeat, but they had to get their mug shots and convict
numbers to show to their grandchildren.

The time to go home came all too quickly. Len and
Julie were waiting for them when they landed.

"Everything ok at home?" asked Paul
"Everything fine and dandy" replied Len.

They arrived home and unloaded the car and Rose
asked about the missing photos.

"You had better come with me" said Paul. He took her
out to the garden and what was once a bare wall near
Paul's shed was a painting of a rose in the corner of a
bigger picture of a young couple, the man sitting astride
a motorbike and the young girl leaning against him.

"Who did this" asked Rose.

"I asked a couple of spray painters and I lent them the
photos so they could do it while we were away. I
thought it would be a different kind of anniversary
present for you. I'm not just an old man with some paint
and a ladder I cannot use anymore. I've got an
imagination quirky as it may be, but it comes in handy
for surprising my special Rose.

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.

Copyright: Writers Voice does not retain copyright of any items contributed by members, including poems. Author
copyright is taken as given by the very fact that the author has provided the poem for publication and that we always
include the author's name with each poem. Copyright stays with the author, and if any reader wishes to use a poem
from Writers Voice in any other way, they should contact the author for approval.

Reflection by Dame Mary Gilmore

An Interview, 1960

Sarah Wallace and Uta Purcell, 28 May 2024

(Audrey fusses while waiting for Dame Mary to turn up for the interview. Dame Mary finally turns up and greets her fellow authors, David Malouf, Colleen McCullough, Thomas Keneally, Patrick White and Henry Lawson. They settle and proceed with the interview.)

Audrey Smithers (Reporter from the ‘Women’s Weekly’): Good morning, Dame Mary. Audrey Smithers from the ‘Women’s Weekly’, I hope you are feeling well and are ready to share some of your poetry with us. My readers are especially interested in your two war poems, “No foe shall gather our harvest” and “Singapore”, as it is about twenty years since you wrote them in the 1940s. I’ve taken the liberty to provide our audience with a copy of your two poems. Perhaps we could start with the first and hear a little about why this poem was so important to you and to the public.

Dame Mary: Oh Audrey, please call me Mary. I’m certainly happy to share some of my thoughts on it. It was published on 29th June 1940 in your magazine, the ‘Australian Women’s Weekly’ and was set to music in 1952. I was hoping to inspire the men and women of Australia in their effort to win this war. I was delighted to see it published surrounded by scenes from the Australian countryside.

Audrey Smithers: You are too modest. The public loved it and it was displayed in shop windows, recited at patriotic concerts, read in schools and reproduced on Christmas cards. What made you choose the title and then repeat it at the end of each stanza?

Dame Mary: I was looking for something very Australian and the words ‘stockyard rail’ came to mind. They protect what lies behind them, which is of course, the harvest. That is certainly something that needs protection from a foe. In a sense the war united the Australian public in the need for protecting our homeland from invasion and looking after all the wonderful things found in Australia.

Audrey Smithers: Would you be willing to read some of it for us?

Dame Mary: I would be honoured. I’ll read you the first stanza. (Dame Mary reads)

No foe shall gather our harvest
Sons of the mountains of Scotland,
Clansmen from correi and kyle,
Bred of the moors of England’
Children of Erin’s green isle,
We stand four-square to the tempest,
Whatever the battering hail –
No foe shall gather our harvest,
Or sit on our stockyard rail.

Audrey Smithers: Thank you, that was very passionate. I believe your other war poem ‘Singapore’ published in March 1942, a month after Singapore fell, was far more controversial.

Dame Mary: I was outraged and disgusted at what the British had done. They deserted Australia’s interests, when they sacrificed Singapore to the Japanese for their own self-interest. I sent it into Leslie Haylen at the Weekly for possible publication. He was very hedgy and muttered stuff about censors, libel suits and wounded British feelings. What, utter nonsense!

Audrey Smithers: Did the poem eventually get published?

