

WRITERS VOICE



fawnsw.org.au

Short Story

11 April 1986

Greg Baker, Southern Highlands
FAW

HE KNOWS now it was a big mistake to leave his vehicle. It runs out of fuel the first day and he's sure he's taken a wrong turn. It doesn't look like the road he was expecting, no sign of wheel marks, of homesteads, of people, or of stock.

The ground is flat and whichever way he looks he sees nothing. Not a tree, not a hill. All he can see is an occasional boulder to give perspective. And it's quiet.

He walks on, trying to find the road he came from.

When he left the station, he was angry, shouting at the manager, telling him where he could stick his job.

He stops.

He's seen this boulder before. It has distinct markings, so he knows he is right. He sits down, hangs his

head. He is walking in a circle.

He knows now he'll never find his way out and he's running out of water.

He reads the television ticker in his mind: "English stock hand missing in desert." Or maybe a newspaper headline: "Englishman David Chase lost in bush."

But then maybe no one is looking. Why would the station manager bother?

He wonders whether building a cairn could help attract attention. He starts with the boulder and casts around for smaller rocks to add, to mound on top. He can't work in the heat of the day so each day he works at sunset and at dawn.

Finally, too weak to do more, he places the last stone on the cairn. It will have to be enough.

He leans on the pile, uses the rocks as a backrest. It is afternoon. There is a little shade from his cairn

and his mouth is dry. He knows now he won't make it through the next day. He dozes fitfully, sometimes asleep, sometimes awake. He feels hot and his pulse is racing. He tries to throw up but there's nothing and he retches uselessly.

Time passes then he opens his eyes. It is very dark. The moon had set and he can see the light from the billions of stars above him.

His mind won't settle, he wonders if he's delirious. Random thoughts appear and disappear as quickly as they arrive.

He has heard that Halley's Comet will be closest to the Earth about now. A date in April he thinks. He's seen it a month before and has been unimpressed. He tries to focus, and thinks he sees it against the sky above.

'Halley's ...,' the words stick in his throat. He coughs, tries to get some moisture into his mouth then tries

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*Wishing all our readers a
safe and happy Christmas
and a healthy and prosperous 2026.*

*Merry
Christmas*
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

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WRITERS VOICE ISSN 0817-0746

The official Bulletin of the Fellowship of Australian Writers NSW Inc is published quarterly. Opinions expressed are those of the individual authors and not necessarily those of the FAW or the editor. The editor reserves the right to edit or delete submissions for length, content, or policy. All advertisements and items are accepted in good faith but the FAW NSW Inc cannot accept responsibility for misrepresentation by advertisers nor does inclusion of any item imply endorsement by FAW 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: 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 (honsecretary@fawns.org.au)** and **Annette Pearce, PO Box 432, Picton. NSW 2571**. 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, mailed to the address above by 30 June each year.

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/- **Liz Shaw, honsecretary@fawns.org.au** or mailed to **Annette Pearce, PO Box 432, Picton, NSW 2571** 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.

State Council News

From the desk of the State President

OFFER my sincere and loving condolences to Jackie Laing on the passing of her husband and best friend, Don. I met Jackie at a writing workshop and we clicked when learning that we were residents in the same street after I just moved to Port 20 years ago. Jackie selflessly stepped down from State Committee to support Don during his dire need. She has now generously stepped back up and judged the Country Newspaper story competition for us and is back assisting in her General Committee role... thank you Jackie.



Colleen Parker

I congratulate both Uta Purcell on opening our new branch in Orange and Pip Yelland on stepping up as our new convenor for Isolated Writers. Enormous gratitude is due to both ladies.

Cate Plink had her busiest year with competition submissions, due to her great promotional drive. A huge thankyou to her managing two roles, VP and Competition Co-ordinator so I would like to hear if there is anyone prepared to assist her when required, in support of her workload with success and her health now and again.

Our seventh year of Seniors Stories Vol. 11 is complete with the impressive book launch on the tenth November 2025. We conducted 8 workshops in 2025, and gained a new recruit, Victoria Chie. Thank you to all Presenters; Cate Plink and Sandi Boyd, Liz Shaw as well as Jill Baggett. Our Project team of approx. ten members each year included a bit of a shuffle of duties this year with Jill Baggett, Sandi Boyd and Narelle Noppert who went beyond my expectations and freed me up to travel to Japan and South Korea. The Australian journalist, Hugh Riminton was Master of Ceremonies and author, poet, entertainer, Jim Haynes was our special guest.

The week I returned from Japan, my only sibling, a brother Peter, passed away. I travelled to Qld for his Funeral Service but felt a little fragile for a bit so threw myself back into my writing immediately on my return.

One of my favourite opportunities as President, is meeting so many of our members in person. I love reading your successes, hearing your adventures, witnessing your publications and I enjoy being able to support you all.

I attended the combined Goulburn and Canberra 3-Day Workshop on Publishing. The heritage venue and luncheon along with Presentations by a Goulburn member on self-publishing his book, valuable financial information when selling our books by Treasurer Rick Watkins and information on our internet usage by our webmaster, Ken Driver. My new book, Colleen's Collection of short stories, had just been published so I shared that experience.

I visited the Wollondilly Book Launch of their latest anthology. This branch socialises like no other with their frequent publications and their success in Seniors Stories with Narelle, Jean, and Annette all in Volume 11... Well done girls and Congratulations!

I met up with State Committee members Rick Watkins and Annette Pearce to finalise the Constitution by merging the Branch responses we received. It is currently back with the lawyers for final approval and due early next year.

I attended a 4-hour writing workshop in Hurstville Library which was offered to a limited number of interested writers to delve deeply into building protagonists and antagonists. The key topic from the workshop was that the interesting ones need a 'ghost'. I will leave it at that for now but will share in future workshops if attendees are interested.

Kathy Berryman and her magic team of researchers are collecting and gathering the data to go into our 2028 Centenary publication. Most data is in storage now, so they will move to the next stage in the New Year. Kathy keeps me well informed and runs any 'difficult' questions by the State committee, so resolving issues quickly means no build up of a list of 'problems'.

Rick and his wise counsel is a rock for us. When I need to 'talk through' issues, prior to making a decision ... his support is invaluable. Legal reporting is a strong component of what he does whilst managing our finances. We are extremely fortunate to have his wisdom and competency. Thank you Rick.

To update the Meeting regarding the Will of Ernest Hall each quarter; the latest is; there is one beneficiary still being traced but we will be kept informed and hopefully in the New Year we might hear some positive news about our 1/8th share that has been 'Willed' to us.

