

WRITERS VOICE



fawnsw.org.au

Article

Our President's Visit to Small Town NSW

Mel Ifield

FAW Manuscript Appraiser

IN DECEMBER 2024, the FAW's NSW State President, Colleen Parker, made her way around inland parts of the state, attending presentations and visiting branches. One visit, out in the hot and usually dusty West, was to the FAW's manuscript assessor, Melanie Ifield (myself). This time, however, both Colleen and I had to meet up between rain showers, turning the usual furnace-like summer's air into a humid swamp.

Other than that small annoyance, it was incredible to put faces to names and sit down over a cuppa to discuss what sort of things I can offer FAW writers; members and non-members alike. I have been the manuscript assessor for the Fellowship since June 2022. So, what does this actually mean, you may ask.

A manuscript assessor isn't an editing service; however, I do find it is much easier to help my clients see what I am talking about by offering editing advice in my assessment reports. A report can cover topics such as writing style, character development and dialogue, setting, pace and tension. Some of these sections are not necessary for nonfiction, but the essence of a report stays the same: how is the writing developing and what are the areas I see needing a bit of tweaking moving forward.

It is important to remember that you are not alone with your work. Unless you never plan on showing what you write to another soul, the final product needs to show your reader your inner landscape in a way they can relate to, with as few errors as possible so they don't feel 'jolted' out of the flow of the narrative. You are also not alone with your work, while you struggle or fumble with ways to express yourself. This is where I come in. I can help smooth and fine-tune the writing and ideas, showing you ways to develop the work while not losing your writer's voice.

Writing is so good for self-expression, mental health and a way to find incredible joy when you see your words in print, or get the chance to read it out loud to friends and family. Don't let your fears, self-doubt and a lack of confidence hold you back from this important pastime. Reach out through the FAW's Hon.Sec. to get my email and let us work together to find the right writing path for you.

Since I began as your assessor, I have completed my Master of Creative Writing, graduating with the Macquarie University Award for Academic Excellence and recently one of my short stories was accepted for publication in The Brussels Review, Belgium. When I am not writing, or reading – it is called research!! – I am watching science fiction or fantasy on TV, or fabulous shows like Downton Abbey. Now that is writing for you!

The Inaugural
Ernestine Hill Memorial
Short Story Award
Luncheon
will be held
immediately following the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
on Saturday 3rd May

– see page 4.

Buy your
Luncheon tickets
online at fawnsw.org.au

The sheer elegance of the turn of phrase makes me itch to pick Mr Fellows's brain. If you haven't seen it, I highly recommend it. Pay attention to how he evokes emotional reactions between characters and yourself.

It has been a slow year, as I have had to focus on my health. I know many of you can understand how hard it can be to write when you are

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QUARTERLY COPY DEADLINES:

15 MAY, 15 AUGUST, 15 NOVEMBER, and 15 FEBRUARY for June, September, December, and March 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: fawns.org.au/membership/writing-fellows/.

The broad criteria for this class of membership, are that the applicant should have had a substantial body of work published and should normally have been a member of the FAW for at least two years. A committee of the State Council adjudicates on each application, which should be forwarded to the Registrar of Writing Fellows, FAW State Council, **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@fawns.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 fawns.org.au/about-us/distinguished-service-awards/.

Guidelines for assessing recommendations for Distinguished Service Awards:

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

2. Qualifications to include the following features:

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

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

(c) Required to have participated in activities organised by the Branch Committee on a regular basis – or to have served on the Branch Committee – for at least eight years.

3. All recommendations to be submitted, preferably online, to the DSA Assessment Committee c/- honsecretary@fawns.org.au or mailed to **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@fawns.org.au.

Public Fund

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

FAW Manuscript Assessment Service

Critical reading with general criticism, editing including interpolation of articles, short stories and novels. A fee applies of \$50 (\$60 non-members) for a sample assessment of two chapters up to 7,000 words; \$25 (\$30 non-members) for one or two poems of no more than 60 lines each. To commence the manuscript assessment process please, **firstly**, contact the State Secretary Liz Shaw honsecretary@fawns.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

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State Council News

From the desk of the State President

WELCOME TO 2025 and another busy year ahead being active and writing our bestsellers. We have many new experiences ahead but I am a believer that we need to give to receive. In my experience whenever I have given I seem to receive threefold in return. It is strange how that works out, but it is true. I am disappointed when I hear of members considering closing their branch because they are 'stuck' with the committee work. So I recommend that branches consider 'terms of service,' E.g. 3 or 5 years maximum at a time, because not only does it mean the workload is not left to just a few, but with new members on committee comes new ideas. There is always the option for a term, then a break, then another term later on. We don't want to lose anybody, not any of us joined FAW to do administration, but to develop our writing and enjoy the company of like-minded colleagues, many of whom become friends.

Stay in touch, keen and busy writing by taking an interest in our meetings, and keep abreast of what plans are in the pipeline and better still, add some of your own. Reading *Writers Voice* from cover to cover and regularly checking our website and your thoughts, we all grow.

It is time I shared some more historical information about our Fellowship organisation as I joined in 1983 and then, after two years, took a break while settling my children into their school routines and busy family life, but re-joined in 1995 and continued since. I have gathered a lot of memories in those 32 years, both of member relationships and changes with modernising policies through our constitution developments, our communication from snail mail to email and ultimately other technology. Our Committee Meetings were always held in the city of Sydney so that everyone could reach the venue whereas instead of four times a year, we only do that once a year now with the other three held via Zoom.

Our bulletin has developed from an A5 black and white booklet, to a larger A4 black and white magazine with photographs to enhance the articles but now we have an A4 full colour magazine enhanced with photographs of members and activities so with no excuse to not be well-informed anymore.

I am really looking forward to 2028 when we turn 100 and celebrating that fantastic milestone of history. Kath Berryman and her Panel of planners are going 'great guns' gathering as much relevant material together as possible. We do have some 'treasures', books and documents from yesteryear in the Mitchell Library and



Colleen Parker

of course our *Writers Voice* Issues are posted each publication as well. But to my great relief this year, Hon. Secretary, Liz Shaw and I went to the NSW Writers Centre in Balmain where we used to have our Head Office, but now just store our precious archives in the basement there. Extremely appreciated Liz and Bob!

Liz dropped two plastic tubs of material

passed from Hon. Sec. Maureen Kelly, oam to Jackie Laing then to Liz to their permanent home. When Kath Berryman has published our Centenary Book, much of the research can be culled and the History book deposited.

Four 'Special' books also deposited to preserve the efforts from our era for perpetuity are: Anthologies published under President Beverley Earnshaw, **A Mosaic of Memories**, 1999; one under President Trevar Langlands, **Voices From the Past**, 2001; one under me, **Unlock the Writer Within**, 2013; and an historical book of FAW members' worthy interviews of prominent Aussie volunteers, **Heartbeat From the Hastings**, 2017; and finally a pristine copy of our new book in 2028 along with **Dream From a Graveside** - to be included.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at the AGM in May at the Royal Automobile Centre, in Sydney.

Enjoy your fellowship!