Dame Mary: Too right it did! Alice Jackson retained as much of the original poem as she could but I was not totally happy about it. I’ll read the last stanza for you, if I may? It really sums up how I and many Australians felt at the time. (Dame Mary reads)

Singapore
Whose was the fault she betrayed our troops?
Whose was the fault she fails?
Ask it of those who lowered the flag
At once to the mast was nailed,
Tell them we’ll raise it on ANZAC soil
With hearts that are steeled to the core
We swear by our dead and captive sons
REVENGE FOR SINGAPORE!

Cont. next page...

Reflection by Dame Mary Gilmore

Audrey Smithers: It sounds like you were very unhappy about what happened to the troops and nurses at the surrender of Singapore. It was a very tumultuous time, was there anything else you would like to share?

Dame Mary: Yes, I certainly would. There was also the matter of the army and nursing personal who didn’t evacuate in time. There were 21 Australian nurses who sadly perished. Shot in the back by the Japanese after their evacuation boat sank while in the Banka Strait. One brave nurse, Vivian Bullwinkel pretended to be dead until the Japanese left. She was captured 12 days later with a wounded British soldier and spent the rest of the time in a prisoner of war camp. After the senior British commander, General Arthur Percival, decided to surrender there were 100,000 British and Commonwealth troops, including 15,000 Australians left behind to suffer as prisoners of war of the Japanese. A devastating event and I felt totally disgusted by what the British had done. They knew about the cruelty of the Japanese soldiers!

Audrey Smithers: That was really something! A terrible time, that should not be forgotten. Your reading certainly shows your passion about the injustice of the surrender. (takes a breath before continuing)
I would now like to take you back to your early writing period, when you were part of a literary group who promoted Australian authors.

Dame Mary: (more relaxed now) Yes, we were an interesting bunch. We started ‘The Fellowship of Australian Writers’ in Sydney in 1928. There was John le Gay Brereton, who was the first president and my special friend Henry Lawson. (smiles and winks at Henry) Later on, others joined; Patrick White, Thomas Keneally, David Malouf, and Colleen McCullough to mention a few. Many of them found fame in Australia and overseas. We held regular meetings with talks, performances and readings.

Audrey Smithers: Did you find these events helpful?

Dame Mary: Absolutely! It was a great exchange of ideas by some very talented writers and it certainly helped Australian authors to become more visible on the world stage. I especially remember Percy Reginald Stephenson’s recipe for a ‘best-seller’ at one of our sessions. Did you know that only 1 in 100 books are ‘good-sellers’ and only 5 in 15,000 published books become ‘best-sellers’? He told us that to be successful a book needs careful construction, imagination and inspiration. Then it needs to be edited, about one-third of the words taken out, polished, repolished and the characters attended to before it goes to the publisher. That was from a FAW meeting in 1933. That was a few years ago, now but still so true today.

Audrey Smithers: One last question if I may Mary. How did you feel about your portrait painted by Sir William Dobell? (holds up portrait)

Dame Mary: Initially, I wasn’t fussed. My hands were too big, my head too small and I felt I looked very masculine. Not like me at all, being a well-known feminist. I can now understand it better. He’s an artist. He paints what he sees. I’m a writer. I write what I write, give or take a few censors. I believe there will be other artists who will court controversy with their paintings in the future as well (holds up the portrait of Gina Reinhart by Vincent Namatjira), as there will be other writers doing the same. You just never know where your face might appear in the future. I’m sure there will continue to be controversies in the art and writing world.

Audrey Smithers: (holds up two \$10 notes with Dame Mary and Henry Lawson on them.) So true, so true. Thank you so much for your time, Dame Mary. I mean Mary.

Dame Mary: You’re more than welcome Audrey. Well Henry, we almost spent our life together on the one banknote.

Literary Achievements

BLUE MOUNTAINS FAW

Joe Flood with Marilla North

Literary criticism, *Remembering Dorothy*. Yarnspinners and Deluge Press (2024). Edited Book 380 pages. Includes:

- ‘Dorothy Hewett’s Ancestors and Life till 1945’: 12-31, ‘Crowded House: The Visitors’: 98-128, ‘The Music’: 256-259.
- ‘The Pilbara Strike’: 57-68, ‘A Critical Conversation on *Bobbin Up*’: 75-81, ‘The Matriarchy: Breeding Purposes Only’: 278-286, ‘Remembering Dorothy’: 335-348, ‘Missing So Much’: 351. (With Marilla North)

Joe Flood

Short story and flash fiction, Big Dog and Man’ *Hecate*, vol. 47 no. 1/2, 2021, pp. 183–198 (Nov 2023).

