

WRITERS VOICE



fawnsw.org.au

Article

2024

Lyn Yates

Lambing Flat (Young) FAW

ANOTHER YEAR is about to fade into oblivion or maybe 2024 has been a year that will remain etched in your memory due to circumstances where you call into question the ethnicity of life itself?

No doubt it's a time to reflect; did we accomplish all that we hoped for or fail dismally? As I look back on the last year there have been triumphs with no one more surprised than myself, which goes to prove we need only to believe in our own capabilities in whatever sphere we strive to perfect. It is also somewhat of an amazing realisation as individuals we are unique. There are no two sets of fingerprints or footprints the same, although there will always be certain family characteristics within our personalities; we remain an absolute distinctive being in our own right. So much more than a bag of bones, we are soul and spirit driven by a force not obtained from the external but rather from within.

An unexpected illness or the death of a family member, friend or acquaintance immediately brings one's attention to the fragility of life. When we consider there are no guarantees in this world expect for the ones we choose to make for whatever reason. Life within itself is a very precious gift. Quiet reflection, can bring about amazing calmness, sense of peace that is very hard to find amid the noise of worldly appetites. I believe life is somewhat of a paradox, where we are driven to focus on what will bring us pleasure, freedom and acceptance in the emptiness of consumerism, to the extent we have become programmed to this illusion. It is an inherent characteristic of human nature never to be satisfied, the more we have, the more we need!

No doubt 2025 will bring unanticipated sorrows, along with the sheer joy of new life or an achievement gain through sheer perseverance and dedication. Hopefully governments of all nations will strive to maintain a peaceful co-existence, so

tomorrows' children will experience freedom from famine and disease. As a populace, may we also become less judgemental of those who have been created differently and be more open to cultural practises that are foreign to our western perceptions. Regardless of our expectations of the past or future, whether we achieve or fail our objective. As humans we can always find solace in the fact we possess an innate ability to love, laugh and forgive not only others but ourselves. So as we head into 2025 may we all become a little kinder to those we meet on life's journey into the unknown?

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*Wishing all our readers a
safe and happy Christmas
and a healthy and prosperous 2025.*

Merry
Christmas
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Fellowship of Australian Writers NSW Inc.



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QUARTERLY COPY DEADLINES:

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

FAW NSW Inc. State Council Delegates Meetings

The Executive Committee and Branch Delegates meet four times per year. The next meeting is **February**, and the AGM is **May** each year. Next is **August** and **November**. Exact dates and venues are advised prior to each meeting, and advised by the Hon. Secretary with the agenda.

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, **Liz Shaw, PO Box 271, Woy Woy, NSW 2256**. 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@fawnsw.org.au or mailed to the address above.

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 fawnsw.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@fawnsw.org.au or mailed to **Liz Shaw, PO Box 271, Woy Woy, NSW 2256** 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 Liz Shaw 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 Liz Shaw honsecretary@fawnsw.org.au or phone 0407 017 562 – **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

Summer Edition No. 286 Dec. 2024 – Page 3

State Council News

From the desk of the State President

WISHING YOU all a Very Happy Christmas Season and enjoy your end of 2024 FAW Year with your branch in whichever way you have chosen to celebrate.

As you look back on your writing efforts, I hope you are satisfied with the results achieved not only your personal ones, but your colleagues' as well. I am aware of many branches who have been publishing because of the ISBNs claimed so I offer my personal congratulations on those efforts and achievements.

My heartfelt thanks go to Cate, Jackie, Rick, Liz, Annette and Kath for their jobs well done on State Committee. They have all been busy and active. Sadly we are saying goodbye to Jackie as her family needs are calling her. We all appreciate what she has done in her role as Hon. Secretary but I am saddened as she is also a personal friend of over 20 years. She is not leaving before she 'trained up' her replacement ... so thank you for your loyalty Jackie. The change occurring is, Liz our Publicity Officer is stepping up and combining the two roles, which is how it was when we had Maureen Kelly. Our webmaster, Ken Driver, has changed the contact for Hon. Secretary which is now directed to Liz ensuring that continuity for contact has not changed for you. So thank you Liz. Jackie will stay with us on the General Committee.

My year has been 'huge' with the AGM and Competition celebration in the City, being the highlight with our inaugural Presentation of Awards of Ernestine Hill and Rae Cerhan. We had many of the short-listed writers from both competitions with us of which some were from the country and interstate. We have just closed our second year with a healthy number of submissions for both competitions received. Therefore, we have the same venue again for May 2025. The AGM from 10.00am and the Luncheon at Noon at the Royal Automobile Club at Circular Quay on Saturday 3rd May. Keep the date free I can guarantee a very special event, based on 2024. More on that as the new year begins and in our next Writers Voice Issue in March.

Sharing my exhausting year I have to include that I am now residing in Sydney. My Port Macquarie holiday of twenty years came to an end and Doug and I are in the most delightful Retirement Village anyone could imagine. But culling my 'stuff' was an absolute headache but here I am excited with our new abode and happy with all my new friends.

I have been 'on the road' and visited our ACT members in Canberra. I was welcomed with afternoon tea and their readings and came away thrilled by



Colleen Parker

meeting them all. I caught up with Wollondilly with two members launching their books – congratulations to Jean Mills and Gaynor Mason. By the time you read this I will have visited Lambing Flat and the branch there celebrating in the festivities of their Cherry Festival on December 1st and also our Seniors Card Vol 10 launch at

Parliament House where Patron Patti Miller accepted our invitation to write the Foreword this year and to be a Presenter at the Launch. The Book Fair at Homebush took place and I thank the members who attended our stall, sold our books and shared our FAW information to the browsers over the two days. I conducted a workshop on Day 1, which I am prepared to offer to our own branches if and when you would like to do 'a Membership Drive' because it is based on our constitution's objectives. A 5-day trip to Port Macquarie was also included. Enquiries to the Hon. Secretary if you would like to involve your branch.

We have been approached by the Country Newspapers Association to judge their 2025 writing competition being held to celebrate 125 years of existence. There are 44 country newspapers involved. Keep a lookout in the new year in your country newspapers because all readers will be eligible to submit a short story. It is a great opportunity for us to reach out to the communities as our FAW logo will accompany every article and promotional items of the competition. My hope is that there will be new members for our country branches through this project.

Rest up now and return refreshed in 2025 for a busy and hopefully fruitful year ahead.

Colleen Parker

News from the Secretary's Desk

THEY SAY that all good things must come to an end and it is my time to say goodbye to the secretary role. I have not taken the decision lightly but my husband has advanced dementia and those of you, and I am sure there are many, that have had contact with this insidious disease will have an idea of what I am going through. I have enjoyed my role and it has been nice to get to know more of you directly.

I would like to thank Liz Shaw for stepping into the role so promptly and Colleen for being understanding. I am sure Liz will do a great job and have more time to devote to the role than I have had lately.

I am reminded of a poem I wrote in my book:

Cont. next page...

State Council News

*They say a camel is a horse worked on by a committee.
There's a lot of committees in this life. Isn't it a pity!*

However, if it wasn't for all the generous people who give their time and expertise to stand for committees FAW and many organisations throughout the world would come to a halt.

So here is a shout out to all you generous people, be it at branch or FAW committee level thank you to you all and goodbye from me.

Jackie Laing, Hon. Sec. FAW NSW

Introducing our new Hon. Secretary and Publicity Officer

INTRODUCING MYSELF as the new Interim Hon. Secretary and elected Publicity Officer for FAW NSW.

I have been involved in FAW Branches over the years at Sutherland member, Kiama Secretary, Wyong Publicity, Isolated member and Eastwood Hills member.

Looking forward to a busy time ahead. I attended the Senior Stories function this week at Parliament House on 19th November.

Later in the month a personal invitation from the State Library friends function NED for FAW NSW, I will attend on behalf of the organisation.

We have been busy organising our Awards luncheon for 2025 and hope you all can attend. It's a great way to network and enjoy a wonderful day in Sydney at the Royal Automobile Club Australia.

Liz Shaw, Int. Hon. Sec. FAW NSW

From the Membership Registrar

THE END of the calendar year brings many opportunities to celebrate and to say goodbye to 2024.

It is also time to pay Membership Fees for 2025! The price has remained the same \$40 full membership (or \$20 students under the age of 21).

Please be considerate of your Branch Treasurer, who has the task of collecting the fees and forwarding on to FAW NSW.

For members of the Isolated Writers scattered over NSW, and have no Treasurer to do the EFT payment, please include your name as reference, then "Isolated". BSB and Account details are located inside the front cover of Writer's Voice.

I look forward to writing out new 2025 FAW NSW Membership Cards and hope the New Year is a happy and creative one for all.

Annette Pearce, Membership Registrar FAW NSW

Vale Pauline Twemlow



It is with great sadness that I report the passing of long-time Macarthur member, Pauline Twemlow.