Colleen Parker

News from the Secretary's Desk

IT'S BEEN a busy quarter as Secretary and Publicity Officer with FAW NSW responding to all your phone enquiries as well as email enquiries. Supporting the President and Treasurer dealing with resolving situations and problems when members need us to deal with them.

Enjoying the challenge and knowledge. The FAW team is a great friendly team, with everyone giving their best effort forward.

Rick and I have been busy organising our Awards luncheon for Ernestine Hill Saturday the 3rd of May 2025 at Sydney Royal Automobile Club Australia, hope

Cont. next page...

State Council News

everyone can attend.

Many competitions for the members to compete in 2025. Meetings and organising for the year ahead have made January a busy time.

Senior Story workshops are being planned and I will be presenting the Erina and Hornsby ones in March.

Liz and husband, Colleen and husband went on an Archives visit. We braved the wet and visited the FAW Archives at Lilyfield. We passed through a magnificent federation cottage. A veranda on every side. Sandstone pavers and stepped inside to the old homestead. As we stepped down the huge sandstone steps, there is sauna of heat and there were the archives. Many interesting files to scan through and add to. A sight many do not see.

I have used the manuscript service recently and highly recommend this service. Great price for our members.

Happy and safe 2025 to all.

Liz Shaw, Hon. Sec. FAW NSW

Fellowship of Australian Writers NSW Inc.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Saturday 3rd May 2025

Time: 10am sharp

Venue: Macquarie Room,
Royal Automobile Club of Australia
89 Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW.
All members welcome.

Voting Rights:

State Committee and Delegates only.
Please advise delegate name and branch on registration.

Agenda: Will be distributed by the Hon. Secretary per email.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Written nominations to be sent to Hon. Secretary by Friday 11 April 2025. Secretary hands to the Returning Officer (to be appointed at the meeting 3rd May 2025)

State Committee Positions

All seven positions become available annually:

1. State President
2. Vice President
3. Hon. Secretary
4. Hon. Treasurer
5. Membership Registrar
6. Publicity Officer
7. Gen. Committee

Continued from Front Page ...

not feeling one hundred percent and long-term health issues have plagued me for fifteen years now. This is not an excuse not to write, however, and I implore any of you who are struggling with your own health to find the time to put words on a page. It is marvellously cathartic to rage against the physical and mental injustices of disability through our work!

I am not a poet nor playwright, however, so these are two forms of the written word I do not feel suit my style of assessment. While I can certainly look over a poem or two, or even a book written in verse, for coherence and word placement, the technicalities of poetry and script writing do require more specialist assessing than I am prepared for at this time.

I do, however, work closely with writers of long form writing (novels, novellas etc) in all genres, short stories and those who write for children and young adult. For a well-developed report on the first 7000 words of your manuscript, it is \$50 for members and \$60 for non-members. This includes 1-2 short stories (up to 7000 words) and complete manuscripts for children, if they are under 7000 words. I am happy with assessing nonfiction as well, if you are a more factual writer, including creative nonfiction.

From the President on the AGM

It is disappointing that we have had a branch or two close but at the same time other branches build in their numbers. We need to share with each other why some Committee members are long-term loyal members while others believe there is nothing in it for them to continue as members.

In my Editorial I suggested that you consider rotating the roles within the branch committees which continues developing everyone. I do not believe it should be mandatory but at least encouraged. Having a second 'term' after a break is one way it could work, but changes of personnel creates fresh new ideas and a member doesn't feel 'trapped' in a committee role..

So with the AGM looming in May and the Election of Office Bearers due each year it would be of assistance if the membership advise us if you might be interested in coming up onto State Committee at some time. All positions become available every year. Yes there is a lot to learn, but at the same time the current members would feel supported if we were made aware that there is interest among you so that we could begin developing you for the Role you would be interested in.

Colleen Parker



Country Newspapers Project 2025



WE HAVE some development in our Country Press Competition Project as Greg McFarland (Isolated Writer) is their Representative and is keeping us updated with their progress.

Forty-nine newspapers are involved in this project, which are detailed in the table below. Details regarding the project are detailed here:

- The plan is that the Newspapers will publicise the event and distribute the Entry Forms.
- Entries will need to be posted to a PO Box publicised in the newspaper advertisements. Entry is FREE but postage is up to the entrant.
- Country Press will manage the sorting into the four categories, record all details and assign an entry number.
- The entries will arrive at FAW for judging.
- Entries could begin arriving in mid-April and finalise on 4-July, 2025 resulting in a ten week window of incoming entries.
- There is to be a short-list in each category, from which there will be a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prize selected.
- We are obligated to supply four judges, Adult Open, Secondary School, Primary School, Newspaper staff/contributor.

We are happy to advise that we have Ian Keast, President of Port Macquarie Hastings and an ex-English High School teacher, to judge the High School category.

And State Committee member, Jackie Laing will be the lynch-pin between our FAW judges and the submissions of the categorized entries. The judges will select a short list of five in each of the four categories and give those results back to Jackie confidentially. More details of the process will come when the four judges are in place.

We are now keen to hear of interest for judging the other three categories, who will work through Jackie.

If your local area is serviced by any of these papers, you are considered 'country,' so make contact with the Editor and let him know about your branch. You might get some new member enquiries. If you read about it in the newspaper, submit your story to that same newspaper. At the same time that you are supporting them they will in turn, be supporting us.

Please look at your membership and assist us to select three judges to join Ian Keast. As they do not have a webmaster like our Ken Driver, their entries will be snail mail posted to their Country Press. They will then process them through to Jackie Laing, who will collate them and get the correct entries to the appropriate judge.

Please steer any questions through our Hon. Sec, Liz Shaw. I encourage you to participate in this project we have been offered to judge in the hope that we share our combined knowledge to the outside world in 'fellowship' of Australian Writing.

Colleen Parker, President FAW NSW

Ballina Times	The Bridge News (Barham)	Boorowa News
Broken Hill Times	Byron Coast Times (Byron Bay)	Canowindra News
Cobar Weekly	Coast Community News (Gosford)	Condobolin Argus
Coonabarabran Times	Coonamble Times	Corowa Free Press
Cowra Guardian	Deniliquin Pastoral Times	Dubbo Photo News
Forbes Advocate	Forster Fortnightly	Gilgandra Weekly
Grenfell Record	Gundagai Independent	Gunnedah Times
Guyra Gazette	Hay Riverine Grazier	Hunter River Times (Singleton)
Kiama Bugle	Lismore Times	Monaro Post (Cooma)
Narrabri Courier	Narrandera Argus	Narromine Star
Newcastle Weekly	Norhwest Guide (Moree)	Nyngan Weekly
Orange City Life	Parkes Champion Post	Port Stephens News of the Area
Southern Highlands News	Southern Riverina News	Temora Independent
Tumbarumba Times	Tumut & Adelong Times	Tweed Coast Times (Murwillumbah)
Village Voice (Bathurst-Lithgow-Blue Mountains)	Walcha (Apsley Advocate)	Warren Star
Wellington & District Leader	West Wyalong Advocate	Wollondilly Express
Young Witness		

Branch Reports

BLUE MOUNTAINS FAW

AS THE hydrangea blooms fade and Acree myrtle explodes in the streets of Springwood, we find ourselves wistful for the past while looking forward to the year ahead.