Short story and flash fiction, ‘Fish and chips’ *Thema* (California) March 2024: 81-82.

Short story and flash fiction, ‘Away with the Tide’, pp. 287-90 in *Remembering Dorothy*. Yarnspinners and Deluge Press Aug 2024.

Poetry, ‘I know about’. *The Lake* (Ireland) September 2023 <https://www.thelakepoetry.co.uk/poetry-archive/sept23a/>

Poetry, ‘Here we are’. *Avalon Literary Review* (Florida) Winter 2024

Travel writing, *In Search of Cornish Forbears*. (Deluge, Sep 2023).

Kate Santleben

Highly commended in The Stringybark Short Story Award 2024, ‘Seat #7’ published in *Crowd Surfing*, Stringybark Publishing, edited by David Vernon

EASTWOOD HILLS FAW

Erina Booker

Silver Birch Press invited me to contribute to ‘All About Mother’ series & my poem ‘Mother’ accepted.

I read my poem ‘Bestowal’ at a poetry evening at Don Bank Museum during July.

A tanka was accepted for the ‘Eucalypt’ publication on the theme: Beginnings & Endings.

Co-judge of the Eastwood Hills FAW Philippa Holland Award for Poetry & read the report, with placements, at the Award Ceremony

Anne Howard

First for an article in Eastwood/Hills FAW monthly competition, May 2024.

Commended for a horror short story, Eastwood Hills FAW monthly competition, June 2024.

Second, blank verse poem in Eastwood/Hills FAW Monthly Comp - Shakespeare, July 2024.

Won Eastwood/Hills FAW Participation Award, 2023.

Linda King

‘The Lost Language of Flowers’ – 2nd place - How to Write an Article - May 2023

Margaret Longhurst

‘Arachnisects’ [Horror short story] 1st Place. Eastwood/Hills FAW monthly competition

Soliloquy “The Feathered Chorus Wakes” Highly Commended.

Julie Thorndyke

Presented workshop ‘Tanka: something to sing about’ at TWC

‘Song of the Fairy Wren’ tanka sequence *International Tanka* Haiku in *Echidna Tracks* 13

‘Lighting our Path’ article published in *Women’s Ink* for SWWNSW Winter 2024

Weidong Tian

One tanka in *Ribbons Fall/Winter* 2024

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS FAW

Greg Baker

‘What Now?’ Drabble published in June Writers Voice 2024 No. 284

Uta Purcell

‘Dancing with the Ists and Ologists’ Short Story published in June Writers Voice.

SUTHERLAND FAW

Helen Armstrong

Blog post, ‘On the Move.’

Sue Clayton

Shortlisted Flash Fiction One of 6, won the flash fiction with her story from the stimulus, ‘Manipulation or Compassion.’

Cherie Corbett-Jones

Completed a short course on line, ‘Scene Writing Masterclass’ run by Writing Mastery Academy.

Jacinta Frawley

composed the successful submission for Nomination for adult health award volunteer community award with Survivors Teaching Students, a program where volunteers teach medical students about the experience of women with Ovarian Cancer CESPNN.

Sal Gallaher

Published online interviews on Medium for the newsletter with Joanna Nell, Christine Sykes, Sandie Docker and Pamela Cook.

Sophie Grant

Copy writing for RM Williams website for a new campaign and published feature articles for Outback Magazine.

Joe Green

Art show, art works for Kidney Foundation charity at Tempe House 2pm, 11 May.

Artwork exhibited in the 101 Members exhibition, on 6 September, Hurstville group.

Literary Achievements

Frank McGuire

Published his book of short stories now on Amazon. Off centre short stories. \$1.49 Here is the link to purchase:

<https://amzn.asia/d/aqmYkIQ>

Pat Ruell

Favourite Shorts accepted her play, ‘What’s a koala?’ Pat attended the presentation of her play in Armidale.