On 17 February 2013, Pauline joined the Macarthur Branch of the FAW where she was Branch Secretary for many years. During this time, she organised our room hire at Campbelltown RSL, as well as our Christmas parties. Her interest in writing was short stories. Prior to this, she had always been involved in creative hobbies and had a special love of cross-stitch embroidery.

It was always good to see Pauline, with her dauntless spirit and sense of humour, arriving for meetings.

Sadly, Pauline's health deteriorated over the last few years, but this did not diminish her involvement in the FAW, where she remained a loyal member to the end.

She will be missed by all.

Bernard Smith, Macarthur FAW

ERNESTINE HILL AWARD RAE CERHAN AUSTRALIANA BALLAD COMPETITION AND LUNCH

When:
Saturday, 3rd May 2025

Where:
Royal Automobile Club Australia
89 Macquarie Street, Sydney, NSW

Time:
FAW NSW AGM 10:00 AM
11:30 AM Arrive for luncheon
12 noon start event

Seniors' Stories

WRITING COMPETITION 10TH ANNIVERSARY

SENIORS STORIES 10th Anniversary for NSW writing competition was held in 2024 at Parliament House for the top 100 Authors. It's a special way of recognising and valuing the experiences of NSW seniors.

All Authors were published by NSW Seniors Card and awarded their book at a luncheon in November. The authors books are distributed to libraries across the state.

These Senior stories contribute and participate in our community project. Their knowledge and wisdom are a gift to all generations. The theme this year was What Made Me.

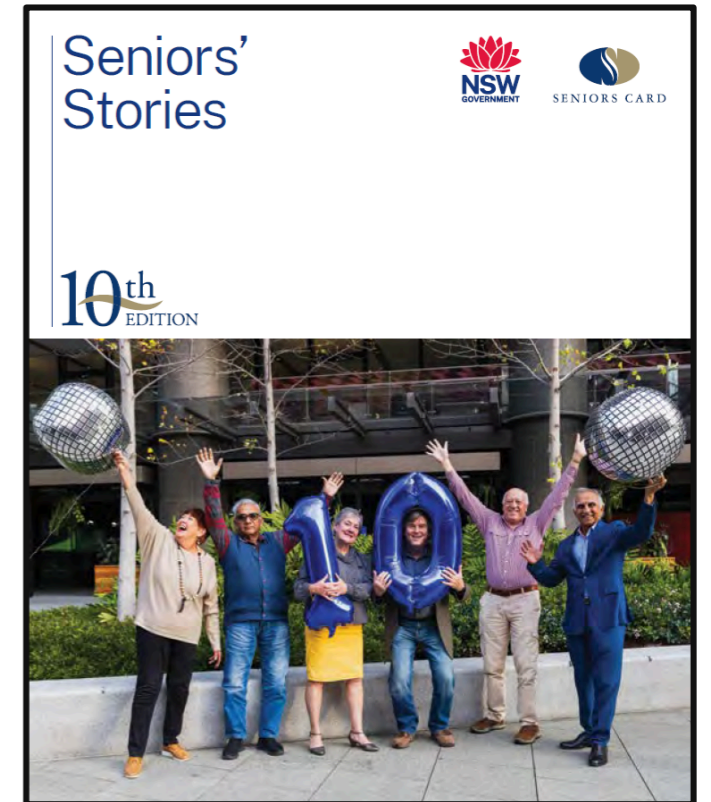
We had twelve FAW Authors submissions accepted for the book. Names are Kaye Christensen, Rose Osborne, Christine Sykes, Hilary Heanly, Shirley Galloway, Pat Allen, David Berger, Annette Pearce, Graham Elphick, Gaynor Mason, Sylvia Tracey, Lyn Yates, and Cathrine Plink.

A couple of the stories that were published in the book were Why am I so different by Cate Plink, and Late Start Strong Finish by Annette Pearce. A proud day for all 100 Authors.

It was a special honour Minister Jodie Harrison shared the special 10th anniversary day with everyone and many special guests.

A proud day for FAW NSW having Patron Patti Miller also attend. Patti is published in national magazines, literary journals, presents talks at international conferences and conducts writing courses especially on Memoirs on life writing.

Liz Shaw, FAW NSW Hon Secretary and Publicity



The Seniors' Story Team gathering for the commemorative photo at Old Parliament, Sydney NSW

*FAW NSW Patron Patti Miller (left)
State President Colleen Parker (right)*

Literary Art Salons

A KEY EVENT ON EUROBODALLA CREATIVE CALENDAR

TWENTY-NINE local writers and artists combined over two nights last month to entertain full houses at the Moruya Library for the annual Eurobodalla Literary and Art Salons.

Dating back to at least the 16th century, literary salons are gatherings of people who share similar interests in literature, the arts, culture, and such.

The Eurobodalla Literary and Art Salons pair local artists with writers who in turn compose a piece of literature stimulated by the chosen artwork.

After informal drinks and nibbles, the piece of literature is read aloud alongside the displayed artwork and is followed by further comments by both the artist and the writer with questions and discussion from the audience.

The Eurobodalla Salons have been conducted since 2016 and are a key feature on the creative calendar for local writers and artists. A small exhibition of the artwork in Moruya Library precedes each salon, reflecting the broad range of techniques from our artists.

Convenor Ms Karen Kentwell's opening comments best summed the purpose of the salons:

"The salon provokes conversation, connection, and community. This fits perfectly with this evening's theme of listening, speaking, and learning from each other.

Leo Tolstoy famously said: 'Art is not a handicraft. It is the transmission of feeling the artist has experienced.'

As we gather for this unique annual event, I encourage you to reflect on how art impacts us as humans, what activates our emotions. It's often the unknown that fuels creativity. Let us embrace that unknown.

As we listen to the writers' stories and poems this evening, they might be far from the artist's initial inspiration, but we will accept them as a new layer, a perspective fuelling creativity."

The feedback from the 2024 Salon has been extremely positive from both a creative's perspective and audience response.

As one local writer commented "It has been even the most rewarding performance writing experience I have been involved with. It was a fantastic opportunity to explore a creative written response to another artist's visual text without judgement and simultaneously forge new friendships."

Ms Kentwell said "Audience feedback this year has been extremely positive. People not only enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate our burgeoning creative talents in the Eurobodalla but an opportunity to engage in thoughtful discussion about literature and art."



Who is the FAW Eurobodalla Writers' Group?

The FAW Eurobodalla Writers' Group meets monthly. There is a night group that meets from 6.30pm to 8.30pm on the first Monday of each month at a private residence and a day group that meets from 10.30am to 1.30pm on the first Wednesday of each month at the Red Door Hall in Page Street, Moruya.

Further details at <https://eurobodallawriters.org/contact-us>

John Longhurst



A Century of Fellowship

THE FAW CENTENARY BOOK PROJECT

WITH THE upcoming centenary of the NSW Fellowship of Australian Writers in 2028, it has been a busy time for our FAW Centenary Book Steering Committee.

In April this year, a group of FAW members agreed to be part of a steering committee for this project, investing their time, expertise and talent to commemorate an important milestone in our organisation.

Our first meetings were a gathering of minds, ideas, suggestions and free flowing discussion.

We plotted our course, finding paths to navigate our way through the wealth of history available.

Over the long life of the FAW, branches have opened and closed or become inactive for a time.

The importance of acknowledging the history and contributions of FAW branches past and present is at the heart of our project. To achieve this objective, steering committee members have been allocated several FAW branches to liaise with.

Letters have been sent by the steering committee requesting the best contact/s in each branch. Having a

dedicated contact/s to liaise with will help in streamlining the research phase of the book.

The project is still in its early stages, but we have already received some replies and branch histories, which is fantastic! These histories and other research materials are safely stored for future referral and compilation.

Understandably, it will take some time for information collection and drafting of branch histories, but it would be wonderful if we could have a contribution from all our branches.

The steering committee is also working diligently to track down contacts from inactive or closed branches, so if any members can help in this regard, it would be appreciated.

So, please check your branch inboxes for an email from the FAW Centenary Book 2028 Steering Committee, (it's the one with the FAW logo).

Together, we can create a publication to be proud of!

Kath Berryman, FAW Centenary Book 2028



Country Newspapers Project 2025



OUR FAW is teaming up with the Country Newspapers Association, in 2025 in their planned project to conduct a writing competition. It will be promoted through the Association's 44 newspapers in NSW rural areas and we have accepted their invitation to judge it for them.

The categories will be:

1. Primary school children, short stories up to 300 words.
2. Secondary school children, short stories up to 750 words.
3. Open adult writers, short stories up to 3,000 words.
4. In-house staff of Country Newspapers, Section short stories to 3,000 words.

Please contact the Hon. Secretary, Liz Shaw, if you would like to be a judge and indicate your preference. The competition will be promoted in Term 1. Submissions will be conducted in Term 2. FAW judging will take place in Term 3. Results and awards presented in Term 4.