In this Issue of WV there is an article from Pippa Kay, who is now a co-President of the Society of Women Writers and who approached me to share in a relationship with her to both place an article in each others' magazines. Our WV is out before theirs, so

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Pippa's article will appear in our current December Issue, whereas mine will not appear in theirs until January 2026.

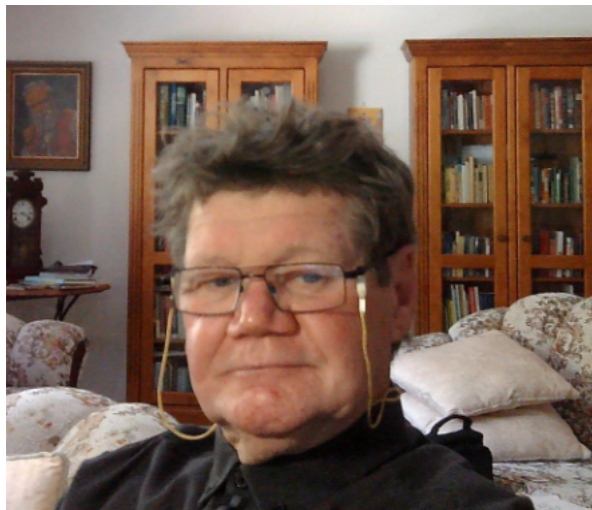
Next on my Agenda is a meeting with Jim Haynes who is supporting us to open a branch in the La Perouse Coastal area.

We have been invited to again apply to conduct Volume 12 of Seniors Stories. Finally I will prepare our Proposal for that as my priority and share the details when we are accepted.

Thank you everyone for your enthusiasm, and talent you use in volunteering which ensures that we will continue supporting Australian literature far beyond our 100 years in 2028.

Thank you Everyone,
Colleen Parker, President

Vale John Franks



Beloved member and fellow writer, John Franks, passed away on 11 October after a battle with cancer. Our love and thoughts go to his wife, Carolyn, and family. John is remembered as the quintessential Aussie, one who made others laugh and was always there to help.

John was ever grateful for the help he received with his own writing and offered support for the work of others.

John has been published in various anthologies including that of the Seniors Stories competition. He self-published his first book, *Memoirs (warts and all)* of a Baby Boomer, before writing his novel, *Echoes*. His posthumous anthology has been entrusted to Sandra Boyd.

Sandra Boyd, Lake Macquarie FAW

Report from The Society of Women Writers

WE HAVE just held our Centenary celebration lunch in the Stranger's Dining Room at Parliament House, and what a triumph it was. My Co-President (Liz Newton) and I, with our hard-working Committees had been preparing for this event for about five years. Our guest speakers included the Premier, Hon. Chris Minns, and Hon. Jodie Harrison MP, the Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

A special cake was baked for the occasion, which was decorated as a shelf of books, with titles from well-known members' books on their spines. Our Patron, Dr Di Yerbury, AO, cut it with a little help from Liz Newton.

We also launched *Ink 4*, which is an anthology of stories and poetry from our National Literary Competitions 2021-2024, edited by Sue Steggall. I'm proud to be included.

Dr Hilarie Lindsay MBE OAM was a friend to both our writing organisations. She was our President from 1971-1973 and again in 1975-1977, and President of FAW from 1982-1984 and again from 1992-1994. FAW conducts a short story competition in her name for young writers. Hilarie's son, Andrew Lindsay, launched The Hilarie Lindsay Prize at our Centenary Lunch. Because Hilarie was concerned with social justice issues The Hilarie Lindsay Prize will be for a story (fiction or non-fiction) up to 5000 words on a social justice issue with a first prize of \$2000. Thank you, Andrew Lindsay, for your donation of funds for this competition in Hilarie's name.

Details are on our website: <https://womenwritersnsw.org/index.php>, where you can also read about our workshops and literary events.

Both our organisations focus on helping writers at all levels. We cater for all genres – poets, short story writers, novelists, memoirists, biographers, and we offer workshops and speakers at our literary events in The State Library. Many of your female members also belong to SWW. As you approach your Centenary we should share resources where possible and help each other promote our events and competitions.

Pippa Kay

Co-President Society of Women Writers NSW

Short Stories

Continued from front page

again.

'Halley's bloody comet,' he says at last. 'What a disappointment.'

The comet is just a smudge in the universe. Like my life, he thinks.

He hopes the cairn will be enough for someone to find him.

He tries to smile. Perhaps in time this will be Chase's Cairn.

He closes his eyes.



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Hats and Saturdays Go South

Kaye Christensen, Port Macquarie-Hastings FAW

THE BOOK firmly under her arm, Jenny Spence grabbed the new handrail and carried her bowl to the green table, that waited under the pergola. She noticed that, having recognized signs of an early Spring, the wisteria's obstinate, gnarled branches had started to sprawl, wanting to produce their first buds. But still allowing sufficient streams of sunlight to squeeze past them, Jenny relaxed into a sunny spot, tucking her knee carefully between chair and table leg. She so enjoys her comforting Saturdays. Today's was greeted with sugary porridge and the crossword-book with its rubber-ended pencil. Jenny was unsure if she had invited these Saturdays, that took her away from workloads and the never-ending issue of time management, or if they, in fact, had invited her. Whatever the case, she reckons she has at least fifty more of them freckled across the coming year, allowing her to become well-practiced for her retirement Saturdays. Thinking further about it this morning, the idea of leaving her demanding job persuaded the return of that special smile; the satisfied smile that arrived last week when an idea for a possible early retirement plan, pushed her to ponder its merits. Slipping deeper into her chair, her smile broadened into reasons and decisions; I must consider my health needs, love of gardens, birds and being at home, she thought, I will give notice on Monday.

The last spoonful of porridge lay in the bowl and Jenny's pencil poised for the answer to 8-Down, when her Saturday flat-lined. Gravel-grinding car tyres and loud music invaded the space beside the pergola, announcing the unexpected arrival of Tiffany. A gorgeous, somewhat highly strung young creature, Tiffany's usual visit was Thursday evenings after work. Jenny knew; Something is up in Tiff's world, yet again. Slamming her car door too quickly, caused a re-opening to release her skirt, before striding to Jenny's spare chair, from whence came a tirade of unchecked tears, clipped words and unfinished sentences; all falling upon her grandmother.

'How is it possible? He is not your son! He is not my father! He hates me. I hate him back.'

Jenny put her pencil down and moved the book and porridge bowl to safety; they did not need to fall foul of flailing arms, spitting words or soggy tissues that were plopping randomly on the green table.