With our December Christmas party, a delightful memory of stories and flavours, our committee met in January for planning. Thanks to members' responses to our annual questionnaire, we had excellent ideas for our calendar.

Healthy finances allow us to plan for several guest speakers on topics of Memoir Writing, Romantic Fiction, Publishing and Poetry. We are also lucky to have talented members who put their hands up to facilitate meetings, lead warm-up exercises and topic presentations aimed at expanding our writers' toolbox. Another initiative we are planning is to publish a booklet with each member's favourite piece of writing done this year, as a Christmas gift to ourselves!

Our first formal meeting in February saw us welcome new and established members who were

keen to learn about Short Story Writing. Annette Brown started us off with a speedy short story plotting exercise which dovetailed nicely with Deb Harris' presentation on 'How to Write to a Theme'. Deb challenged us to approach a theme using brainstorming techniques. This helped us build a vocabulary of word associations with various connotations, related to any given theme. The meeting focus was intended to help us tackle the upcoming Seniors Story and other writing competitions available during the year, as listed in a handout from Mel Jones. Thanks also to Chloé Steward for acting as facilitator of the meeting.

In March we are excited to have special guest speaker and FAW Patron Patti Miller. Members are eager to learn from Australia's most successful Memoir teacher who will show us how to write our own stories, in our own words.

We look forward to having Patti work her magic, encouraging the seeds of our past to blossom as we tell our life stories.

Jeanette Temesvary

EASTWOOD HILLS FAW

WE CONCLUDED 2024 with a very festive Christmas party, ably hosted by Laura Davis. Our creative, fun group was asked to bring along writing to share, jokes, funny stories, anecdotes, songs or poems. Laura was admirable in her efforts to keep our hilarious 'unruly' behaviour on track with our schedule of activities.

It was a celebration full of wit and laughter, with all the good cheer that a Christmas party brings. Raffles were drawn, gifts selected, and there was far too much eating of naughty but nice treats!

2025 will bring a varied group of workshops. Our branch committee work hard to ensure that there are interesting and challenging topics for us to 'get our teeth into'. This year's workshops include travel writing/blogging; bringing characters to life; concise writing; the five commandments of storytelling; crime writing; American poets and myth and legend.

We look forward once again to meeting new members and will welcome six interested people at our first meeting who are keen to find out about our branch.

Linda King

GOULBURN FAW

GOULBURN FAW participated, once again in the hobbies EXPO at the Goulburn Mulwaree Library. Acting on the enquiries we received from people unable to meet during the day. We have changed the venue and meeting time to accommodate more interested people. Venue is Goulburn Workers Club,

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January Meeting of Blue Mountains FAW

Branch Reports

3rd Wednesday 6.30pm.

Janice Jensen

LAMBING FLAT YOUNG FAW

IN DECEMBER the Branch welcomed NSW FAW President Colleen Parker. She met with members over a convivial lunch and presented awards to members Robyn Sykes, Ted Webber and Lyn Yates. Greg McFarland (Isolated Members) was also present. The planned presentation of prize winners for our National Writing Competition (where Colleen was to be guest) was rained out. The Executive enjoyed delivering and announcing prize winners to all schools within a two-hour radius of Young. The Branch received very good local press coverage for this.

Our Christmas gathering in December was a well-attended and lively affair.

The planning meeting for 2025 was held in January with all but one of our members present and with a new member engaging in activities. We plan to hold workshops in March (poetry) and September along with the writing competition returning for its 43rd year. New formats for our meetings were discussed to encourage and expand writing activities within the Branch. We look forward to the enlivenment they will bring.

Office bearers elected at our February AGM were: - President, Jennifer Haynes; Vice President, Annette Parr; Secretary, Helen Auld; Treasurer, John Dwyer; Publicity Officer, Susan Rolfe/Andrea Robinson. Maree Myhill has taken on the task of managing Facebook. In addition, committees were formed for workshops and the writing competition.

Also, in February we had positive feedback for our new meeting format. Two potential new

members were in attendance. Our publicity team has hit the ground running. I have received comments from the community of hearing about the Branch.

Unfortunately, two of our FAW DSA members stepped down - Ted Webber and Joan Dwyer. Joan has relinquished any active role on the Executive. The debt owed by the Branch for their contributions over decades cannot be underestimated. It is greatly appreciated by the Branch. We wish them well in their future endeavours.

Jennifer Haynes

LAKE MACQUARIE FAW

OUR LAST formal meeting of 2024, in November, focused on dialogue. Member Bronwyn MacRitchie expertly helped us to identify the key purposes of dialogue: expressing emotion, articulating unique voices amongst your cast of characters, adding intrigue to your writing, and giving the reader brief hints about underlying things which the reader can then imagine.

As usual, our Christmas party (and our January social gathering) gave us the opportunity to get more familiar with our writing colleagues and to talk a little about our writing achievements for the preceding year. These get-togethers are a vital part of our 'community'.

Once again some of our members have had success in the Newcastle Herald Short Story Competition. Alison's story was deservedly selected as this year's winner, Ned's was commended, and Kristen's was shortlisted. Well done Alison, Ned and Kristen!

Early this year members were much saddened to hear that popular writer and much-valued friend to our group, Kaz Delaney, had passed away. Sad news indeed.

February brought a return to our

regular meeting schedule. Member Ned Stephenson, who has had several well earned competition successes lately, guided us to look at the openings of some of our stories (both ones we were proud of, and ones we knew needed more work). We came away with some valuable ideas for improving our writing, including a checklist of the key things we need to get right in the opening of any story.

Pam Garfoot

MACARTHUR FAW

THANKS TO Cathy Hobson, Macarthur Branch has a new poster on display in the foyer of Campbelltown Library, outlining the advantages of being an FAW member. These include having your work appraised, receiving constructive criticism from both published and competition-winning writers, and being able to access information about publishers and literary agents - what they want and don't want. This attractively presented notice will put us on a par with other community groups advertising on the same noticeboard. Cathy has also ensured that Macarthur Branch is represented on the Campbelltown Community Website. Thank you, Cathy.

Victoria Chie recently sent me this account of an article she had read. I'd like to share it with you: 'I recently read an article by Authors Publish headed Writing in the Age of Short Attention Spans. It says that readers no longer have the patience for long-winded setups because we are in a world of endless swipes, dings and dopamine hits and the latest Tik Tok trends. Short attention span means writers have to structure narratives like a playlist, with each beat compelling enough to keep someone from skipping to the next track. It forces us to

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Branch Reports

sharpen our storytelling tools. Adapt or get left unread. Start strong. You have one line to make a reader swipe right.' How true.

At our January meeting we had two writing exercises, the first of which was on the theme of 'Moving In.' Plenty of scope for surprises there. The second was entitled 'Under the Influence'.

This week we will be holding our AGM, so I'd like to thank the present office holders for the great job they have done – Victoria Chie as President (including secretarial duties) and Cathy Hobson as Treasurer.