Note: As a non-profit we cannot charge a fee for our involvement rather it is the promotion of our organisation is what is important to us. Hence, we are looking for ways to increase our 2025 membership. This is a one-off celebratory competition for Country Newspapers who are having their 125th year of circulation in 2025.

ALSO: Interest from our country branches to be kept informed and share the information they read in their local newspapers, would also be welcomed.

Branch Reports

BLUE MOUNTAINS FAW

FOR MANY, September is the season of Spring, but this year our branch has taken a more sinister turn and focused on our 'Season of Crime'. Leading us down this crooked path was Siobhan Mullany who held a fascinating workshop on Crime Writing. We learned how to plot our crime stories and the necessary mindset and motivation behind our characters. Siobhan also entertained and intrigued us with stories from her career in law.

At our October meeting, we continued our travels into the underbelly of crime, hearing from a Police Officer turned romantic suspense novelist. His real-life experience revealed the need for thorough research to ensure authenticity of our stories. An interesting discussion was held about the importance of how a character's actions drive the plot.

To round off our 'Crime Season', Acting President Mel Jones presented an immersive writing exercise. Mel organised us into groups, gave each group a box containing 'evidence' in various genuine-looking evidence envelopes, a folder with photos and blurbs of people of interest, reports from the first investigators on the scene, and a couple of sheets of notes and writing tasks. This was fun, stimulating and different from our usual exercises. We also shared our crime writing drafts and received constructive feedback to improve our work.

As we look forward to our December end of year celebration and Christmas party, we are grateful for the contributions of our invited guest speakers and our members who all serve in many ways and in the spirit of Christmas, are generous in giving their time and energy to

make our branch a true place for growth and fellowship.

Jeanette Temesvary and Rosemary Baldry

EASTWOOD HILLS FAW

OUR BRANCH continues to welcome new members even at this late stage of the year. It is fabulous to see new people showing a keen interest in writing.

Our AGM was held at the September meeting. At the conclusion of the AGM, we embarked on a critique session. These are always of benefit. Members brought three copies of writing to be critiqued in small groups. A set of 'Critique Guidelines' was followed to ensure the process was fruitful for all. Members went away with tips, suggestions, and ideas to develop their work further.

Laura Davis stepped in at the last minute to host our October workshop. She did a marvellous job of facilitating members to engage in an array of writing exercises. Discussion centred on 'Why bother with writing exercises?' One exercise saw everyone using their imagination to come up with a plausible end to a dilemma. The following exercise was to continue or conclude a conversation where two characters' lines were given. This caused a lot of hilarity with members' imaginations going into overdrive. The laughter continued when we were asked to write a speech for the Prime Minister or Federal Treasurer explaining why the country needs more ice cream and more safety pins, and what the government is doing about it! Each member delivered their 'speech' as they would in parliament. It was so amusing that we were wiping tears from our eyes.

Laura's extensive knowledge of fairytales was shared at our

November meeting when she led us through a 'Fairytales' workshop. We 'unpacked' well-known fairytales to identify the protagonist, antagonist and other characters' roles. The role of women produced much discussion, and how fairytales had become 'sanitised' over the centuries, primarily by the Brothers Grimm and Hans Christian Anderson. This led us to explore how many fairytales started out dark and foreboding and were originally written for adults. Our final exercise was to take two well-known fairytales and pick out the 'dark lessons' of each. Laura provided some extremely gruesome, true examples of unsanitised fairy tales. Who ever knew that the original Cinderella story was so hideous!

Linda King

EUROBODALLA FAW

SPRING HAS BEEN a busy time for our group with book releases, launches and annual events.

Kim Ulrick launched her book, *Bad Country*, in Moruya and Canberra and subsequently hosted an online Q and A. We congratulate Kim also on being presented the Banjo Paterson Writing Award for her short story *Shame the Stars*.

Audrey Ingram achieved a lifelong dream by publishing her first book of intriguing short stories, *Intertwined*.

Several other members are working on their next publications, with constructive feedback provided at monthly meetings.

Carol Dawson and Sharon Halliday reprised their roles as judges for the Mayor's Writing Competition, which is conducted annually with categories for children aged between five and eighteen. There was an exciting number of high-quality submissions this year

Cont. next page...

Branch Reports

which augers well for the future of writing in our area.

Our major annual event took place over two evenings in October. The Literary and Art Salons were introduced in 2016 and are convened by member Karen Kentwell each year in conjunction with Moruya Library. Participating members of Eurobodalla Writers composed a piece of prose or poetry inspired by an artwork by a local artist, with whom they were paired. Both the selected artworks and the literature were presented at convivial evening salons at the Library with explanatory comments from both writer and artist, whose interpretations of the art were in some cases quite close but in others markedly different. The diverse audiences on both nights were very positive and appreciative of the talents of our creative locals and we look forward to continuing our strong association with Moruya Library. A report on the Salons by our vice-president, John Longhurst, is available online in the Moruya Mail of 1 November.

In November, member and accomplished author Tracey Lee conducted highly acclaimed workshops on developing characters at Narooma and Moruya Libraries.

Also in November, Eurobodalla Writers had a stall at the annual Health and Community Expo in Batemans Bay, which attracted interest from both experienced and prospective writers.

With Christmas and the New Year approaching, we wish all writers and their families a refreshing and inspiring festive season.

Rosie Toth

FOREST FAW

THE FOREST FAW branch is showing no signs of slowing down as we head

towards the end of the year. In September, we had a poetry workshop run by accomplished poet Geoff Lucas. We analysed different styles of poetry and even wrote our own. October saw us learning how to write Short Stories with a Twist with Helen Lyne. We covered the structural elements of a short story, the importance of the first line to draw the reader in, and much more. In November we were put through our paces with writing exercises by the creative Sophie Chenoweth.

As a group, we are looking forward to a new year of creative pursuits, workshops and camaraderie, and wish everyone a happy festive season.

"A writer is someone who has taught his mind to misbehave." - Oscar Wilde

Seetha Dodd

GOULBURN FAW

HELLO FELLOW writers, this last quarter has been very good for our Goulburn Chapter has been especially busy this last quarter with not only two of our members publishing their books, but also with the decision by the members to meet twice a month with the addition of a meeting so that we meet on both the first and third Wednesday of the month for the new year. Meetings on the first Wednesday will be a workshop/group discussion on various aspects of writing, and the third Wednesday for members to present works that they have been working on for comment by the membership.

The first such workshop/group discussion was held on the 2nd of October when we discussed the use of Aristotle's Incline, and how it supports the development of fictional Short Stories, Novellas and Novels. The workshop/group discussion was well received and

supported encouraging us to hold many more on various aspects of writing.

As stated above two of our members have recently published their works.

Peter Reddy, who writes children's books has published his book, 'Humps, the Adventures of Shirley Chameau – Australian Camel' (ISBN 978-0-646-89643-4) through Budget Printing (Aust) Pty Ltd, Bankstown.

Graeme T. Neil, who writes Fantasy Fiction, recently published his book 'Novice Champion- Book One of the Community Series (ISBN: 978-1-326-97473-2) through Lulu Press, Inc. (www.lulu.com/shop) The book is available in paperback and EPUB.

It is fair to say that without the encouragement of club members, including the FAW Manuscript Assessment Service, publication of the 'Novice Champion' may not have occurred.

Graeme Neil

LAMBING FLAT YOUNG FAW

JUDGING IS NOW underway in our 42nd writing competition. We have received strong support particularly in the Schools Section. A couple of new schools have entered together with returning schools. They look forward to providing an outlook for their students' work. Preliminary feedback from the judges indicates an increase in literacy levels amongst these students. Results will be announced on December 1st at the National Cherry Festival. Colleen Parker has accepted an invitation to be present and later to meet with members of the local Fellowship. We are looking forward to her visit.

Our year has come to an end with our next scheduled meeting being

Cont. next page...

Branch Reports

February 2025. Over the year we have individual members who are writing a collection of short stories for later publication; an autobiography which is aiming for Christmas 2024 publication. Another member has commenced research for a work of fiction with writing to begin late 2025. A very productive year.

Members have benefited from our change to meeting format and have achieved the goal of writing more.

Best wishes to all other Fellowships for the coming year.

Jennifer Haynes

LAKE MACQUARIE FAW

WE USED August's workshop to explore the topic of self-editing. Member Jan Mitchell, herself an accomplished author (of 5 adult books, and 2 children's books), led us through some of the major things to watch out for when reviewing our own work. These include knowing our audience, using consistent voice, improving punctuation, using active voice in preference to passive voice, mastering dialogue conventions, and much more.

How timely was our September presentation – an author's overview of artificial intelligence! Member Steve Shipley went over some facts and fallacies about AI, and then took us through a great rundown of some of the ethical uses of AI in the writing process. Steve also let us in on some of the secrets about how he uses it in his own writing. And, yes, we've all been using some form of AI for many years!