'Tiffany! stop speaking like that. We do not use that word, and you know that. What's wrong?'

'I lost my iPhone. Dad said I am careless. Will not listen. Won't get me another. I don't know! I do not know what happened. Maybe. Yes, maybe my nerdy little brother hid it. Just to upset me. Maybe I left it in class. At work. Someone has picked it up! I do not know.' Tiffany's stunted inhaling and mascara-clowned eyes, begged her grandmother to understand. 'I waited weeks Gran. To get it. Dad said I must save. I did! Things get lost. I love it Gran. I need to find it. He doesn't understand. No-one does.' Tiffany disappeared into folded arms and knees, her sobs conceding defeat. 'You didn't have iPhones Gran. Was there something though? There must have been something you wanted so badly? And please do not tell me about your generation's hard times. Not today.'

Jenny felt her grand-daughter's sadness and desperation for understanding, but she specifically picked-up on Tiff's words, 'something you wanted so badly.' Hearing these words spoken loudly saw Jenny drifting off to another place; long-ago memories crowded her, falling onto a stage at the forefront of her mind, playing the encore of that long-ago event.

'Things are hard these days too Gran. Just a bit different, that's all.'

But Tiffany's words wafted beyond her grandmother; Jenny was compelled to watch the old encore performance, back in Victoria Street in 1962. She was a

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Short Stories

fourteen-year-old high school girl doing the week-end shopping for her always-busy mother. She loved Saturdays back then too; no soggy school lunches, beautiful weddings to watch and, best of all, the afternoon picture show. She loved the weekly serial followed by two movies and her mother gave her an extra threepence which bought peppermint Steam Rollers or a licorice Choo-Choo bar. That particular Saturday though was special for Jenny; she had smiled all the way to Victoria Street.

She and her younger brother Pete shopped each Saturday, paying accounts and buying fresh meat, fruit and vegetables. They were expert shoppers; snapping beans before purchase, ensuring peas had full pods and asking for the devon to be sliced thin. The previous Saturday she had fallen in love with a straw sunhat, that took pride of place in the window of Victoria street's drapery and haberdashery store. The hat looked back at her, wanting to leave the window right then. I must have it, she thought. And this Saturday she had saved enough money from her babysitting job to own it.

Tiffany's face, drooping to her chest, showed mascara-runs about to meet her somewhat quieter, slobbered words. 'Everything is difficult. I attend school. I work after school. I play sport. I study...'

Jenny knew Pete wanted to complete the shopping first; he didn't want to be late for the picture theatre meet-up with his mates. But she was not changing her mind; first the hat and then the shopping. So, after counting out her money and collecting her change from the store's overhead cash railway, she watched Miss Peel slip the hat into a grey, paper hat-bag, exhaling only after the lady finally released it to her. Pete then stopped his impatient kicking of the counter skirting, but his sister-scowling remained.

'Come ooon, I want to get finished. And how are you going to help carry Mum's huge basket, with that big hat-bag?'

She would do it all, and in record time she told him. Not wanting to make her brother late, as he was being a good sport, Jenny reorganized their usual routine; sending Pete to start at the grocery store, she would pay the accounts, and they could leave the devon and ham to the deli closer to home. The plan worked well, leaving them time to have their usual stop-over at their friend's café, where they ticked off the list and enjoyed an ice cream. After finding a spare table Pete produced his blunt pencil and the now-scrappy list. Noting the first-listed item, he glanced at their shopping. Then

stared at Jenny. 'Where did you put your hat, Jen?'

Her feelings of shock and disbelief on that Spring Saturday at noon in 1962, were portrayed in her grand-daughter's face today, Saturday 10am, 2011. In 1962 Jenny felt pinned to the ground, all the while wanting to scream to everyone, 'I have lost my hat. Someone has taken it. I cannot afford another. I want it back so badly.' Instead, she told her brother they would leave their shopping at the café and walk the streets to find it. Protesting straight-up, Pete told her that it is only a hat and she could get another one, finishing with, 'And I'll be late. And I'll be telling Mum you made me go with you.' Pete followed though. And did hope it would be found.

Tiffany whispered further to her Gran, wondering though if she should. 'Dad often says that in his day, this and that happened. But it is not his day, Gran. It is mine. My time...'

Seeing her grand-mother's blank face Tiffany turned away, looking back at their surroundings; the pergola, with its wisteria about to bud, the old green table and the crossword book. Allowing herself to relax a little she picked up the pencil and absent-mindedly started flipping through the crosswords.

With Pete dawdling behind a little, he and Jenny walked their shopping route, calling into stores and asking, without success. Then she became aware of something. Something important; shoppers with grey paper hat-bags. So many grey hat-bags were bobbing along in other people's hands; right there, in front of her. Thinking that maybe someone has found her bag and is looking to return it, she decided to ask each carrier, if they had her hat. Pete strongly objected but her desire to rescue her hat, far outweighed any idea, sensible or not, that Pete put forward: maybe they want to keep it, maybe they stole it, they will think us stupid, we will be late, Mum will be worried. And he meant them all.

Jenny recalled at least seven ladies opening their hat-bags that day after she delivered her words, 'Please madam, I have mislaid my hat-bag. I thought that you may have found it and was looking for me. It holds a red and white cone shaped sunhat.' There were wedding hats, men's hats, striped hats, but not her sunhat. She thanked them for obliging, whilst knowing she could not waste time to consider the tears just daring to burst forth. So, she kept moving-on into the next street; the street housing their grocery collection.

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Short Stories

And their home. Then she saw it. One last bobbing hat-bag. A slim older man was carrying it. Men do not buy hats, she thought. This is it for sure; it's calling me.

Tiffany paused her pencil, asking herself, 'What should I do? Ask Gran to visit Dad; to see if he can understand? It has been hard for us all this past year. I know he loves us.'

Jenny met the hat-bag man with her usual, pleasant request regarding her sunhat, also adding.

'Or maybe you have picked up the wrong bag, so could you please check the bag, sir.'

But she had not counted on his reply.

'Brats of kids,' he said. 'Get away. Go home. Leave me alone.'

A shocked Jenny knew that this was indeed the person with her hat; no-one else refused to reveal their hat-bag contents. But, how to get it back?

'We must keep following,' she told Pete, who was already shaking his head about the idea. 'The man will feel bad and give-in soon. Because he knows he should. I am sure he will.' They followed, he turned, scowled and walked faster, as did they; two blocks, then three; almost to their own street. Turning right and a sharp left saw him walking towards the station. She could never have guessed this would happen. 'He is going to board the train! With my hat!'