Bernard Smith

MUDGE

OUR BOOK of children's stories, Fun Tales, has kept us busy for the last few months but we are very happy with it and we are already on our second printing. Our four illustrators have done a great job bringing our stories to life.

Our Christmas party was at our President's place again this year. Not only is Marilyn a wonderful cook but she lives at Running Stream on a fabulous B&B property overlooking the Capertee Valley. The old shearing shed has been converted into group accommodation and is the perfect Writers Retreat. So we are planning to hold a Memoir Writing workshop there in May.

We have welcomed a new member Sue Pridmore and are very happy she has joined us.

Jill Baggett

PORT MACQUARIE FAW

AFTER A very successful year of writing, learning, publicising our group and collaborations for good causes like the work we did with the Dementia Friendly Community, we

ended our activities for the year 2024 with a very nice celebration at the Abundance Café surrounded by nature, the excitement of Christmas and a good chat to enrich the bond of fellowship that'd taken us through the year.

It was a "vision so splendid" which so happened to be the title of our last writing assignment for the year. I thought it was quite fitting too because most of the stories and poems recalled splendid memories and visions of friendships and traditions that were dear to the heart. This contrasted with the writing we started the year with, which had some air of trepidation - The Year of the Unknown – as usual the writings were all very sanguine but when we decided to do a slam writing we faced the challenge of "writer's block" we were able to plough through it though, but not without some hilarity and humorous excerpts from our pieces.

As the saying goes however, "time flies" we're already in February and everything seems to be speeding by, but we are prepared to start all over again as we've already started to put a few things in motion. After the success of our end of year publication, we have started working on the one for 2025, author Emma has equipped us with some story engine cards to help us build characters and create conflicts for exciting plots and we can't wait to see where that takes us.

Still on the lookout for new members, we would try the Riverwalk market this time to publicise our writing group and find other writers who enjoy writing like us and there may be other collaborations in the horizon. Like I said earlier it's all very exciting! Wishing you all the best for this year.

Pinado Waba

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS FAW

THE SOUTHERN Highlands Branch continues to enjoy good attendances at meetings, with 16–18 regularly joining in the activities. September kicked off with our quote of the month in which a member recites a short piece from a well-known literary work and the members have to guess the source. Sometimes this is tricky, but usually two or three can come up with the right answer.

In September Rick led a discussion on the lyrics of four popular songs from the late 60s and early 70s. Members engaged in lively discussion on the words of Bob Dylan, Roger Waters (Pink Floyd) and Ronnie Lane (Faces). This month was also our Limericks' month with members allowed to recite two limericks each, preferably one of them original. Other regular activities included Greg T's etymology exercises, Rick's Rant and What Have you Been Reading?

Popular Adult Romance author Penelope Janu joined us in October and gave a detailed and humorous insight into the world of romance fiction and the publishing industry. The author of eight modern romance novels and an active member of the Australian Romance Writers' Society, Penelope has recently moved to Exeter in the Southern Highlands and always includes Australian outback themes in her novels.

Rhonda proposed the prompt for our 50-word Dribble for the November meeting, being 'from the back of the truck ...' using only words on one syllable. Rick led a discussion on the use of dialogue in narrative writing, beginning with a reading from his current manuscript Where I Last Saw Charlotte. Greg T had us enthralled again with an

Cont. next page...

Branch Reports

etymology exercise that included matching obscure words with their original meanings.

We had four visitors to our December meeting, which took the form of a series of members' presentations, loosely on the theme of Christmas. There were fifteen presentations. Long time member, Kathryn Litchfield, read one of Sylvia Bevan's memorable short stories, as a tribute to our beloved member who recently passed away. The meeting closed with a special presentation to Uta Purcell, who leaves us and is moving to Orange. Uta has been a member for ten years and has spent the last eight years as secretary to three presidents. Uta has been a tireless worker for the branch and always presented a smiling, happy face to members and new-comers alike. Her contribution has been immeasurable and she will be sorely missed. Return visits by Uta and Dennis are eagerly awaited.

Rick Watkins

STROUD FAW

THE PAST three months have flown by with only one meeting held since our Christmas get-together in December. Our early January meeting had to be abandoned due to stormy weather making it impossible for several of our members living far afield to attend.

In mid December we all gathered, together with family members, at Peach Trees, Hilary and Peter's farm in Mill Creek Road, for our end of year celebration. A plentiful and tasty array of dishes was produced by our members, together with a variety of liquid refreshments. Marilyn and her husband, Rob, had brought their ukele and guitar and entertained us with some excellent songs which contributed to a thoroughly enjoyable end to the

year. Talents, apart from writing, were very much in evidence.

Our AGM was held at the end of January when we made the decision to change our current fortnightly meetings to the third Thursday of each month, the main reason for this being the distance some of our members have to travel. We also made plans for this year in terms of writing activities and goals, concentrating on our Anthology. Elizabeth suggested we hold an open meeting in an endeavour to attract more members. We all agreed this would be a good idea and will discuss it further at our next meeting.

We said goodbye at the end of the year to Diane Foster, our longstanding member of Stroud Writers since its inception. We will miss her very much and the contribution she made to our group.

Hilary Heanly

SUTHERLAND FAW

THE END of 2024 was a busy time, with our Christmas party and our AGM. We also read out some Christmas themed stories with either a humorous or serious nature. Afterwards one of our members, Sal Gallaher, launched her book, *Secrets in the Lakes*, a romance/crime thriller. For our first meeting of the year, we will have Jude Chapman presenting a workshop on crime writing – setting and character. In March we will have an open microphone. Our members will read out a story, perhaps one of their contributions to our anthology. We look forward to an eventful year in writing and organising our anthology.

Julianne Miles-Brown

WOLLONDILLY FAW

THE SENIORS Book Launch held in late November was a great opportunity to meet fellow successful entrants, share a little of our writing journey over a cuppa and make new friends. Our branch subsequently welcomed Pamela Murray-Jones, as its newest member.

Quiet achiever, Gaynor Mason, self-published her second novel *Burcham Hall*. Gaynor was born in the UK but raised in NSW. This book reflects her love of English history and the Victorian era.

The February AGM held little change in the committee and was not complete until a volunteer, to bring the milk for afternoon tea, was decided upon.

Contributions to the 2025 Anthology have been received and the process of selection and editing begins. Meanwhile we look forward to sharing our poetry and short stories, at a recital in March to celebrate Seniors Week. Public speaking is not everyone's forte, but it is good to step outside your comfort zone occasionally. Isn't it?

Annette Pearce

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 2025



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

Short Stories

A Day on a Cattle Station

Maree Myhill, Lambing Flat Young FAW

EXCITED KIDS leaping out of the vehicle as it slows down, chasing and catching squealing wild piglets, was just one of the highlights of an action packed day on a big cattle station up north.

The day started with a 5.30am breakfast at the big kitchen for all the young jackaroos and jillaroos, packed lunches made, then an hour's drive to the cattle yards as the sun comes up, ready to start another busy day of cattle work.