Christine Sykes

Liquid Amber Press, Poetry Award on 5th May, Cromer poetry, launched on 15 June, South Coast Writers Centre anthology;

Panel interviewer with Dr Catherine Cole for Sydney Writers Festival Live and Local.

Christine’s play will have a public performance at the South Coast Writers Group, Coledale Community Centre in October.

LAMBING FLAT YOUNG FAW

Helen Auld

Short Story ‘Maurice’ published in ‘The Heart Will Find A Way’ Anthology, Keystone Press, Newcastle.

Roz Hall Farlam

Winner of Screenworks Australia competition to attend ‘Regional to Global’ 3 day forum for screenwriters with first choice of producers to pitch to.

LAKE MACQUARIE FAW

Irina Frolova

Longlisted in the Liquid Amber Press 2024 Poetry Prize, poem ‘against and pro (-creation)’.

Pam Garfoot

Published in *The world through my eyes: an anthology about end of life*, poem and illustration ‘Her hands’.

Sandra Joy

Published in *The world through my eyes: an anthology about end of life*, short stories ‘Bloody school’, ‘Supping above the canopy’ and ‘Death Kills’.

Kristen Mair

Published in *The world through my eyes: an anthology about end of life*, short story ‘The slow process of decay’.

Joan McCarthy

Published (by Marjo Books) and edited, book *The world through my eyes: an anthology about end of life* (available kaniconsultants.com.au); also included are ‘Introduction’ and short story ‘2034’.

Ned Stephenson

Awarded a Highly Commended in the Stringybark Short Story Award 2024, for short story ‘By prescription only’; Awarded 2nd place in the Best of Times Short Story Competition #37, for short story ‘Hotel Rafflesia’.

Linda Visman

Completed two poetry anthologies, *It’s time* and *Inspired by trees*.

MOOCOOBOOLA FAW

Elizabeth Hamlin

Story: ‘This time lucky’. *Positive Words* June 2024

Story: ‘Another land’. *Positive Words* June 2024

Wendell Watt

Poem: ‘Silver plane’. *Writers Voice* June 2024

MUDGE VALLEY FAW

Marilyn Sayer

Poem *Homesick From Abroad* 1st Place Chawleigh Fair Poetry Competition UK

Jill Baggett

Story, *Thunderstorm Tales Of An Alien Buddha* anthology

Story, *Bush Journey Peace Girl Works* anthology

Story, *At The Bend In The Road* GemsZine

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS FAW

Jackie Laing

Poem - Summer Shadows WV No. 284 June

Ian Keast

Poem, ‘Storm Question’, published in **Studio**

Poem, ‘Dusk’, published in **Studio**

Poem, ‘The humidity of teaching’, published in **Studio** Review article, ‘The Persistence of History’ - the poetry of Graeme Hetherington, in **Studio**

Book Review, ‘Witnesses’ by Valerie Volk, in **Studio**

Three poems, ‘Wonder that is easy to miss’; ‘One October Morning’; ‘Riverwalk metaphor’; to be published in, **A New Day Dawns**, (Poetic Christi Press, Melbourne, 2024).

ISOLATED WRITERS

Jenny England

Short Story, *Old Buildings*, in Kiama Bugle

100 word story, *Hector the Great*, in Village Observer

Article, *Sleep On It*, *Writer’s Voice*

Issy Jinarmo

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

Theft and Theories, *Otherwise Engaged*

A Fortune Won and Lost, *DoubleSpeak*

Two Peas in a Pod, *Crimeucopia*

WOLLONDILLY FAW

Narelle Noppert

Story, *Along the Outback Track*, *Gems Zine’s* book themed ‘Distance’, launched 30th August 2024 in Melbourne, Australia, and 31 August in Brooklyn, USA.

Bookshelf

FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS MUDGEE VALLEY *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

FAW members:

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

Now what

Greg Baker, Southern Highlands FAW

‘Now what?’ she asked.

‘You have two options,’ he said. ‘One is to push this button. A million people will die.’