'Well, that's that, Jen. Your hat's gone south for sure. And what are we gonna tell Mum?' Pete turned, coaxing his stunned, sad sister to move-on; collect their shopping and head home.

Jenny remembered her mother being annoyed that they could have put themselves in danger, but had thanked them for another good Saturday's shopping. However, she concluded with what Jenny thought at the time, to be a heartless statement, 'It is only a hat love. You can save again.'

'And I've missed the serial because of your hat Jen.' Pete yelled as he biked it to the flicks.

And Jenny held her tears, running to the pen to let-them-loose on the chickens, 'No one understands,' she told them, 'I worked hard to save for that lovely hat.' She sobbed, with the chickens happily squawking their agreement.

With the stage clearing and the curtain down on 1962, Jenny better understood the situation before her today. Pulling a silent, dejected Tiffany from her chair, she placed an arm around her grand-daughter.

'Come inside Tiff darling. You know Dad is always busy; working and taking care of things for you and your brother, as best he can. And I have a feeling about something and was going to talk to you about it at our Thursday meet-up. What about seeking another visit? It has been a while and things may be better, much-improved even; it could be a perfect time for a Mum visit and chat. She may be up to seeing her children now, without any bother. Think on it darling.' Tiffany nodded an okay. 'And words spoken between generations Tiff, are often not as harsh as they seem to us, at the time. And I intend telling you an interesting story about that. Come along, wash your pretty face and I will make you a ham and tomato toastie and a milkshake. Then we will find the solution for the loss of your beloved hat. Oops, I mean your precious iPhone.'

'Thanks so much Gran. And I know Dad loves me.' Said a relieved Tiffany. 'But hey, what made you say hat, you Silly-Billy.'

MANUSCRIPT ASSESSMENTS

One of Isolated Writers' member, Mel Ifield, is offering manuscript assessments.

Cost is \$50 for the first 7000 words or two chapters (if chapters are long) and \$25 for one or two poems, depending on their length.

This gives a fully developed report, some editing and a path forward, but it's up to the author if they wish to take the steps provided.

It is much better to get a sample like this, Mel says, so writers know the style of report from an assessor and the assessor knows if they can work with someone's writing.

Getting a full book straight up might end up being a waste of everyone's time and money. Try before you invest too much, she adds.

Please contact FAW's secretary, Liz Shaw, 0407 017 562, honsecretary@fawns.org.au

Seniors' Stories Volume 11 Launch

NSW SENIORS Card, in association with the Fellowship of Australian Writers NSW, conducts an annual Short Story writing competition for holders of a Seniors Card or Senior Savers Card. The best 100 stories, as selected by a panel of judges, are published in a book and distributed to the authors, as well as to libraries across the state.

This year, Volume 11 was launched at the State Library of New South Wales in Sydney, on Monday 10th November 2025. Hosted by The Hon. Jodie Harrison MP, Minister for Seniors, the event was attended by the successful authors and their partners. Featured speakers included Hugh Riminton as MC, FAW State President Colleen Parker, Maria Issaris of Audiobooks and Entertainer Jim Haynes OAM.



Attendees at the Seniors' Stories Volume 11 Launch



Then and Now



Jim Haynes OAM, entertainer and author of 35 books and hundreds of poems



Hon. Jodie Harrison MP, Minister for Seniors, with Colleen Parker, President of FAW NSW



Contributors receiving their copy of Seniors' Stories, Volume 11

Branch Reports

BLUE MOUNTAINS FAW

AT OUR September meeting, Annette Brown introduced the topic, Writing Dialogue, with a warm-up exercise eliciting some fun responses. David Berger's presentation included punctuation, following the character's natural speech patterns, using abbreviations, colloquialisms and incorrect grammar at times, and technical issues, such as using 'reporting verbs' with phrases like, 'Please open the door?' asked Ruth.

David referenced an excerpt from Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina* showing how the choice of reporting verb can enhance character and power dynamics in a scene.

We discussed 'reporting verbs' and how some writers use only the minimum needed, but others use them to enhance character and situation. We concluded that it depends on the writer's style and purpose as to how much they are used.

In October, we welcomed back Jan O'Loughlin for a poetry workshop. We explored the effects

of lineation (placement of line breaks) on rhythm and emphasis in poetry. Then experimented with some forms of contemporary poetry, including Abecedarian poems, which are based around the letters of the alphabet, 'Where I'm From' poems, which capture images from places and times that made us who we are, and 'Found/blackout' poems which are the literary equivalent of collage, where words in existing texts are crossed out or circled and illustrated to refashion them as poems.

Think you can't write poetry? Many of our members said that before the meeting but we all wrote poetry that day. We shared poems, thoughts, laughter and tears. A huge thank you to Jan for giving generously of her time and writing expertise but most of all for inspiring us to write poetry.

Our November meeting was a consolidation of a year of writing. Liz Agars' warm-up, followed on from our October workshop and incorporated our 'found poetry' homework into the exercise.

Members discussed what they'd learnt about writing during the year and how that had inspired them to write or improve pieces already written. We shared readings, thoughts, feedback and discussed what we'd like to do next year.

Members, Cheryl Anderson and Margaret Onus, joined Mudgee Valley Writers Retreat and contributed to the subsequent book, *Tales From Brigadoon*.

Jeanette Temesvary, Chloé Steward, and Rosemary Baldry

CANBERRA FAW

FROM FRIDAY the 5th to Sunday the 7th of September in 2025, the FAW ACT & Region branch hosted a writers' retreat to prepare FAW members to create content they would like



Colleen Parker and Dianne Porter at ACT Writer's Retreat, Wilmslow House

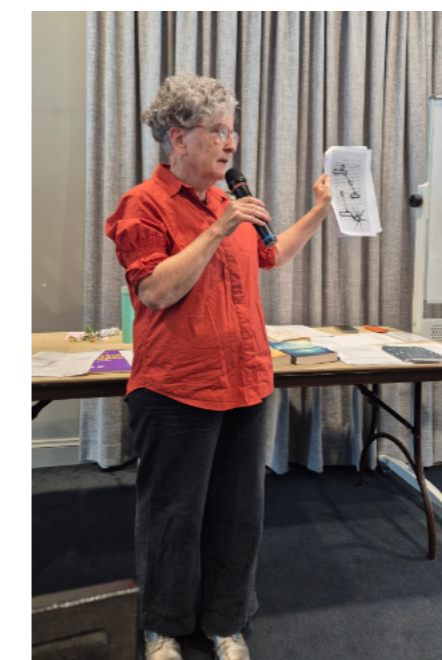
published. In Canberra we have a small membership base so we collaborated with members of FAW Goulburn, and some other FAW groups to make the retreat a viable proposition.