Grandsons are up early, watching TV wrapped up in warm rugs until all four are awake. Then breakfast before the regular rotating jobs have to be done, with some moaning as to whose turn it was for which jobs. While the boys are kung-fu fighting on the lawn, I leave them to it to get washing, cleaning and cooking done. Two pet pigs wander around the homestead complex, lying down like the dogs if a belly scratch is offered by the boys.

Morning tea is on the sunny front verandah, before sandwiches are made for lunch for us to take on a drive. Seven of us pile into the Prado, checking on water levels in troughs and turkey-nest dams, fixing bores that are not working, cattle on the wrong side of the fence rounded up, to an old camp kitchen, old stock yards, shepherd's hut, picturesque lagoons, dry river beds to find patterned stones, watching birds hovering overhead. Many miles of driving on mostly well graded dirt roads unless we go cross country on bumpy paddocks, gates to open and shut, mind the dust and boys swapping seats. Lots of cattle mobs, windmills, kangaroos, brolgas, eagles, whistling kites, lizards, snakes, plus the little boys excitedly jumping out of the car when their dad spots wild piglets to chase, catching as many as they can.

The throbbing whop whop whop of the mustering helicopter can be heard in the distance before it appears overhead, taking the large mob of cattle towards the yards. We join in the muster in the vehicle, chasing cattle trying to duck away, steering the mob in the right direction for two or three kilometres with trails of dust behind them, until they are all safely in the yards. The helicopter flies off before sunset to get back to the helipad before the light fades. Lots of beautiful colours in the sky for some quick silhouette photos as we start heading back to the homestead.

We'll have to get all the washing off the line and what are we going to cook up quickly for the little boys for dinner? It's almost dark by the time we arrive back, 7 hours later.

Pre-cooked meals in the freezer save the day. Showers for everyone before the adults head to the big kitchen to have dinner with the crew at 7pm sharp. The door gets locked at 7, my 'boss' son tells me when I arrive with only a few minutes to spare. Several extras for dinner that night - a veterinarian, Dept. of Primary Industry worker, helicopter pilot, the head-office boss and finance lady, a bull seller, and two builders. This also means we will need to service many rooms tomorrow before more work related people drop in to stay for a night or two.

It seems like a never ending stream of visitors even though it is 120 kms from the nearest town. Lots of chatting, laughing and joking with all the crew, then tomorrow's plans are given out. Off to bed by 8.30pm to see what tomorrow will bring.

There is never a dull moment, with long hard days on a busy cattle station in North West Qld.

This nanny and poppy are going to be exhausted after 3 weeks on the station.

Strength and Kindness

Elizabeth McVie, Wyong FAW

NOAH PULLED his little sister into the safety of the doorway as the blood-curling shrieks of the mob rushed past. Dust, stirred up by the multitude of trampling feet, rose from the gravel street.

'I'm frightened,' Talia whispered. She held onto her brother's tunic with one hand and with the other, a cloth to cover her disfigured face.

'Shh. They'll soon pass.'

'They're angry. Where are they going?'

'To Golgotha. There's going to be three crucifixions.'

'That's a bad place. Ima told me to stay away from there.'

Noah and his friends would meet in the olive groves under the cover of darkness and exchange gossip overheard in workshops and markets. They made a pact to go and watch the event.

However Noah's friends left him when his sister followed them.

'Come on, we'll sneak around the back of the crowd.' He took her hand but felt a resistance, so patiently he explained. 'Two were thieves, Talia. Bad men,' Yet he couldn't bring himself to tell his little sister the truth about the third man. Proclaiming to be the Son of Man? How could he? And the people had shouted to release Barabbas.

They heard the sound of a whip lash—a sharp inhale of breath. The jeering stopped for a moment.

Short Stories

Noah let go of Talia's hand and squeezed through two large men.

Noah saw. The third man lay prone in the dust, the long length of timber across his back. Noah's heart lurched. Talia couldn't push her way through the throng, but was close enough to be heard. She called out. 'Noah, what do you see?'

'The man fell. No one is helping him up.'

'You ...'

Noah hesitated. The mob were closing in on the fallen man. The Roman soldiers shoved them back and lashed their whips to keep them away. A trickle of perspiration ran down Noah's face. He stared at the man—drops of blood trickled down his face from the crown of thorns piercing his head.

'... help ...'

Noah's chin trembled. He wanted to help, but ... those Roman soldiers were huge, cruel, armed with spears, swords and whips. He had felt their lash many times.

'... him ...'

Noah's subconscious whispered the plea. It nudged him forward.

Noah took a deep breath and stepped toward the fallen man. He bent to lift the wood.

'Want a ride?' the Roman soldier laughed.

'No, I want to lift that wood.'

'You? A Jewish runt? Get away. This needs a man's strength.'

'I am strong. I am a man now. I did my Bar Mitzvah.'

The crowd laughed. The Roman soldier raised his whip and flicked it at Noah's feet. The boy backed away.

A harsh command. 'Here, you. Yes, you. Lift that wood.' A man stepped forward.

Talia had pushed her way through the crowd and she saw him. The man under the wood. His face distorted with pain, blood and sweat. Compassion gripped her heart. He's hurt. Her mother would wipe her face when she cried. It soothed her. Cloth. The only cloth she had was what she used to cover her care. People laughed at her when they saw her face. Boys taunted her, even threw stones at her.

Noah is brave. I'll be brave like him. He'll protect me from the crowd and soldiers.

Then she saw the woman, Veronica, kneel before the man and wipe his face. The disappointment!

Talia burst into tears. I wanted to.

Noah looked around for Talia. 'There you are. Let's go home. It's not safe.'

Talia stifled her sobs. 'Did you help?'

'No. Simon, the man from Cyrene did.'

Talia gripped her brother's hand. 'Who was that man? What did he do?'

Noah hesitated a moment. Was his sister at 7 years, old enough to know?

'I won't tell.'

Noah said quietly. 'The man is Jesus the Nazarene and the Romans are frightened that he was the king of the Jews.'

Suddenly the day turned into darkness. A stillness surrounded them. Talia whimpered, tightening her hold of her brother's hand. Noah's skin prickled and grew hot. 'Quick Talia—Run!'

They reached their home breathless—frightened.

'Ima, what's happened?' Noah asked.

His mother looked at him. 'The world ...' She couldn't voice her thoughts—it was dangerous. '... I don't know,' she finally said and lit the lamp.

Suddenly a loud knocking. Noah noticed that his mother's hand shook so he jumped up saying, 'I'll go.'

A woman stood on the doorstep. 'Please help. The wagon wheel has fallen on my husband and I can't lift it.'

'I'll come. Ima bring the lamp.'

The woman babbled. 'We're going to my brother's but the wheel hit a rut and came off. I sent my eldest son to my brother's to bring his wagon.'

The man under the solid wooden wheel groaned in agony. Noah thought quickly. 'I'll lift the wheel and you women pull him out.'

The wheel was heavy. However Noah lifted it enough for the two women to drag the man out and between them they carried him into the house.

Talia looked at the man. His face was contorted with pain; his breathing shallow. She went over and knelt by his side and wiped his face. Sweat and the day's travelling dust seeped into the linen cloth.