Our group's internal newsletter, MacMuse, has been running successfully for nearly 25 years. Recently we have been using it to have a 'continuing story' included in each issue. Our story, "Bright discovery", has proved a lot of fun,

although the contributing authors are now aware of how hard it is to continue and then finish someone else's story!

In October member Kristen Mair gave us a great overall picture of the elements essential for storytelling. These involved Goal, Motivation and Conflict to progress the character arc. It was useful to be given a handy table where we can fill in the G/M/C for each major character in our story. Thank you Kristen!

Pam Garfoot

MACARTHUR FAW

THIS REPORT begins with sad news, the death of long-term member, Pauline Twemlow, whose funeral was attended by branch members, Victoria Chie and Cathy Hobson. Our October meeting was marked by a thirty-second silence in memory of this remarkable lady, who faced adversity with such good humour. A tribute to Pauline appears elsewhere in these pages.

As I write, I have just returned home from our Christmas meeting at the Campbelltown RSL Club – good company, food and drink and a tricky quiz supplied by President, Victoria Chie.

Thanks to the Branch History Victoria has written, we have a new consciousness of the history of our club and some of its talented members, going back to the 1980's. It is amazing how quickly this knowledge disappears. The History has now been handed on to Kath Berryman. Thank you, Victoria, for all your hard work.

On 13 October 2024, Victoria attended book launches for Wollondilly FAW members. Among the guests were Colleen Parker, FAW NSW State President, and Judy Hannan, State Member for the seat of Wollondilly. One of the members

launching her book, Acts of Kindness, was Gaynor Mason. In 1985, Gaynor's mother had been presented with an anthology of poems by Macarthur FAW members, together with a letter from Macarthur's then Secretary, Marjorie Bown. These items throw even more light on our history. We are very grateful to Gaynor for having donated them to our archive.

Our last meeting was enlivened by stories of people's flying experiences, encouraged by the presence of well-known aviation writer and flying instructor, Cathy Hobson, who had just learned that her article, Margaret Mary (Peggy) Kelman (1909 -1998,) had been published in the Australian Dictionary of Biography, July 2024. Cathy specialises in the lives of Australian female flyers.

I shall finish with best wishes for the coming season to all our colleagues in the Fellowship of Australian Writers.

Bernard Smith

PORT MACQUARIE FAW

AS THE year comes to an end, we look back on another rewarding year of writing full of activities. We have published our annual showcase which usually includes two of our best pieces throughout the year, and this year has had the most entries so far with 23 stories.

We also helped the Dementia Friendly Community publish a book of short stories from people living with dementia and their carers, as part of their Dementia Awareness week commemorations. The book titled 'Unforgettable Voices' was launched in a small ceremony at the Port Macquarie Hastings Library. FAW writers and the DFC members came together and read some of

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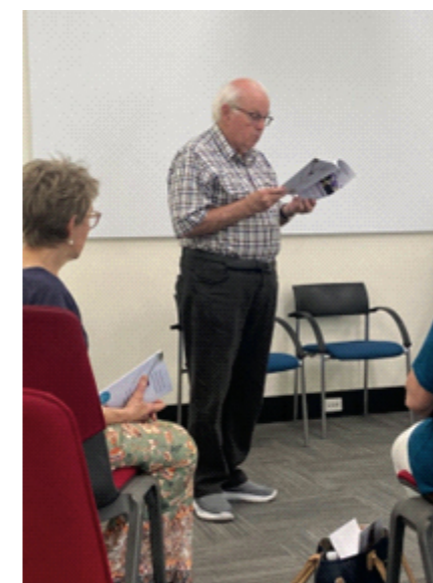
Branch Reports



FAW and DFC members at the launch of "Unforgettable Voices"

the stories which were touching and a grim reminder of part of why we write – to document and keep memories alive.

Local author Kevin Radley visited us to share from his wealth of experience. He graciously gave us some of his golden nuggets on writing. Everyone's writing journey is different, he told us. His own



President Ian Keast reading excerpts from "Unforgettable Voices"

writing journey was inspired by a trip he took around Australia in a combi, meeting interesting people during his younger years and since then he's been a story liner with the TV production of 'Neighbours' and has authored a few books.

His visit was a nice segue to what we'd been doing on writing interesting characters where we have all been developing the character and a back story of a 'fisherman by the jetty's edge'

The highlight of our end of year activities will be attending the sunrise markets to market our books and attract new members. So far our Facebook page has been very active and we also hope to attract more following and members from there.

Pinado Waba

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS FAW

DESPITE THE flurry of the end of year, FAWSH meetings continue to be well attended with the November meeting having 18 members present. Our visitor, Judy Coverdale joined in

writing activities and enjoyed member presentations. Six members presented work with Greg Baker reading a humorous story about visiting Buckingham Palace (Buck House) on his recent overseas trip. This was followed by Sarah's story 'Why I love my Rat' which included a RatBag with a knitted rat in it, which made the bag move due to the use of a secret piece of string. Paula read her story of a scary experience she had while a volunteer at the Sydney 2000 Olympics. Brian's thought-provoking poem 'Sound Poem' was about how tragic the world would be without being able to hear. Rick shared a chapter of his new novel 'When I Last Saw Charlotte' focussing on the use of dialogue and its importance. Uta's short humorous piece about selecting a cake to enjoy with coffee and discovering a misprinted label which read Paris Breast instead of Paris Best during the Paris Olympics.

Rick welcomed and introduced Penelope Janu as our guest speaker for the October meeting. Penelope brings with her a wealth of experience and knowledge to writing. She already had a background in law and academia, before she undertook post graduate studies in editing narrative writing in her 50s. She was one of the older students in the class and could draw on more life experience, while exploring various genres before falling in love with Romance Writing. She often includes her love of horses and rural life and is now contracted to Harper Collins having published nine novels with them. Her latest one, The Summerfield Saddler has just been released. In her talk Penelope kindly shared some of her strategies.

Aim to write 2000 to 3000 words a week and spend time editing and correcting.

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Branch Reports



Sioban Mullany leads FAW Crime Writing Workshop at Southern Highlands FAW

Discipline is the key to moving a story forward.

Being creative is great but you do actually need to do the hard work.

Editors can be horrendous but seeing the final product is certainly worth it.

Every story needs to have main characters with a back-story, an occupation, a setting and situations that need resolving.

Penelope likes to include environmental themes in her novels.

Research becomes important to give the story depth but can also bog you down.

You need to be able to see the setting through the eyes of your characters and write from your heart.

Romance Writing has boundaries, it is not all about sex. It involves consent and showing trust or things fall apart.

Women are as strong as men and you need to know your characters to show this.

Love verses romance writing. Anna Karina is about love and Pride and Prejudice is about romance.

Love ends in tragedy and romance ends happily. Romance readers want happy endings.

Rick Watkins and Uta Purcell

STROUD FAW

WITH INCLEMENT weather and some members away we pared back meetings to every four weeks in winter and early spring rather than our usual fortnightly schedule. Even so, we enjoyed some special gatherings.

In September we had a thoroughly interesting day visiting Waulinbakh, an Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) Sanctuary situated just outside Stroud. Originally part of the Australian Agricultural Company's Stroud operations the property was sold in 1903 and was used variously for grazing and timber harvesting before its acquisition by AWC in 2023.

The 3,970-hectare property is surrounded on three sides by natural forests and is home to many native species, including the Superb Lyrebird, Parma Wallaby, Koala and Greater Glider. Resident Senior Land Management Officer, Josh, gave us an interesting presentation detailing the purposes of AWC and the progress achieved in the past 12 months identifying, locating and estimating the status of existing native species and the problems associated with weed management. Unfortunately, the heavy rain that day precluded us from exploring some of the sanctuary on foot – another day...

In October we were delighted to welcome author Lee Christine to our meeting, which was open to the public. Lee spoke about her writer's journey, her experiences with self-publishing and traditional

publishing. She told us the importance to her of establishing location and spoke about aspects of the crafting of story elements and the excitement when a point is reached where the plot takes on a life of its own. We were most interested in hearing about Lee's latest book, *Glenrock*, as it is set in Newcastle, a location well-known to the people of Stroud. Afterwards we all enjoyed informal chatting with Lee over a light lunch.

In addition to these special meetings we have continued our own writings, with a special feature being our 'circulating story'. Each member in turn writes a section which must follow on seamlessly from those that have gone before. We wonder just where this story will end!

As the year comes to a close, we look forward to our pre-Christmas gathering and to hearing all about the adventures of our travelling members.

Elizabeth Bradhurst

SUTHERLAND FAW

A BIT thank you to Fiona Johnstone and Sylvia Vago for running the meetings whilst I was unable to. They both did a great job in organising them.

For our September meeting we had Pat Simmons who gave a talk about her writing and publishing journey. She gave us some writing exercises from some beautiful photos in handmade scrapbooks that she made and gave to us to keep. Prior to this Sylvia gave an exercise on cake.