Many attendees were stepping into new territory and took care to take baby steps in this new arena. We called the retreat 'The Logistics of Publishing' and invited speakers to share their publishing knowledge with attendees.

As President of FAW ACT & Region I was the hostess. President of Goulburn FAW Graeme Neil, talked about his experience of using an Australian online print-on-demand publishing service. President of Southern Highlands FAW Rick Watkins, shared taxation issues writers need to be aware of. President of FAW NSW Colleen Parker, shared her experience as a publisher and a writer. Web Master of FAW Ken Driver, shared his experience of publishing the FAW Writers Voice and working with printing companies.

There was time for open questions and time for fellowship over a smorgasbord lunch on the

Cont. next page...



Jan O'Loughlin showing 'found' or 'blackout' poetry

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terrace as well as time for a photo shoot. Everyone was encouraged to take photos on their mobile phones for their own use. On Saturday evening, we had a gala dinner and read out the stories we had written for this occasion. It proved to be a rewarding and fulfilling event for those who attended.

The driving force behind this initiative was reports by some ACT members that they do not feel they are real writers, a syndrome we called ‘imposter syndrome’. To overcome this syndrome, the retreat was proposed. The plan was developed from November 2024 till its fulfilment in September 2025 to help members identify and exercise their skills. The hope is to build the personal confidence of participants that they are writers.

It was held in an inspiring venue; a Victorian mansion in Goulburn NSW, called Wilmslow House. A home full of character, squeaky floorboards and steep stairs, where everyone had an experience that was new and challenging. For example, working out how to make the stove, dishwasher and microwave work. Then the old doors did not always close properly and in one case the door to one room did not open easily. Lesley Irvine had difficulty getting out of her room on Sunday morning, her poem included here, was inspired by this event.

All FAW members attending the retreat can make an entry to the anthology ‘Dances With Words’ FAW ACT & Region will be publishing in 2026. All submissions are to be sent by email to the secretary of FAW ACT & Region Kerrie Walker, by 5pm on Wednesday, the 31st of December 2025. Email: kfwalker18@gmail.com

Dianne Porter

EASTWOOD HILLS FAW

AS THE year draws to a close, members of the Eastwood/Hills FAW reflect on a year packed with activity and celebrations. The launch of our 50th Anniversary Anthology ‘Celebrating Writing’ and our fabulous party were definite highlights.

Our September workshop was presented by Anne Howard and Peter Moore who ably led us on a foray to ‘Take the Tension out of Tenses’. The English language can be complex and managing correct tenses in writing requires some careful consideration. We explored Simple Tenses, Continuous or Progressive Tenses, Perfect Tenses and Perfect Continuous Tenses. Our knowledge was then tested with a Tense Consistency Quiz – trickier than we thought! The influence of Latin on English tenses was interesting. Information was presented on Conditional and Imperfect Tense, Participles, Gerunds and Gerundives and the Active and Passive Voice. Hmmm... lots to consider!

Frances Moon facilitated the workshop in October which involved us embarking on a robust critique session. Members brought four copies of a short piece of writing of their choice to be critiqued in small groups. Sessions like this are always very informative. Constructive feedback is always welcome as a means to hone our craft.

‘Idyll’ was the title of our November workshop led by Anne Howard. ‘Idyll’ is defined by the dictionary as ‘a simple descriptive work of poetry or prose dealing with rustic life – pastoral scenes and the like’ – exactly what we focussed on in the writing exercises. We were inspired to produce some lovely poetry after exploring some

evocative pastoral poems by W.B. Yeats, John Shaw Neilson, William Blake, Gayle Tidswell, E. Housman, James Joyce and Djuna Barnes. Pastoral poems can be made more effective by adding a human element, showing people living in, affected by or affecting the landscape in some way.

The Committee and members of Eastwood/Hills FAW would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy, safe and relaxed festive season. Very best wishes to all for a great start to 2026.

Linda King

GOULBURN FAW

IN OUR last meeting, the decision was made to hold an open night for January 2026. So, we are now in the process of organizing programs and guest speakers, in a bid to encourage new members as our numbers are low.

However, current members who are able to attend every month enjoy the writing discussions, and social connection the meetings provide.

Janice Jensen

ISOLATED WRITERS FAW

OUR PREVIOUS CONVENOR, Greg Mutton, is now focussing on other projects and so the new convenor is Philippa Yelland.

We ‘met’ – online – in late October to work on directions. Recent highlights include meetings to be held on the fourth Saturday of each month from 10am for one hour, plus half an hour for feedback on submitted writing if people would like to stay for that time.

We have also completed the 12 Stories [My Life Journey] course.

In the most recent *Writers’ Voice* [No. 289 September 2025], you’ll

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have seen pages 8 and 9 about the ‘My Life Journey’ course designed by Judy and Cathy Hallewell and donated by State president, Colleen Parker, to Isolated Writers. Some members of Isolated Writers have been doing this course – and loving it so much that we now do two of the 12 modules at each of our fortnightly write-ins. To have a taste of the camaraderie that’s developed, read three members’ comments below.

Dawn Davies, Ferny Hills, Qld: ‘I look forward to both the Isolated Writers’ meetings and the My Life Journey groups so much. It’s lovely to see everyone’s faces and feel connected, even from home.

‘Listening to other people’s ideas and experiences keeps me focussed and gives me new perspectives to stay motivated. We’re all learning and sharing together.

‘I joined the Isolated Writers Group not really knowing what to expect. I wish I’d heard of it earlier.’

Liz Shaw, The Peninsula Central Coast, NSW: ‘I love meeting everyone fortnightly and being on a journey with them. I like the deadline to complete our stories.’

Liz continues that she ‘loves hearing’ the stories written during the online meetings. ‘I enjoy the course we can tailor to make it our own.’ She writes that she’d like to ‘repeat it down the track and write different stories’.

‘It’s been a worthwhile journey for me and I look forward to our meet-ups online each fortnight.’

Jill Schuler, Howard, Queensland: ‘This my second round of 12 Stories. I completed the first round earlier in the year. Since starting the second round at the Isolated Writers meetings on Teams with Pip and the others, it’s so much fun.

‘This has been an enjoyable and positive experience for me.

Every subject could come with its own short story book. There are no frightening prompts to get me out of my comfort zone. Just a lot of fun and a few laughs meeting everyone. I just love it. Thank you Cathy and Judy Hallewell – and Colleen Parker – for this gift.

‘What a lovely bunch of people. When I first started these meetings I could not even breathe or talk. I was so shy. Now it’s just fun.’