'You are blessed with a strong son and a kind daughter,' the woman said.

Noah's and Talia's mother smiled.

Colours brighten the world

Greg Baker, Southern Highlands FAW

'COLOURS BRIGHTEN the world,' she said, with that earnest, 'I'm serious, look.

How was I to treat this?

I guess I hadn't always been as thoughtful as I might have been, making jokes of her pronouncements.

My instinct was to quiz her about what she meant.

What are colours? Is it a frequency thing, or a rods and cones sort of thing? Are additive or subtractive colours relevant here?

Short Stories

Brighten? That's got to make a tautology.
I couldn't quiz her, not now, not with that earnest look. But I guess I knew, too, in that moment, that we were over.

Vale Sylvia Bevan



Members of the Southern Highlands branch note with sadness the passing of long-time member Sylvia Bevan.

She was generous with her time for our writing community and on several occasions hosted our prose special interest group at her home.

She had a great gift for writing well-constructed stories about her life and a talent for reading them aloud to us in meetings. She introduced us to her life in Wales, her family and her struggle in adjusting to the Australian culture and climate.

Her stories were published in the Henley Brae Community Magazine and in branch anthologies Figments and Potpourri. Sylvia read some of her stories on radio Highland FM as part of the Welsh Program in 2018 and her many stories have been brought together by her grandson in the volume The collected works of Sylvia Bevan.

We miss her good humour and her wonderful memories.

Greg Baker, Southern Highlands 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:
Ticket sales \$60.00 per person
Purchase from <https://fawns.org.au/>
Drinks available to purchase

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

National E-Deposit Event

NATIONAL E deposit networking night at the State Library was attended by Hon Secretary and Publicity Officer Liz Shaw in November 2024.

It was a great night learning about ISSNs and how our National and State libraries work for Authors, books and magazines. Lucy Hayward CEO of the Australian Authors Society spoke about legal deposit, NED and what it means for Australian writers and the processes.

The State library offers tours and events for your consideration to attend.

All heads of Departments from each State library attended the conference and then NED afterhours networking event. Liz met many of the heads of Departments in a friendly casual environment.

Liz Shaw, Int. Hon. Sec. FAW NSW

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 31 May, 2025:

FAW LAKE MACQUARIE BRANCH THE ALICE SINCLAIR MEMORIAL WRITING COMPETITION 2025 "MILESTONES"

Entries open on 4th April and close on 31st May 2025

There are two categories for this year's competition: -

Category A: Poetry to 50 lines

Category B: Story to 2,500 words

Entry fee \$15 per entry

Only 2 entries in total per contestant

Prizes

1st \$300.00 2nd \$100.00 3rd \$50.00

Please do not use the theme as the title as this causes confusion for the judge.

Submission:

Entry forms and terms and conditions are found on the website <https://lakemacfaw2.wordpress.com>

Shortlisted entrants will be advised via email, and winners announced at the LMFAW 25th anniversary meeting at a date and venue to be advised. Results will be publicised in the Writers Voice.

Closing 31 August 2025:

HILARIE LINDSAY SHORT STORY COMPETITION 2025

Entries are sought in the following categories:

SECTION 1: Years 10, 11 & 12	up to 2500 words	Prize \$150
SECTION 2: Years 7, 8 & 9	up to 2500 words	Prize \$125
SECTION 3: Years 5 & 6	up to 1500 words	Prize \$100
SECTION 4: Year 4 & under	up to 1500 words	Prize \$50

1. Entrant's name must appear on the entry form ONLY.
2. The entry fee is \$5.00 (please note that entries that do not include the fee will be disqualified)
3. The student's name should NOT appear on the entry. Entries should be made via the ONLINE ENTRY FORM which can be found at www.fawns.org.au
4. Payments are now made via the submission form. Any queries regarding the payment should be directed to the Competition Convenor
5. Should an online submission not be available, students may request an entry form from compconvenor@fawns.org.au. Such entries must be accompanied by a receipt of payment to the bank account.
6. Entries must be student's own work, unpublished and not having won any competition at time of entry. Normal Competition Conditions apply.
7. Please note that submissions must be a word document PDF's and JPEG's will be disqualified.
8. Closing date for the competition is 6pm 31st August 2025
9. Winners will be notified prior to 31st October 2025
10. Judges report and winners list will be available on our website in early November.
11. Prizes will be direct credited to the winners and the certificates sent to the schools for presentation. For any further information please contact the competition convenor at compconvenor@gmail.com or phone 0492 833 522

Writing Competitions



Closing 31 August, 2025:

MARJORIE BARNARD SHORT STORY AWARD 2025

- The Award is for Short Stories up to 3000 words.
- Entrants must be permanent residents of Australia.
- Submitted entries must not have previously been published, nor be under consideration for publication. Entries may have been entered in other competitions but not won a monetary prize. Receipt of entry will not be acknowledged.
- Multiple entries are permitted, a separate Entry Form must be submitted with each entry.
- Entries are to be submitted via the online form available on the FAW website at fawns.org.au
- Entry Fee is \$15.00 per entry. Payment of the Entry Fee is to be made online from within the Entry Form.
- Entries must be in Word format, or they will be disqualified. *
- For those unable to use the online form, a separate form will be forwarded by email from the compconvenor@fawns.org.au
- The closing date is 6pm on 31st August 2025.
- The author's identity must appear on the Entry Form ONLY. The author's name must NOT appear on the manuscript.**
- Only page number and title of the entry is to appear on the manuscript.**
- The author retains copyright to all work submitted, although prize-winning entries or a precis must be available for publication in the Fellowship's bulletin Writers Voice and on the FAW NSW website.
- Entries must be original, creative and inspiring works which present to the audience an engaging work of literary excellence.
- The judge's decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into. **There will be no individual appraisals.**
- FAW NSW reserves the right not to award any prizes if, in the judge's estimation, no entries of sufficient merit are received.
- THE AWARD PRIZE: \$500**
THE WINNER and shortlisted entries will be notified via email after 31 October. The shortlisted competitors will be invited to attend the Awards Lunch to be held on the 4th May 2025 where the winner will be announced. Contact: compconvenor@fawns.org.au or Phone 0492 833 522.

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)

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

Paeon to Pills

An ageing population ingests
mountains of pills
each a unit packed positive with magic
to ease ... comfort
lengthen life insulated from pain
from neuralgia ... Diarrhoea
dermatitis ... diverticulitis
Constipation ... Insomnia
heart disease
high blood pressure
high cholesterol
Why are pills not celebrated openly?
Name a piece of music extolling the
glorious achievement of pills
I imagine the opening
Listen for harsh jangly
sounds of violins
of other string family
depicting suffering
Percussion instruments convey pills
popping out of silver cocoons
Throaty trumpet
other brass guide the pills
getting down to business
Bassoon or clarinet provide a link
Strings return - gentle ... soothing
ease flooding senses
Finis

For visual artists
what a load of material at hand
So many different shapes
colours
small round white pills
oval orange ones
long black capsules
others red and white
green and white
All crying out to be arranged
manipulated into an eye-striking
visual experience

For poets not so easy
Names such as *Plidogrel*
harsh on the ear
jag at any poetic inclination
typical of tags thrown around
by Philistines tasked
to label products
Prexum too humdrum for a poet
to clasp to their bosom
Not all is lost ... some sobriquets

have more than a touch
of musicality
Sozol ... Amlo
and even *Ezemichol*
Amoxicillin may even pass muster
Aspirin has a helpful
mouth-filling quality
I await literary developments
Television or stage plays deny us
renditions
of a very everyday practice
someone taking medication
I exempt illegal drugs
or excess sleeping tablets
consumed for self-extinction.