Our October meeting was very well attended. One of our own members Greg Moriarty, provided a great workshop on Editing fiction – clear and simple language. The workshop gave another insight into

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Branch Reports



Gaynor (Left) and Jean (Right), launching their books with Wollondilly FAW

editing and the choices you make with the words you use. Greg is also a self-published author. www.gregmoriarty.com

We look forward to our November meeting which has our AGM, Meeting, Christmas Party and Open Mic. After that our member Sal Gallaher will be launching her self-published book, *Secrets in the Lakes*. www.salgallaher.com

Over the break our members will be writing and talking to a buddy about their works for our Anthology, *Living Dangerously*, which will be published next year.

Julianne Miles-Brown

WOLLONDILLY FAW

TWO OF our members, President, Annette Pearce and Secretary, Gaynor Mason were successful in the NSW Seniors Card /FAW Writing Competition along with several other FAW members. Their stories will be included in this year's book. The launch of Volume 10 will take place at Parliament House on Tuesday 19th with a special sit-down lunch to celebrate the occasion. Congratulations girls!

At our October meeting, we were very excited to have two of our members launch books. A special day was organised with many

guests, family, friends, as well as our local member, Judith Hannah MP, Mayor, Mathew Gould, Councillor Suzy Brandstetter who all constantly support our group. Colleen Parker, FAW President who now resides in Sydney was also able to attend.

Jean E-D- Mills, past President, launched two books, *DUCK WITH THE WAGGY TAIL*, and *WHATEVER HAPPENED TO*

LESLIE LAUGHTON, while Gaynor Mason launched her book *'ACTS OF KINDNESS'*.

The weather was perfect, A barbeque was organised, and an overindulgence of sweets was provided by members and guests. We congratulate both writers on their hard work.

Member, Andy Renella and myself, Narelle Noppert were successful with short story entries to the Stroud Writers Short Takes Writing Competition. I received a Highly Commended for my story, 'A Young Mans War' a tale about a Vietnam Vet while Andy received a Commended Award for 'Good Old Pickles'. We were understandably excited.

We have chosen themes ahead till next March next year, for our Monthly Scribblings Magazine. Members enjoy being taken out of their comfort zone to write something different. We are in the process of planning for our 2025 anthology after being successful with a council grant.

So now, it's fast speed to Christmas where we plan to enjoy our last meeting of the year with a Christmas Party. Merry Christmas to all!

Narelle Noppert

WYONG FAW

THE WYONG Writers Annual 2024 Poetry Competition was completed in November 2024. Club members decided on a Limerick as the entry requirements for 2024. The winning entry was submitted by Lorraine Munt.

Wyong Writers Club member and travel author Anya Nielsen has not one but two new offerings

In 2012 Anya spent a month in Italy, with visits to churches, museums and art galleries. She travelled through the north and South of Italy including Sicily. Her short time in Spain included Madrid and Barcelona. Anya Nielsen's new book, *Following the Grand Tour*, is based on the 19th century rite of passage. Its purpose was to discover archaeology, architecture, art, music and culture.

Concurrently, and by popular demand, a surprise second book called *Babushka's Feast* is on offer for the first time. This collection of family recipes enjoyed over the years by friends at Anya's parties.

Glenn D'Cruz

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 2025



Please encourage new memberships.
We need to build up membership to keep generations coming through FAW NSW.

Short Stories

The Mistake

Roz Hall Farlam, Lambing Flat Young FAW

HE WAS a mistake. There's no doubt about that. But, oh what a happy mistake!

Those eyes; big and brown - the type that make me go weak at the knees. And his hair; golden, long; made for running your fingers through. I fell hard the moment I spied him across the room and I wasn't alone. His energy, charm and warmth drew both men and women to him. Obviously used to the spotlight, he was comfortable in it and enjoyed the attention – especially from the women. He loved women and by the number of them sidling up to him, the feeling was mutual.

I was completely beguiled. I knew he had to be in my life. But looking around the room I realised I had some stiff competition. What if he preferred one of the other women? What if he went home with one of them? It was clear - I was going to have to fight to make him mine.

I felt nervous as I led him through my front door. Was he glad he chose to come home with me? What would he make of the place? He strode in confidently and walked around the living room taking in the dimensions, the furniture, the books on the shelves and the view of the back garden from the picture window.

“Would you like something to drink?” I asked taking out a bottle of Chablis from the fridge and pouring myself a glass; it was cold and crisp. “What about some water?” He joined me in the kitchen and was happy just to have tap water.

I led the way to the sofa and tucking my legs under me, I smiled at him and held out my hand. He sat down next to me and I ran my fingers through his long, silky hair as he moved closer and we rested against each other. He didn't feel like a mistake then; he felt like home.

“You can stay here if you like.” I whispered. “You can sleep here, on the sofa.” He gazed into my eyes and I knew he was happy to stay.

The next morning I woke up excited at the prospect of spending the whole day with him. Maybe a run along the beach together followed by a big breakfast at Salty's café. I tiptoed into the living room, he was still asleep, snoring softly on his back, a wisp of something peeking from the corner of his mouth. I looked around the room not quite able to take in what I was seeing. “What on earth have you done?!” I yelled.

He sat up abruptly and looking around him, scratched his belly as he tried to recall where he was. “Did you have a nightmare or something?”

The contents of every cushion in the room were strewn around the floor, the covers ripped to pieces.

What remained of the curtains dangled on the floor in tatters, the metal curtain rod bent out of shape. My large, white, hand woven Moroccan rug, that I had spent months saving up for, now had a corner completely shredded and worse – in its centre was a huge, suspiciously yellow, stain.

I was speechless. What had I done? What on earth possessed me to think it had been a good idea to bring him home?

He at least had the decency to look guilty. I leaned over and plucked the piece of cushion stuffing from his lip. “This was a mistake.” I told him as I looked into those big brown eyes. “You are a mistake.” But he just wagged his tail and licked my hand. “You're a very naughty boy!” I laughed as he barked and jumped off the sofa obviously thinking it all part of a new game I was playing.

“Well, at least I know what I'm going to call you. What do you think of that for your name, Mistake?” His happy bark, I decided, meant he thought it perfect.

The Storm

Jenny England, Isolated Writers

IT WAS eerily still and quiet. Foreboding storm clouds had been gathering for sometime. I watched and waited in readiness for the first bolt of lightning to ignite the sky and thunderclap to break the silence. It didn't take long. Within minutes the torrential rain began, tramping my rainforest undergrowth and turning what were once walking trails into muddy riverlets streaming down to my lagoon, taking with them anything in their path.

Strong wind gusts lifted anything unsecured into the air, randomly depositing them back to the ground onto piles of debris from earlier storms. My once pristine shoreline did not escape the developing onslaught either. Powerful sea swells combined with the wind gusts rhythmically pounded my rocky shore, and then retreated to pound and retreat, over and over again.

There was little I could do but hold on tight and wait patiently until the storm passed and tranquillity restored. It always did. The cycle of storm and calm had been going on for as long as I could remember but it had become more frequent over the last hundred years and each storm more destructive than the one before. There was not enough time between these regular assaults for any recovery and regeneration. My rainforest, lagoon, and coastline once flourished with life but I was no longer a safe habitat.

I used to listen, fascinated, to the sounds coming from my rainforest, especially at night. Small animals
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Short Stories

would scurry around in search of night time snacks or to meet up with their mates. Insects would buzz and chatter in high-pitched crackles and frogs would join in the chorus with their own special songs. But their numbers had gradually diminished over time. Birds once nested on my cliff tops but with local food sources declining from raised sea temperature. Now only a few hardy ones would bother settling here.

My lagoon used to be a marvellous place for all kinds of aquatic activities and teem with marine life too. Many local and exotic fish, turtles and aquatic greenery had called it home for centuries, proving a food source for other life here, but the gradual encroachment of sea water and the constant attack by storms made it a difficult place for them to thrive.

The humans that had called me home for centuries were eventually forced to leave and find higher ground and a more stable environment to live and raise their families. As well as the demise of their small scale tourist ventures and the decline in availability of local food sources, fresh water too had become a scarce resource due to the increased salinity of ground water.

Every day I miss them. I miss the regular pace of their daily lives. I used to enjoy watching them fishing on the reef and bringing their catches back; children frolicking on the beach, dipping in and out of the waves on very hot days; the aromas coming from campfire cook-ups when families got together to share a meal and take pleasure in each others company. There was always something to enjoy about their presence here. I needed to get used to the idea I had now been deprived of all that energy and delight. It made me sad.

Forever etched in my memory are scenes of the days the last groups of humans left in a flotilla of boats. For good. Tears ran down the faces of children clinging tightly to their mothers who it appeared were trying to show a stoic acceptance of their fate. Most of the men had already left to set up new homes for their families and find work elsewhere. It was an overwhelming sight.