Visit www.12stories.com.au/freeguide for a sample copy.

Our future meetings are as follows:

28 December 2025: Christmas theme – Liz Shaw; 24 January 2026: Self-publishing part 1 – Ken & Manjula Waldron [and others]: manuscript assessment, platforms, marketing, ISBN from FAW, cost, contracts; 28 February 2026: Self-publishing part 2 – speakers to be advised; 28 March 2026: Memoir writing using the structure of novels [rather than ‘this happened, then that happened, and then another thing happened’.]

Philippa Yelland

LAKE MACQUARIE FAW

ONE OF the longstanding divisions (usually light-hearted ones, of course) in the writing world is between “planners” and “pantsers”, that is between those who meticulously plan their books and those who fly by the seat of their pants. Members addressed the divide at our August meeting with a not-very-serious debate between the two sides. It was quite intriguing to find how much could be said for both approaches to writing!

September marked the 25th anniversary of our group’s founding so, naturally, we chose to celebrate the milestone with a special meeting. Nearly 40 members, ex-members and visitors attended and

we enjoyed a scrumptious afternoon tea, a raffle with great prizes, and a historical slideshow presentation. Most importantly, our latest anthology, *Twenty five years, one fellowship*, was launched. Copies of the book can be purchased here: <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/twenty-five-years-one-fellowship-sandra-joy-boyd/1148126281>. We hope the anthology strikes a balance between offering history and facts about the group, as well as a taste of our creative output.

In October our general meeting focused on crime writing. Members Emma Walton and Maggie Carr did a wonderful job explaining how to add emotion, character and back story into crime stories.

What a treat it was to welcome best-selling and critically acclaimed writer, Graeme Simsion (author of *The Rosie Project* and many other works), to our November meeting. Graeme took us through an abbreviated version of his guide to writing, *The Novel Project*. When it comes to writing he is very much a “planner” (not a “pantser”), with a thoroughly organised and useful approach to offer. He also set a fun writing exercise with index cards (read his book for more details). It was great to welcome several outside visitors to our meeting.

Pam Garfoot

LAMBING FLAT YOUNG FAW

OUR NOVEMBER meeting was the last for the year with our Christmas party to happen in December.

Each month this year we have had a ‘writer in focus’ where each our members leads the group and speaks of their writers’ journey. These occasions have proved informative. Member Hilda concluded this year’s focus taking

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us on her journey with writing her memoir. Hilda introduced those present to a 'new' way of assembling a memoir which she is putting into practice. It will be a three-year project. We look forward to viewing the result.

Steve has his memoir *Back Home* published. Well done. As a group over the last twelve months or so we have been honoured to be part of his journey.

In October our guest speaker was a ghost writer and illustrator. It was entertaining, informative and engrossing.

The 43rd National Writing Competition has closed with judging finalised mid-November.

Announcements of prize-winners will be made on December 7th, at the 75th Cherry Festival in Young. Canberra FAW has been invited to join us and to get together afterward for lunch.

The retreat held by Canberra FAW in Goulburn in September provided an opportunity to meet and mix with members from Goulburn, Canberra and Southern Highlands FAW. A good time was had by all. It was great to come together and exchange ideas. The stairs at the venue were an Everest achievement! Thanks to Dianne Porter and her team for all the organization.

Wishing everybody a Merry Christmas.

Jennifer Haynes

MACARTHUR FAW

BRANCH PRESIDENT, Victoria Chie attended the launch of Wollondilly FAW's 2025 Anthology at their meeting of 12 October, bringing back a copy for our perusal. She said that it had been a very enjoyable afternoon.

At our October meeting we discussed the writing genre known

as Cli-Fi, meaning Climate Fiction, the word 'dystopian' featuring prominently in our conversation. I am presently reading a novel in this genre, *The Clinkers* by Susie Greenhill (winner of the 2016 Ritchell Prize for emerging writers). I have noticed that some authors display a great deal of scientific knowledge in their works - sometimes to the point of ennui, while others take a more mysterious approach.

There was also continued discussion of the television series, *Professor T*, and the style of script writing that might be involved. We agreed that the Professor and his mother are fascinating characters.

The themes of recent writing exercises include 'Stubbornness', 'Two people sharing a shelter' (I managed to scrape in a dog), 'A tangled situation', and 'Where someone's stubbornness has consequences.' All produced interesting results.

Thanks to Cathy Hobson for revamping our Macarthur Website, as well as for arranging with the RSL for the continued use of our meeting room, which comes with access to facilities such as the all-important coffee-bar. Our last meeting for 2025, on November 16, will be preceded by a Christmas Party in the club restaurant.

Thanks, also, to member, Eric Esber, for his recent visit to the new Campbelltown Library to explore opportunities for publicity.

I have submitted a Christmas Poem, *Space-Age Santa*, which can be found in the Poet's Voice.

Season's greetings to all our colleagues in the Fellowship of Australian Writers.

Bernard Smith

ORANGE FAW

SUNDAY 23 November will be our 4th meeting, including the two planning and setting up meetings and our 2nd as an official branch of the FAWNSW. Our thanks go to Colleen Parker, Annette Pearce and Liz Shaw for their guidance, encouragement and making the process in setting up a branch in Orange so manageable. Our meetings are on the 4th Sunday of the month at Orange Library from 2pm to 4pm. There has been small but steady interest in joining the group with meeting member numbers slowly increasing. As always, sometimes life gets in the way necessitating apologies for meetings.

Presenting written work is an important part of the meeting and focusses the mind on writing activities. It is always pleasing when members share some of their pieces with their fellow writers.

Members have been encouraged to try the prompted Dribble (50 words exactly) and crosswords based on etymology and words to do with the activity of writing at home. These are then shared at the next meeting. Sylvia supplied a selection of unusual words to choose from and include some in the November Dribble.

The 10-minute unseen writing activity for August was selecting two idioms from a group of five and including them. September was all about the weather and including some well-known sayings, such as 'weather beaten', 'get wind of', 'steal someone's thunder' and 'throw caution to the wind'. In October we focussed on using dialogue as a way of adding drama to text. A conversation set in a coffee shop was the theme. The results are always very enjoyable and varied.

October also saw the

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introduction of a 'What have you been reading?' segment, which was followed by a good discussion on the books mentioned. When reading as a writer, books can be a great source of inspiration.

We are hoping for a good turn out in November with some of our travellers and indisposed members returning to enjoy the fun of writing and sharing their work. As the 28 December meeting will be between Christmas and the New Year a decision will be made in November, if it will go ahead depending on venue availability.