Challenges await the artistic
community
to right the balance
The field is bare
awaiting developments
The thought gives me a headache
Panadol is a reasonable
pleasant-sounding word
May I have one, please?

Greg Tome, Southern Highlands FAW

The Bay

Sunlight glimmers as it
touches the bay
Trees surround the water's edge
Jet skis travel at lightning speed
Kayaks slowly paddle
A boat bobs up and down
People fish on the wharves
Pelicans fly to say hello
Ferry glides with people inside
Children play in the park
Perfect weather today
Love, Joy and peace upon us
Liz Shaw, Eastwood Hills 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.

Leaving

Goodbye a life of several years
The sunsets and the milky dusks
With pinks and purples, black and gold
The velvet mountains
still.

Frangipani on the grass
white and waxen
starry
pure.
The evening rain
the smell of earth,
black night skies overfilled with stars
much clearer there than anywhere
the sounds of crickets in the grass.

Bright mornings, hot and hazy
damp
green sugar cane along the road.
The mountains strong and purple-blue
the sky light blue and clear and gold.
Goodbye to rivers, still and cool,
below the bridges women washing.
The bright poinsettia, vivid stars
beside a bure door.

A mongoose scuttles, thin and lithe
before my car along the road.
The boys beneath the mango trees
throw sticks to knock the ripe fruit down
smooth globes amongst the leaves.
This happens still though I am gone.

A beach – white – curving
beyond the reef
great breakers green-based, froth topped
The foam so consistent that when you look
along the coast, it is in mist.
Look further!
Little islands float in their white rings of sand
as if above the sea
Fiji, Fiji

Lorraine James, Southern Highlands FAW

Literary Achievements

BLUE MOUNTAINS FAW

Rosemary Baldry

Short Story, *Fighting Back*, read on Radio Adelaide, November 2024

EASTWOOD HILLS FAW

Anne Benjamin

A skateboarder balances in Eucalypt November 2024

The Legacy short story shortlisted Society of Women Writers NSW National Writing Competition, 2024

Bedazzled poem shortlisted Society of Women Writers NSW National Writing Competition, 2024

Interrogated by Leaves chosen for *Brushstrokes*, Ros Spencer Poetry Anthology, Nov 2024

Catalhoyuk woman, chosen for *Brushstrokes*, Ros Spencer Poetry Anthology, Nov 2024

God talk, shortlisted, ACU Poetry Prize, 2024 and published in *Faith*, ACU Poetry Anthology, edited by Robert H. F. Carver and Margot Hillel

Blossoms, shortlisted ACU Poetry Prize, 2024 and published in *Faith*, ACU Poetry Anthology, edited by Robert H. F. Carver and Margot Hillel

Official speaker, launch, *Choices for Life*, by Kevin Treston, Garratt Publishing, Melbourne.

Erina Booker

Read *Pastoral*, as its first release, at *Live Poets at Don Bank* on August 28; Read *Two Bears* at *Live Poets at Don Bank* on October 23

Beverley George

Haiku published in *Echidna Tracks*, November 11th 2024; October 13th 2024

Julie Thorndyke

A haiku accepted by 2024 Haiku Downunder Anthology *Precipice* [chapbook] published November 2024.

Member talk at SLNSW for SWW NSW “A month on the Mountain” 13 November 2024.

Weidong Tian

First Place: *Difficulty* for Poetry and Prose in Shakespeare Commended: *The Portrait of a Skeleton* for Horror Stories

A haiku accepted by 2024 Haiku Downunder Anthology *The Ghost Wedding* was Commended in Oct FAW monthly competition. A tanka was accepted in Eucalypt Issue #37

Debra Widdicombe

Highly Commended for the Horror Story: *The Darkness Under the Bed* on 6th July 2024

First Place for the John Kelly Award for a Short Story, original myth, legend, folk or fairy tale: *The Green Fairies of Ireland* in August 2024

Completed a *Creative Writing* course at Ryde Library in September 2024

First Tanka accepted for Eucalypt Issue #37

Vera Zegarac

Two of my stories were broadcast on the Adelaide community radio:

The Last Stop (a short story highly commended in the Pauline Walsh 2024 competition)

and *Why are We Here?* from my collection of short stories, *Friends, Lovers, Enemies*.

ISOLATED WRITERS

Jenny England

Short Christmas Story in the Kiama Bugle - *Theodore*

Short Christmas Story in the Kiama Bugle - *So This is Nearly Christmas*

Poem, *Endless Night*, accepted for the *Dreaming Anthology* through Wattle Tree Press.

Short Story in *The Village Observer* - *Headwave*

Elizabeth Macintosh

One of the guest authors for a *Fundamentals of Speculative Fiction* workshop held in Coonabarabran. Included a Q&A on demystifying the pursuit of writing and publishing.

Children’s short story, *Sibling Rivalry*, published in e-book *Christmas Tales 9* by Storm Cloud Publishing

Just Write for Kids Australia Pitch It! 2024 Competition, *Looking for Grandpa*, Highly Commended in the Middle Grade category.

Issy Jinarmo

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

The Arrangement, Kaleidoscript Magazine

Every Dog Has Its Day, DoubleSpeak

Gerry and the Jury, Close to the Bone

Highway to Freedom, Wicked Shadow Press

The Perils of Growing Older, All Your Stories

LAKE MACQUARIE FAW

Alison Ferguson

Winner of the Newcastle Herald Short Story Competition 2025, story *The Last One*

Olga Korlevic

Published (as Chief Editor) first issue of *IndigoTeen* magazine (see <https://indigoteen.org/2024/10/06/indigoteen-magazine-launch/>)

Kristen Mair

Shortlisted in the Newcastle Herald Short Story Competition 2025, story *Buried deep, a seed*.

Cate Plink

Launched her recently published book, *Tanya haunted*, the second in her ‘Dancers’ series for middle-grade students (written as Cathrine Marshall and available from <https://kaniconsultants.com.au/>); featured in an article, *The moments that made me* in the Sunday Telegraph

Cont. next page...

Literary Achievements

newspaper on 24 November 2024 re her entry in the Seniors Short Story Competition, also in a seniors newspaper and a radio interview.

Steve Shipley

Published second book in his Blake Willis Thriller series, *False start*.

Ned Stephenson

Commended in the Newcastle Herald Short Story Competition 2025, story “Shinigami”

Shortlisted in the Newcastle Short Story Award, story *Blood on the sand*.

MACARTHUR FAW

Cathy Hobson

Biography of Australian pilot, Margaret Mary ‘Peggy’ Kelman published in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*.