I had always enjoyed visitors, chuffed that they found me a place they wanted to explore. This always made me feel special. But the only visitors that have arrived regularly recently were groups of scientists and environmentalists measuring changes in the shoreline; assessing wildlife varieties, counting their numbers and testing waters. It bothers me to think that they believed they will be able to do anything about the issues their investigations reveal. But deep down, I hope they can.

Eventually the rain, sea swell and the wind began to ease and the dark clouds started to dissipate. It was then time to survey the damage they left in their wake: a

task I dreaded every time. However, the hours after a storm passed was often also a magical time as cracks of sunlight peeping through created glistening effects on wet leaves and small signs of the remaining life began to emerge. And if the atmospheric conditions were just right, a multi-coloured rainbow would appear to brighten up the sky. As I started to relax after this last tempest, I really hoped one would.

Worlds Apart

Paul Vallis, Moocooboola FAW

1964:

“But Mamma he will never come. All my friend are married, some with bambinos and I am nearly twenty three years, with no-one. And now we are leaving Sicily and going to the ends of the earth.”

“He will come Isabella. I was twenty five when I met your Pappa. And you will know, when he looks you in the eyes; you will know. Your Mamma never lies. Believe me, your Mamma knows.”

1966:

Ted Stanton pulled back on the reins and scratched the neck of his mare. Matilda neighed, acknowledging his signal to stop. Standing up in the stirrups he squinted and the only blip on the horizon was where Bromadilly gently sat. Dismounting he untied one of the soft leather panniers that straddled Matilda's flanks and retrieved his quarter filled billy can and a treat for Matilda.

He tethered his mare in the shade of a stand of Ironbarks, where the last vestiges of green spring grasses remained, protected from the withering Western sun. Ted then produced the treat, a crisp Granny Smith. Matilda hesitated for a second before delicately snaffling the apple from Ted's hand, her gentleness was rewarded as he vigorously ruffled her mane.

Unscrewing the top of his watertight billy Ted was glad he hadn't lingered too long over the tea he had brewed at his previous rest place and gathered some brush to make a fire to heat what remained. Dropping to his haunches he huddled over the billy waiting for the boiling bubbles to reach the top. Once boiled he sat back and pondered on the last stretch to Bromadilly, sipping the scalding tea.

Moving off at a slow pace to the distant township, Ted gradually hunched over as Matilda's plodding trot soon had his eyelids yielding to gravity, inviting sleep to pay him a visit for the first time in twenty hours. She knew the way. It was a well worn road that that they

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Short Stories

had travelled many times. When the township eventually loomed large Matilda brayed, waking her master. Sleep bid farewell as Ted resumed his position. Sitting upright in the saddle he scratched her rump in thanks for the alarm call.

The Last Chance Café which provided one of the few highlights in this drab town had vanished. Ted's eyes blinked in disbelief at its replacement, standing out like the proverbial sore thumb, in a streetscape of bleached wooden facades. "Fair dinkum," he muttered under his breath, as he took in the brightly painted substitute. The horizontal timber panelled façade had been divided into three equal sections, coloured green, white and red and a sign, Luigi's Trattoria, graced the new corrugated iron roof above. It was a sight to behold. Even the horse trough had been resuscitated by a liberal coating of gold paint. Ted dismounted, bent and sniffed the water in the trough and recoiled dumbstruck; no smell. He cupped his hand and lifted water to his lips and sipped carefully. "That's fresh water," he exclaimed incredulously; "Fair dinkum. What the hell has been going on around here?" he asked himself. As if in answer, the entrance door, now cleverly concealed, so as not to detract from the flag like effect of the café's frontage, opened inwards and out strolled a portly, swarthy stranger with jet black brilliantined hair. His body was swathed in a crisp white apron, his face presenting the widest smile Ted had ever seen. A smile that revealed a set of gleaming white teeth, save for two gold upper canines. "Fair dinkum," again was all Ted could utter; his mind trying to take it all in.

"Buongiorno my deara friend. Welcome toa the Bromadilly Trattoria. Pleasa, pleasa do mea da honour to coma ina dacide. It isa lovely anda cool anda we hava the best coffee westa froma Brisbane. My namea isa Luigi."

Ted Stanton stood arms akimbo, dumbfounded. He wiped his sweaty forehead with his shirt sleeve. "Jeeze, is this for real?" he asked himself.

"Seea your horsee. Hea my firsta customer fora the day." Ted tore his eyes away from Luigi and turned to see Matilda, nose in the trough, slaking her thirst.

"Pleasa Signor, your horsee isa happy. Pleasa coma ina dacide. My Rosa will tiea him up and bringa the hay for him, for free. Coma in, coma in" Luigi ushered a bemused Ted Stanton inside the Trattoria in a manner any self respecting orb weaver, enticing a reticent fly, would have been proud of.

The cool air from the ceiling fan swirled around Ted's shoulders and as his eyes became accustomed to the dimly lit interior they grew in wonder. Alladin's Cave was

the first thought that entered Ted's incredulous mind. "Stone the crows," he proclaimed in amazement, accompanied by a disbelieving whistle through pursed lips.

Outside, Matilda whinnied in excitement as a large handful of sweet fresh hay was dumped in front of her. She looked up for her master's permission to start but his absence was, in her mind, tantamount to permission to tuck in.

"My Rosa tya your horsee up in the shade and giva him some hay and he isa very happy to be dining atta Luigi's Trattoria. Letta me bringa a glass of iced water as you looka bit hot. Then a bigga cuppa of coffee, or tea, with bacon anda eggs with buttered toast. Coma sit down we hava many things ona offa. Here isa the menu. You may wanta some of my Rosa's pasta witha the cheese anda tomatoe sauca. My Rosa is the best cook in Bromadilly you will see. I go now anda my bambino, Isabella, will coma witha the iced water and she willa takea your order."

Ted sat down at the nearest table, his mind in a whirl as he grabbed the menu and studied it for a minute. He heard footsteps behind. They stopped and a shadow cast across the table. Ted was aware of a waiting presence, he lingered over the menu, then made up his mind. "I will have the...." That's as far as he got as he turned to face Isabella. Their eyes met and for a moment he was transfixed by the vision of an Angel. The smile Isabella wore, the smile she presented to all patrons, disappeared and her eyes widened. Ted managed to get himself under some sort of control, "Crikey; are you for real?" Isabella never heard Ted's question. She dropped the glass of iced water and clutched at her heart. She stepped back slowly turned and ran to the kitchen. "Mamma, mamma," she cried. Reaching the kitchen door she looked back, a fleeting smile appeared. Shaking her head she disappeared into the kitchen calling for her Mamma.

"My bambino what is it?" Rosa cradled her daughter in her arms.

"Mamma, Mamma....."

"Tell me child, tell me, what is it?"

"Mamma; out there."

"What is out there Isabella? You look like you have seen a ghost."

"No Mamma not a ghost; the one I have been waiting for so long."

Short Stories

Walking Tall: A Light-bulb Moment

Kaye Christensen, Port Macquarie Hastings FAW

SHOES LACED firmly I stood; straightening my clothes before setting-off towards the seawall. Here I found and managed the rather awkward stone-steps; I had not remembered them being so steep. Built ages ago by its townfolk, the seawall lay before me, showing-off some obvious changes. New rocks now jammed themselves next to the old scarred ones, either attempting to push them into the sea, or at least claim the best position. And a now wider cement path included a painted white line on either side. I was grateful for that at least, but still unsure; I did not want to be here, but. Walking will better my health and outlook, my doctor had advised. And so, I began.

Intending to make shoe-lace checks to discourage any stumbling or hesitancy, I decided I could manage to eat an apple and walk too. It appears that I walk crookedly when trying to walk for a purpose, or perhaps that is just who I am; someone who meanders in and around things. A quick look behind before checking-out people in front, revealed more early-bird strollers than I expected. I suppose being a sunny Saturday makes a difference. I slipped-in unnoticed whilst maintaining my deliberate, steady pace. Do they worry about walking straight, or stumbling? Maybe they are not walking on purpose. Maybe they always stroll slowly. But that probably would not suit the energetic style prescribed by my doctor. Maybe most are here for some fishing or pairing up for the pleasure of each other's company; for they are not alone.

Three boys ahead, their pushbikes angled across the path and facing my way, worried me when I heard the comment, 'Hey, let's see who gets back to the steps first.' My pace slowed. Then to a stop, when a lady's flapping plastic-raincoat managed to distract me. No rain, only healthy wave-splashes, constantly hitting the rocks below her, making a distinctive rhythm. She took no notice, perhaps accustomed-to the event, or perhaps more interested in the lovely smile being returned from her attentive husband, who was re-baiting their lines. Ahead, the sun hit a tilted, flat-faced rock, causing a gold embedded plaque to wink at passers-by. I wonder why it is there. And what it says. I spotted a large poodle prancing ahead. He slowed, glanced back and looked to check-with the man holding his leash. Becoming completely satisfied with his owner's keep-going hand-wave; his happy poodle-prancing picked up a notch.