Uta Purcell

PORT MACQUARIE FAW

AS ANOTHER year draws to a close, we are all looking forward to a pleasant break full of sunshine and laughs with friends and family. It has been a rewarding year of writing and learning from each other. We have successfully published two books, which include our annual FAW showcase and a criteria book we challenged ourselves to deliver at the start of the year. While the 2025 Port Macquarie Hastings Branch Showcase featured a collection of two of our favourites works this year, the criteria book followed a unique procedure of using a set of special cards to select a character, a setting and a prompt that advances a given plot. To make it a bit more uniform we decided to choose a character from one of the following: Demon, Monster, Genius Misfit, and the result was the book we called *Echoes of the Aberrant*.

We also witnessed a slight increase of followers on our Facebook page – which was really encouraging for us; we hope to continue gaining online presence including a website in the coming year which could help us in gaining more membership. On November 16, Raylene Austin, Alison Davey and

Brian Tolagson from the branch manned a stand at the monthly Laurieton Riverwalk Markets. Unfortunately, light rain kept patrons away for the first few hours of the morning but improved when the rain eased. The members did their best to promote the group under difficult circumstances aiming to improve membership numbers as part of our commitment to foster meaningful connections and collaborations with the wider community.

Congratulations again to members Pat Bough and Kaye Christensen whose stories made it to this year's senior's stories. We wish them all the best as they attend the presentation in Sydney.

This year also gave us more opportunities to support each other in our different writing projects. Brian Tolagson gave us several presentations ranging from Artificial Intelligence to how to write powerful plots. We were steadfast in our homework which we read aloud at our monthly meetings. They explored various themes such

as the "power of the place in writing" whether physical, personal, emotional or memory as well as using characters from classic nursery rhymes to create stories in different genres from crime to mystery and romance.

We also had the privilege of welcoming local author Wendy Haynes as a guest speaker. It was a very lively discussion and writers asked lots of questions. Haynes also shared how she came into writing, she said in the year 2000, trauma led her to writing which she started by undertaking a diploma of Creative Writing with Southern Cross University. Her desire to continue learning and the influence of grandchildren led to the love of writing children's books. Published books include *Haydens Bedtime*; *Playing in Puddles*; *Money guide for Kids* plus a workbook. Further published books which form part of continuing series; *Saving Hollow Woods - Book 1 the Door in the Woods*; *Apprentice of the Stones - Book 2 The Door in the Woods*.

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Raylene Austin and Alison Davey (Secretary)

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Wendy shared her writing plans for 2026 which left us all questioning ‘How does she do it?’ Well simple, you rise at 4am and write while the brain is fresh, then finish by breakfast. A hard act to follow but we will continue to strive.

From all of us in Port Macquarie we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

Pinado Waba

REVESBY FAW

HISTORICAL INFORMATION requests for the Revesby Writers branch have been received for inclusion in the FAW Centenary Book. As I have been with the group for less than two years, I’ve contacted our previous secretary, Shirley Galloway, who has access to the documented information. Shirley has kindly agreed to locate and forward the requested information.

My objective is to obtain and scan the existing documents, to load the information onto a USB stick for reference and save the files on the branch’s laptop computer. The information will then be stored for future reference. Some of the historical information could possibly be included on the Revesby Writers web site. ‘revesbywriters.com.’

The Revesby Bus book of short stories is currently being printed. Several members of our group have contributed to the book. The stories are as varied as the writers themselves, with several genres having been included. There are fiction, science fiction and non-fiction stories. Writers who have contributed will each receive a copy of the book. Copies will also be available for purchase. Cost and postage to be determined.

Discussions were held regarding changing the meeting room, to an alternative room within the club building. There were numerous

arguments for and against. The eventual outcome was, that the meetings will continue to be held in the Macarthur Room in Dixon Lane. All necessary amenities are available in the room. ie. A lockable storage cabinet, kitchenette and toilets.

Attendance numbers have been consistent, with two new members having joined since July this year.

Lyn Potts has been selected to fill the role of ‘Publicity Officer.’ Flyers have been produced for distribution to, hopefully, boost membership numbers.

A Christmas lunch is being organised for RW members in December. A special meeting will be held on the second Saturday in January, after which, meetings will be held on the first Saturday of each month, throughout the year.

A wish to all FAW writing club members around the state, to have a wonderful Christmas and New Year. Be safe.

Eddy Schaap

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS FAW

MEMBERS OF the Southern Highlands Branch have been examining specific techniques in writing. At each meeting we have dissected a piece of literature and identified the way in which the author made the writing effective.

In July we read excerpts from J D Robbs’ ‘Deperation in Death’ and Ruth Rendell’s ‘No Man’s Nightingale’ In the former we learned how third person speech gave the reader the writer’s view and in the latter we saw how the shift of point of view developed the scene.

In August, Jennie Mickle took us deep into American high society with two excerpts from ‘The Great Gatsby’ by F Scott Fitzgerald. This vibrant piece of writing showed our members how a special time period

can be captured so that the reader feels they are there in the extravagant parties.

In August Rick Watkins took us through the lyrics of two classic American country songs, ‘Memphis Tennessee’, by Chuck Berry and ‘Ode to Billie Joe’, by Bobby Gentry. Both sets of lyrics showed the readers how the songwriters achieved time of place and mood.

Our special interest groups for Prose and Poetry have experienced quality readings from members and helpful and insightful critiquing from our fellow writers and poets.

The Poetry group had a special treat in examining Greg Tome’s seven poem memoir of growing up in northern New South Wales between the wars, a selection of which Greg was encouraged to share with the general meeting.

Our regular activities of Rick’s Rant, Etymology and the 10-minute writing exercise, topic unseen, continue to keep members enthralled and we are pleased to see visitors at nearly every meeting.

Rick Watkins

SUTHERLAND SHIRE FAW

IT HAS been an interesting year and ended with the publication of the Sutherland Shire anthology, Living Dangerously that was launch on the 22nd November at the Kirrawee Library. There are many excellent stories in this book covering different stories based on this theme, a great read for everyone!

This year the group has had a number of guest speakers that have added depth to the meetings and the workshops held have been varied adding to the writers’ skills.

The last guest speaker, Gwen Wilson, was excellent in how she explained how to create a fiction story from actual historical facts.

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She also listed some of the resources that can be accessed such as Marriage, Deaths and Births, National Art Gallery and the Internet to name a few of the sources.

A real treat of the year have been the Open Microphone sessions where members can share their writings and what their plans are for future works. The depth of the writing is so impressive.

Julianne Miles-Brown, our president has decided to resign after being the leader for a number of years. Thank you Julianne for all your work for our group.