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS FAW

Alison Davey

Poem, *A memorable holiday - or was it?*, WV No. 286

Kay Christensen

Short Story, *A Light-bulb Moment*, WV No. 286

Colleen Parker

Played the role of Mother in the Short Film *Where the Gold Tops Grow*. Won Best Comedy in Berlin. Check out ‘Colleen Parker’ on IMDB.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE FAW

Helen Armstrong

Edited *The Next Chapter*, Oatley Writers Group 2024 anthology of stories.

Sal Gallaher

Published her book on Amazon and launched her debut

romance/mystery novel, ‘The Secrets in the Lakes’ at our FAW November meeting. Over 40 guests enjoyed the conversation between Sal and experienced facilitator Anne Loder who has interviewed many authors, and is Manager of Dymocks Books in Bondi Junction. Sal launched her author’s website.

Joe Green

Won the Oatley 101 Society of Artists (for painting) Contemporary section.

Published an article in the St George Sutherland shire Leader on the St George Art Society’s 80th Anniversary.

Frank McGuire

Published on Amazon, book of short stories, *Off Centre* and copies distributed to all present at the monthly meeting.

Greg Moriarty

Published an article in the journal, *Plain Language Association*.

Presented a workshop on *Editing fiction – clear and simple language*.

Pat Ruell

Submitted a story in the Sydney University Alumni newsletter.

Christine Sykes

Her play script was read at the South Coast Writers festival, and will be staged by the local South Coast theatre.

Published a short story in the Seniors Anthology which will be presented at Parliament House on 19 November.

Published in the 34 – 37 degrees South Coast Anthology, 30 November at Port Kembla.

Sylvia Vago

Directing the play, *Meet Alec*, at the Short and Sweet drama festival to be performed in March.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD HONOUR ROLL



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

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

Lyn Leerson
Pat Lindsay*
Helen Luidens*
Johan Luidens
Elizabeth McVie
Jan Mitchell
Vince Morrison
Esther Osborne
Rosemary Peters
Peter F Pike
Margaret Robinson*
Rina Robinson
Alan Russell*
Albert Scott*
Bridget Sharp

Dr John Sheppard
Margot Shugg
Barbara Snel
Yvonne Sorensen
Dorothe Squires-Cooper
Pat Strong*
Greg Tome
Frank Urban
Carney Vaughan
Mei-Ling Venning
Linda Visman
Ted Webber
Margaret Wilkinson
Margaret Young*

FAW NSW LIFE MEMBERS

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

*Deceased

Bookshelf

SAL GALLAHER

Secrets In The Lakes

Mandy Reid, a successful yet emotionally scarred writer from L.A., returns to her hometown of Lake Haven after the untimely death of a close friend. Reconnecting with old friends, particularly the grieving widow Emma, Mandy gets entangled in the town's web of dramas and buried secrets.

As she rekindles an old flame with Sam and bonds with Emma's enigmatic brother-in-law Marc, Mandy confronts her trust issues and uncovers shocking family revelations. With escalating conflicts and emerging truths about her friend's death and Emma's disappearance, Mandy must navigate a maze of secrets and lies. Can she unravel Lake Haven's mysteries and heal her heart? Discover the gripping twists in Secrets in the Lakes—a story of love, loss, and the powerful journey of self-discovery.

The book is available in both print and Kindle formats on most digital platforms. <https://books2read.com/Sals-books>



DAVID TERELINCK

Small Epiphanies

A collection of poems that observes and records day-to-day life, and our interaction within nature and the universe. These poems of loss, grief, love, laughter, and hope are infused with small discoveries, insights, and moments of awareness around everyday situations and people, and the meaning of our existence. These are the 'small epiphanies' of the title, simple moments that cause us to pause and wonder about the human condition in all its beauty and pathos.

Published by Calanthe Press in August 2024 and available from the publisher: <https://www.calanthePress.com.au/>

FAW members:
Send details of your recently published books to
vweditor@fawns.org.au



CALLING ALL MEMBERS!

**PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO OUR
1928 - 2028
FAW CENTENARY BOOK**

WE NEED

Anecdotes
Branch Histories
Knowledge
Memories
Recollections
and
Reminiscences

Contact: Kath Berryman
Email: fawcentenary28@gmail.com

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

Facebook page:
Blue Mountains Writers FAW

CANBERRA & REGION FAW

Second Sunday – 2:00 pm
The National Library of Australia (Friends' Room), Parkes Place West, Canberra, ACT.
Enquiries: Dianne Porter (Pres.)
Email: porter.32@bigpond.com
Phone: 0428 138 503

EASTWOOD/HILLS FAW

1st Saturday – 1.30 pm
Pennant Hills Community Centre, Cnr Yarrara & Ramsay Rds, Pennant Hills
Enquiries: Frances Moon (Pres.)
Email: riaraebeam@gmail.com or Laura Davis (Sec.)
Email: lauraceedee@yahoo.com.au
Web: hillsfaw.wordpress.com

EUROBODALLA FAW

1st Wednesday – 10.30 to 2pm
The Red Door Anglican Church Hall
Page St, Moruya
Enquiries: Rosie Toth
0437 627 756
Email: rosietoth102@gmail.com
Night group:
1st Monday – 6.30pm to 8.30 pm
Various homes.
Enquiries: Karen Kentwell
Karen2Kentwell@gmail.com
0406 377 148

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](https://www.instagram.com/lakemacfaw2)

LAMBING FLAT YOUNG FAW

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

MACARTHUR FAW

3rd Sunday – 1.00 pm
Campbelltown RSL Club
(Jade Room), Carberry Lane.
Enquiries: Victoria Chie
4862 2771
Email: vchie46@bigpond.com

MOOCOBOOLA FAW

3rd Thursday – 1.30 pm
Gladesville Library
Pittwater Road, Gladesville.
Enquiries: Robert Dickins
9713 8048
Paul Valis 0415 068 163

MUDGE VALLEY WRITERS FAW

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

PARRAMATTA FAW

1st Saturday – 12.30 to 3.00pm
5 Phive, Parramatta Square, Parramatta
Enquiries: Cecile 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: John 0400 321 066
Email: touchstoneten@gmail.com

WOLLONDILLY FAW

2nd Sunday – 1.00 pm
Enquiries: Annette Pearce (Pres.)
0432 857 236
wollondillybranch.faw@gmail.com

WYONG WRITERS FAW

4th Saturday – 1.30pm
Woodbury Park Community Centre
1 Woolmers Cres. (off Woodbury Park Drive), Mardi.
Enquiries: Glen D'Cruz (Publicity)
0413 291 129
glenc@ozemail.com.au
Web: www.wyongwriters.org

FAW ISOLATED WRITERS BRANCH

MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES:

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

ASSISTING THE CONVENOR:

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

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

MEMBERS' ACHIEVEMENTS:

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

AFFILIATION FEES:

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

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

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

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

ELECTRONIC ROUND ROBIN (ERR):

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

Fellowship of Australian Writers NSW Inc.



ABN 59 557 152 715

General correspondence: Hon. Secretary, FAW NSW Inc.
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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