About the halfway mark, a timber bridge allows an escape for the local lagoon's water; it rushes out, refreshes and comers back home later. But its confusion with the decision to go or stay, produces small spirals,

resembling their thumbs-up hurrah. I tossed my apple core as I crossed, almost reaching my intended target. Pelicans watched fishermen clean their catch, with both men and birds wanting an easy dinner. A lady in blue whom I saw starting-out before I mounted those steps, was on her return. She smiled warmly. I suppose she had guessed that I was walking purposely for my health. Maybe she noticed my inability to keep a straight line. Laces checked, I breathed-in the fresh sea air, straightened-up again and returned to my purpose. A not-so-young woman in black tights, sloppy T-shirt and expensive joggers, had music in her ears, displaying her style and passion for walking, music being her company.

Reaching the wall's end I turned with care; must not stumble at half way. I stopped for a few minutes to look around, breathed in the freshness again and smiled; the twenty-minute walk back to the beginning, did not seem impossible. The blue lady had already passed the timber bridge, the black-tights jogger could well be home and I noted the poodle was sniffing about, waiting patiently whilst his owner talked to the fishing husband and wife. The trio of bike riders had zoomed past the end of the wall to another playful endeavour no doubt, and the contented pelicans were perched atop the lamp posts. Reaching the bridge, I noticed my apple core was still trapped in the indecision of the water swirl, perhaps waiting to be nudged by hungry fish or snatched by a seagull. I took a quick look, seeing neither. I did count six gold plaques though on the way back, holding names of well-loved fishermen, who had passed to the sea. What an interesting wall. A wall I could perhaps walk each day; taking in its new stories, strollers and seaside scenery.

Now, where did I leave the car? Hands on hips, I became aware of my standing on the other arm of the wall, having blissfully marched beyond the stone steps from whence I had begun. My smile encompassed me. It also dawned on me that my shoe-laces had remained unchecked for over twenty minutes. Nor had I checked if I had been walking sloppily or in that straight line. What did it matter anyway I whispered, whilst relaxing into my newfound knowledge; yes, I do meander. And yes, I am alone. But I can do this.

Writing Competitions



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

Closing 15 May, 2025:

EASTWOOD/HILLS FAW LITERARY COMPETITION 2025

Entry Fee of \$8 per entry or \$30 for 4 entries
Cheques or money orders in AU\$ payable to: FAW
(Eastwood Hills)

Fees can also be sent electronically - details are on the website. Please Note: Entries can now be submitted online.

Each entry must be accompanied by a separate signed entry form.

Conditions of entry and entry forms can be found on the Eastwood-Hills FAW website: <https://hillsfaw.wordpress.com/>

Enquiries: Carolyn Alfonzetti (carolyn.alfonzetti@me.com)

Closing 15 May, 2025:

EASTWOOD/HILLS FAW BOREE LOG AWARD FOR BUSH VERSE 2025

Ballads to be in perfect phyme and metre with max 80 lines and an Australian bush theme.

Entry Fee of \$8 per entry or \$30 for 4 entries - maximum 4 entries per entrant.

Cheques or money orders in AU\$ payable to: FAW
(Eastwood Hills)

Fees can also be sent electronically - details are on the website. Please Note: Entries can now be submitted online.

Each entry must be accompanied by a separate signed entry form.

Conditions of entry and entry forms can be found on the Eastwood-Hills FAW website: <https://hillsfaw.wordpress.com/>

Enquiries: Carolyn Alfonzetti (carolyn.alfonzetti@me.com)

Closing 13 February, 2025: 2025 NEXT GENERATION INDIE BOOK AWARDS

The Next Generation Indie Book Awards, the most exciting and rewarding book awards program open to independent publishers and authors worldwide, is NOW ACCEPTING ENTRIES written in English and released in 2023, 2024 or 2025 or with a 2023, 2024 or 2025 copyright date.

The 2025 Next Generation Indie Book Awards is open to all indie book authors and publishers including independent publishers (small, medium or otherwise), university presses, self-published authors, e-book authors, seasoned authors and even first-time authors in the U.S., Canada, or internationally who have a book, a manuscript, or a galley proof written in English.

ENTRY GUIDELINES AND CATEGORIES: For complete entry guidelines AND to see a list of the over 80 categories you can enter go to <https://www.indiebookawards.com/categories.php>

ONLINE ENTRY FORM: Enter online at <https://www.indiebookawards.com/enteryourbook.php>

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

Father and Daughter

Whenever Sunday came
this daughter of a famous man
wrapped herself in bedclothes
while others attended church.

Her absences were noted
her name recorded by King James's officers

While imprisoned Guy Fawkes counted the days
until his meeting with the noose
pro-Catholic sentiment meant trouble.

She would have known many around her town
Stratford.

Her father was wealthy:
bestrode the incipient world of theatre;
navigated royal circles with easy grace, but fretted
over Susanna's flaunted defiance pushing
her to the cliff-edge of danger.

Susanna three days' horse ride away

Three days' ride last made so many years ago

A sense of helplessness, guilt twisted his gut
harassed his midnight hours
tossed him back and across his bed
stared wide-eyed into his brain
gave birth to

King Lear

and tangled love for Cordelia.

Susanna's name no longer listed

Did she relent
or did his influence prevail?

Across the stage grief-beaten Lear
bears the limp body
of his one loving daughter.

Greg Tome, Southern Highlands FAW

Ducks

Gathering in groups
Morning delight
Looking for worms
Swooping merrily
Ducks emerald green and silver grey
More friends visit
Racing to the water
Glide across the lake
Joy, peace, and love
As they enter
Sunshine marks the waves
Their feathers shine
as they say goodbye

Liz Shaw, Eastwood Hills FAW

Life's Little Mysteries

Another year will soon be gone
and I have no idea
what I have done

When finding my glasses
has become such an achievement
only to be baffled by the
whereabouts
of the keys to the front door
never mind the car.

The mobile phone remains silent,
unseen
another of life's little mysteries.

Feathers ruffled,
I enter the outside world,
and the supermarket aisle
to encounter a familiar face
her name has gone
in an instant.

Hello Sunshine,
I smile in her direction
as I head for the checkout
fumbling for my plastic card.
The ordeal isn't over
where the hell have I parked the car?

Lyn Yates, Lambing Flat FAW

A memorable holiday - or was it

We all know it is the holiday season
when there are visitors galore
and that's the reason
We encounter crowds upon our shore.

The weatherman says, it will be hot
Decisions need to be made
As a retiree, should I be put on the spot
To ask someone to come to my aid.

So, the choices are few
The best one is the air-con and fan
Beaches crowded with red weed askew
The daughter's pool - now that's a plan.

But I find myself in the cool of the evening
In awe of the sound of the bush
I search for some meaning.
In the chorus I hear, my imagination is pushed.

I settle back and listen...
Kookaburra family saying, "Good night"
Cicadas competing and in position
To be crowned the loudest on site.

But wait, suburbia is in this competition too
A party next door, music so loud
A motor bike revs, to add to this review
Which sound will be the loudest in this crowd?

I think the kookaburra may have the last laugh
Nature verses humanity, what a blast
With the faintest of sounds, a nip on my calf
The mosquito has got my attention, at last!

Summer holidays a time to reflect
So many choices to employ
Nature reminds me to respect
The smallest of them all can interrupt my joy.

Alison Davey, Port Macquarie-Hastings 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.

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.

Literary Achievements

BLUE MOUNTAINS FAW

Two of our members were included in the 2024 Seniors Stories Volume 10 book and audiobook to be launched 19th November at NSW Parliament House, Sydney:

- **Pat Allen** for her story titled 'The Person I Became'
- **David Berger** for his story titled 'Stardust and Dreaming'

Pat Allen, Rosemary Baldry, Pirie Klemmer and Jeanette Temesvary

each had an untitled Tanka published in *Eucalypt: A Tanka Journal*, Issue 37, November 2024.

Claire Gartrell

Historical Novel *Lavinia's War*, published by Amazon Books, September 2024.

Pauline Grinbergs

Children's story *The Oak Tree: it is our home*, self-published, October 2024.

Jeanette Temesvary

Micro-fiction story 'Treechange' published in *Bad Western Sydney: The Second Case* by WestWords Ltd, September 2024.

FOREST FAW

Beatrice Yell

Two tanka accepted by Tanka Society of Australia

One tanka accepted by Eucalypt

Beatrice read her poem 'Forbidden' at the Manly Library's Open Mic Night as part of a Spill the Beans challenge.

Margaret Zanardo

20 tanka in *Coming soon...*, as part of a collaborative book of Japanese poetry, by five members of Waterloo Wordplay, ed Catherine Skipper, Finnegan Press.