‘My other option?’

‘You refuse and we kill you,’ he said.

‘Then I’m the only person to die?’

‘Of course not,’ he said. ‘Someone else will push the button.’

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>.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD HONOUR ROLL

Irene Acland*
Denise Aldridge
Carolyn Alfonzetti
Patricia Allen
Ellen Ash
Gavin Austin
Barbara Aylott
Eileen Backhus*
Jill Baggett
Rosemary Baldry
Margaret Barlow
Miriam Bates
Cyril Bentley*
Meryl Bentley*
Elaine Burton
Ken Challenor*

Jan Dean
Beryl Dundas*
Joan Dwyer
Margaret Ekin
Thelma Flower*
Shirley Goodbar
Eileen Gray
Pip Griffin
Mavis Gunter
Mavis Hayes*
Dr Anne Howard
Margaret Jackson
John Jacobs
Maureen Kelly OAM
Lyn Leerson
Pat Lindsay*

Helen Luidens*
Johan Luidens
Elizabeth McVie
Jan Mitchell
Vince Morrison
Esther Osborne
Rosemary Peters
Peter F Pike
Margaret Robinson*
Rina Robinson
Alan Russell*
Albert Scott*
Bridget Sharp
Dr John Sheppard
Margot Shugg
Barbara Snel

Yvonne Sorensen
Dorothe Squires-Cooper
Pat Strong*
Greg Tome
Frank Urban
Carney Vaughan
Mei-Ling Venning
Linda Visman
Ted Webber
Margaret Wilkinson
Margaret Young*



FAW NSW LIFE MEMBERS

Elaine Burton*
Maureen Kelly OAM
Trevor 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:* lauraceedee@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

FAW NSW LIFE MEMBERS

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

*Deceased

FOREST FAW

3rd Saturday – 2.00 pm
Forest Community Arts Centre
Darley Street, Forestville.
Enquiries: Heleni Sutton
0414 964 336. *Email:* hlnstn@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

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 fawnsw.org.au or isolatedwriters@fawnsw.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:
lakemacfaw2@gmail.com
Facebook: /LakeMacFAW
Web: lakemacfaw2.wordpress.com
X formerly Twitter: [@lakemacfaw2](https://twitter.com/lakemacfaw2)
Instagram: [#lakemacfaw2](https://www.instagram.com/lakemacfaw2)

LAMBING FLAT YOUNG FAW

2nd Monday – 5.30 to 7.30pm
(Except December and January)
The Young Services Club
Cloete Street, Young
Enquiries: Jennifer Haynes (Pres)
Phone: 0457 903 240
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

MOOCOOCOOLA FAW

3rd Thursday – 1.30 pm
Gladesville Library
Pittwater Road, Gladesville.
Enquiries: Robert Dickens
9713 8048
Dai Fei Yang 0422 432 130

MUDGEE VALLEY WRITERS FAW

1st Monday – 1.00 to 3.00 pm
[Note change of date and time]
Enquiries: Jill Baggett
0409 609 869
Web: mudgeevalleywriters.wordpress.com

PARRAMATTA FAW

1st Saturday – 12.30 to 3.00pm
5 Phive, Parramatta Square, Parramatta
Enquiries: Cecillie 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

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

WOLLONDILLY FAW

2nd Sunday – 1.00 pm
Enquiries: Annette Pearce (Pres.)
0432 857 236
wollondillybranch.faw@gmail.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
glenc@ozemail.com.au
Web: www.wyongwriters.org

FAW ISOLATED WRITERS BRANCH

MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES:

Greg Mutton, Isolated Writers Convenor
Email: isolatedwriters@fawns.org.au
Mobile: 0459 997 399

ASSISTING THE CONVENOR:

Jenny England
Email: jennyengland60@gmail.com
02 9059 0368.

Jill Schuler
Email: jillschuler9@gmail.com
Mobile: 0467 677 764.

MEMBERS' ACHIEVEMENTS:

The Editor, Writers Voice
PO Box 93
Dapto, NSW, 2530
Email: wveditor@fawns.org.au

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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