Liz Guthrie

Short story *Bookish Betty* included in the 2024 NSW Seniors Short Story Anthology

Seetha Dodd

Picture book manuscript awarded first place in the CYA Aspiring Authors competition

ISOLATED WRITERS

Jenny England

Short Story in the Kiama Bugle - *The Polling Booth*

Second Prize in the RD Walsche Writing for the Environment 2024 (Over 60 category) - *The Storm*

Short Story in The Village Observer - *The Storm*

Issy Jinarmo

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

Nan's Garden, Culture Cult

The Sentinels, MockingOwl Roost

The Calm, DoubleSpeak

The Cracked Mirror, Culture Cult

An Act of Kindness, GreenCat Books

When Jack got bored, Fun Tales Mudgee Valley Writers

LAKE MACQUARIE FAW

Sandra Boyd

Managed a successful stall for her Kani Consultants books (see <https://kaniconsultants.com.au/>) at the Sydney Book Fair; spoke on a panel at the fair on disability in the publishing industry.

Cate Plink

Included in *Seniors Stories* vol. 10 2024, story 'Why am I so different?'.

Wayne Russell

Published, rural thriller *Shattered falls* (paperback and ebook available at <https://www.amazon.com.au/SHATTERED-FALLS-Wayne-Russell/dp/0648645401>).

Ned Stephenson

Longlisted in the Sydney Hammond Memorial Short Story Competition, short stories 'C Minus' and 'Virtus Romanorum'.

Linda Visman

Completed draft of her memoir, *Tales from the Northern Territory: remote area teaching at Ampilatwatja 1990-1994*.

MACARTHUR FAW

Cathy Hobson

Article, *Margaret Mary (Peggy) Kelman (1909 – 1998)* published in *The Australian Dictionary of Biography* July 2024.

MOOCOOBOOLA FAW

Elizabeth Hamlin

Story: 'Dinner with the cardboard people'. Positive Words July 2004.

Story: 'The latest meeting of our theatre group. Positive Words August 2004.

Story: 'Charlotte's notebook. Positive Words September 2004.

Story: 'Our dream was to make it to the big time. Positive Words October 2004.

Mary Bramston

Story: 'A different point of view'. Positive Words August 2024.

Story: 'Spreading the news'. Positive Words September 2024.

Maz Goldrick

Drama: 'Changing, engaging, ageing'. Sydney Short and Sweet Festival April 2024.

Drama: 'Poet in pieces'. Shortlisted in National One-Act Play Competition 2024.

Drama: 'On the verge'. Performed at Arts Theatre, Cronulla, Sydney September 2024.

Cont. next page...

Literary Achievements

Drama: 'What goes around'. Finalist in Crash Test Drama, Arts Theatre Cronulla, Sydney November 2024.

Robert Dickins

Poem: 'Jacarandas'. Printed in Sydney Morning Herald Jacaranda Poetry competition, 2 November 2024.

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS FAW

Brian Tolagson

Poem, *Limerick Limerick*, WV No. 285 Sept

Poem, *On the Ball*, WV No. 285 Sept

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS FAW

Greg Baker

'Now What' A Drabble published in Writers Voice No. 285 September 2024

Sarah Wallace and Uta Purcell

'Reflections by Dame Mary Gilmore' A dramatic interview published in Writers Voice No. 285 September 2024 and performed at FAWSH's 20th Anniversary.

Barbara McKendry

'Light & Shadow' A collection of poetry published Di Sylvester di@poesispress Bowral.

STROUD FAW

Hilary Heanly

Story, *Bits and Pieces*, to be published in Seniors Stories Volume 10, 'What Made Me'.

WOLLONDILLY FAW

Andy Renella

Story, 'Good Old Pickles', Stroud Writers' Short Takes

Narelle Noppert

Story, 'A Young Mans War', Stroud Writers' Short Takes

Bookshelf

CLAIRE GARTRELL

Lavinia's War

This historical novel is based on a true story about a close family friend who travelled to Malaya (now Malaysia, then under British rule) as a nurse during World War 2. Malaya was invaded by the Japanese in late 1941 and she escaped with her life in dangerous circumstances to Australia, then eventually returned to England. I worked from her genuine archives, which Lavinia carried with her from Malaya - letters and diaries which give minute details of life at the time. This is a true story of love and loss, the call of duty and the powerlessness of individuals against momentous world events. Available from the publishers Amazon Books as paperback and e-book by searching the title *Lavinia's War*.

PAULINE GRINBERGS

The Oak Tree: It is our home

This children's book about caring for the environment and all the animals that live within, is beautifully illustrated using collage photos. Pauline, a retired midwife, relocated from a five-acre property in Menangle four years ago to enjoy Wentworth Falls. She was inspired to write this story by a quilt she had made many years earlier for her grandchildren. It has been a long journey with many variations to produce this final version which she hopes you will enjoy. Available from the author Pauline Grinbergs pauline.m.g@hotmail.com and at Rosey Ravelston Books <https://roseyravelstonbooks.com.au/>

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*
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Ted Webber
Margaret Wilkinson
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FAW NSW LIFE MEMBERS

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

*Deceased

Bookshelf

JEREMY GADD

Curtain Calls

From the small but influential Jane Street Theatre in Randwick to the Royal Court Theatre, the Bankside Globe, the esteemed Old Vic and the National Theatre of Great Britain, in London, the author worked on several significant 20th-century productions before returning to Australia, where he converted a deconsecrated church complex in Sydney into a 200 seat venue for avant-garde performances. *Curtain Calls* relates the author's journey with insights into the productions and behind-the-scenes anecdotes about the participating actors and production personnel.

Here is a link to the Australian Scholarly Publishing website: <https://scholarly.info/book/curtain-calls/>.

Jeremy Gadd has previously published articles, five volumes of poetry, two novels, two collections of short stories and had plays professionally performed (<https://jeremygaddpoet.com/>).

JULIE THORNDYKE

Precipice: Poems by Julie Thorndyke

Experience the unique atmosphere and creative solitude of Julie Thorndyke's month-long winter writing residency at Mount Wilson, through this collection of reflective and personal poetry responding to the climate, landscape and history of a remote mountain hamlet.

KAREN LIEVERSZ

With or Without Vows

A woman on the edge. An ex undercover cop hiding from the past. A second chance to save their marriage. When Jules discovers a petite bombshell cuddling up to her man in a bar, she does what any self-respecting spouse would do. She throws a glass of wine in his face and tells him to "go to hell". It's the wake up call they both needed. For too long, Jules and Mick have pretended their marriage is fine when it's not. So, they agree to try to salvage their relationship, if only for the sake of their daughter. But when their secrets are exposed, they will have to tackle their personal demons head on or risk losing everything. No more half-truths. No more pretending. No more excuses.

This steamy second chance romance will be available on Amazon in E-Book and Paperback format from the 5th December 2024.

CAROLYN ELDRIDGE-ALFONZETTI

Trudie Cooper Super Foodie

Trudie Cooper has a secret talent. She's a ten-year-old cooking genius!

In book 1, *The Secret is Out*, Trudie's on a mission to save the school library. She enlists the support of a TV personality, but as events unfold her secret is also revealed.

In book 2, *Saves the Day*, Trudie's cooking skills and fast action rescue a very special event when catastrophe strikes.

In book 3, *Catches a Cheat*, a mystery is afoot when a cookery-show contestant cooks up a suspiciously too-tasty pie.

Each 48pp soft-cover book is \$14.00 (includes standard postage within Australia)

Email: Carolyn.alfonzetti@me.com.

FAW members:

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

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>.

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
(2nd Sunday September and October)

Springwood Sports Club, 83 Macquarie Road, Springwood
Enquiries: Jeanette Temesvary
Phone: 0423 908 199
Email: temesvary.jns@gmail.com

Postage: 91 Buena Vista Rd, Winnmalee, 2777
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

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: 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 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:
lakemacfaw2@gmail.com
Facebook: /LakeMacFAW
Web: lakemacfaw2.wordpress.com
X formerly Twitter:
[@lakemacfaw2](https://twitter.com/lakemacfaw2)
Instagram: #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

MOOCOBOOLA FAW

3rd Thursday – 1.30 pm

Gladesville Library
Pittwater Road, Gladesville.
Enquiries: Robert Dickens
9713 8048

Paul Valis 0415 068 163

MUDGEY 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: 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.
Postal Address: Gail Leighton-Daly, 2 Highlands Close, Moss Vale 2577
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:
Hilary Heanly 0466 994 142
hilary.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

SYDNEY CITY FAW

3rd Friday – 4.00pm

Sydney Mechanics School of Arts,
1st Floor, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney (close to Town Hall Station, light rail and buses).
Open to all writers, all genres.
Enquiries: Pip 0406 627 855, Colleen touchstoneten@gmail.com, or John 02 8920 8690

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

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

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.
Liz Shaw, PO Box 271, Woy Woy, NSW 2256

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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