Welcome to Cherie Corbett Jones on becoming the new vice president, Sylvia Vago is continuing as Secretary and Pat Ruell as the Treasurer.

There are plans being discussed for the Sutherland Shire FAW in 2026 and I hope to share these projects with you in the next Writer’s Voice.

Fiona Johnstone

WOLLONDILLY FAW

MEMBERS OF Wollondilly FAW launched our 2025 anthology “Wollondilly Voices”, at our October meeting. Judith Hannan, our Local Member of Parliament and Susy Brandstater, our Local Councilor and Colleen Parker NSW FAW President addressed the members, family, friends and invited guests present.

Susy launched our anthology, and for the first time showcased the cover which was a collage of photos taken around Wollondilly by members. Besides stories and poems, we featured pages of rural and native flora and fauna photographs, as well as photos of each member who contributed to our book. One of our members wrote about the problem of living in the area’s protected Native Bat colony, which gained a grin from our politicians. The launch was the culmination of many months of hard work, and it was exciting to see its final release.

In November, members attended a local Authors Talk at Wollondilly Library, where authors, including ours, presented their books. President, Annette Pearce and others read some of their work in an effort to entice guests to purchase a copy. We sold a few copies and gained a possible new member.

Four of our members, Annette Pearce, Jean Mills, Susan Glassick and myself, Narelle Noppert, were successful in making it into the top 100 stories in the Seniors Writing Competition 2025. It was an 8.45am sign-in, so we were up and on the train at 6.30am. With supporters, we attended the Seniors Book Volume 11 Launch at the NSW Library on 10th November. After the launch, a nice morning tea was provided giving us the

opportunity to catch up with other successful authors and FAW branch members.

Member, Hemat Malak, has again been successful in the Fishers Ghost Writing Competition run by WestWords. We congratulate Hemat and are proud of her success this year.

It is now time to relax and enjoy Christmas celebrations at our December meeting on Sunday 14th December.

We wish all FAW members the best for the Festive Season and hope 2026 is a happy and healthy year.

Narelle Noppert

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 2025

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



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>.

Country Press 125th Anniversary Writing Competition A Great Success



TO COMMEMORATE the anniversary of Australia's oldest print media association, founded in 1900, a creative writing competition has been successfully held during 2025 in the readership areas of Country Press NSW member newspapers across the State.

Country Press NSW wishes to express appreciation to all of the writers who entered the event, and thanks to the efforts of the four FAW (NSW) judges who provided their time and expertise to adjudicate: Colleen Parker, Jenny England, Ian Keast and Jackie Laing.

Entries were received from Aberdeen, Alstonville, Bakers Swamp, Barham, Bathurst, Blakney Creek, Blayney, Bombala, Broken Hill, Bumberry, Cessnock, Cooma, Coonabarabran, Coonamble, Corowa, Cowra, Darlington Point, Deniliquin, Dubbo, Eden, Fern Bay, Finley, Forbes, Forster-Tuncurry, Gilgandra, Gloucester, Gollan, Grenfell, Gunnedah, Guyra, Jerilderie, Jerrara, Kiama, Lismore, Little Bay, Manildra, Merewether, Moama, Moruya, Mudgee, Mumbil, Muswellbrook, Narrabri, Narromine, Newcastle, Nowra, Nyngan, Orange, Parkes, Portland, Sandy Creek, Shoalhaven, Walcha, Wanganella, Warilla, Wellington, Woongarah, Wyoming and Young.

As a special condition, competitors were required to



Lettie Schofield of St Laurence's Parish School, Forbes, won the Primary Student category of the Country Press NSW 125th Anniversary Writing Awards. She was encouraged to enter by her teacher, Carmen Spry.

include a mention of the "local newspaper" as part of their stories.

PRIMARY STUDENT CATEGORY RESULTS

Lettie Schofield of Forbes was awarded first place in the Primary Students section of the Country Press NSW 125th Anniversary Writing Competition.

Judge Jenny England said Lettie's story, "Why Can't We Go To Town?," stood out due to her creativity at her young age.

Lettie's story was about seemingly insurmountable challenges facing a country girl trying to get a newspaper delivered in a remote rural area.

Lettie, a Year Three student at St Laurence's Parish School, entered the competition with the encouragement and support of teacher Carmen Spry.

Second place in the Primary Students category went to Teddy Spicer for his story, "The Teddies and the Terminator" and third place went to Leo Brouff, Boree, for his entry, "The Grand Final." Both are students from St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Manildra.

Special mention should be made of Wellington Public School, which had the highest number of entries (18) from an individual school in the competition.

SECONDARY STUDENT CATEGORY RESULTS

The Secondary Student category was judged by Ian Keast of FAW (NSW).

First place was won by Finley High School Year Nine student Marley Ava Ferres, for her composition, "Mummy's Hero."

With the support of her English teacher, Kathy Dempsey, Marley's winning piece was based on the horrors of war.

Second place went to Max Burrows, a Year 12 student from Broken Hill, who penned the short story, "Letter to My Younger Self".

Third place went to Year Seven student Nelly Tink of Narromine, for her entry, "Buried Truths."

ADULT OPEN CATEGORY RESULTS

The Adult Open category saw the largest field of entries in the competition, with the judge being FAW (NSW) member Jackie Laing.

First place was awarded to Orange resident and Isolated Branch member Vickie Walker for her story, "Secrets and Lies."

Born in Molong, Vickie said she has been writing since she can remember and is rarely without a story on the

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Country Press 125th Anniversary Writing Competition



Wellington Public School had the highest participation in the Country Press NSW 125th Anniversary Writing Awards, with 18 primary students taking part.

go.

Whilst most entries in the Open section were written about contemporary life, "Secrets and Lies" was penned as a historical tragedy set in colonial Australia.

Second place in Adult Open went to Rupert Stanthorpe, Walcha, for "A Dog Shouldn't Go to a Wedding" while third place was won by Christine Johnston, Wyoming, for "A Physical Thing."

NEWSPAPER CATEGORY

In this last category, which was for only for Country Press NSW newspaper staff and contributors, 15 newspapers took part: Koondrook & Barham Bridge, Gilgandra Weekly, Gunnedah Times, Coonamble Times, Forster Fortnightly, Narromine Star, Lismore Times, Wellington & District Leader, Young Witness, The Bugle, Newcastle Weekly, Orange City Life, Coonabarabran Times, The Courier, Hunter River Times.

The Newspaper Category was judged by FAW (NSW) State President Colleen Parker.

First place, with a score of 95 per cent, was awarded to the Lismore Times for "A Death in the Family" (story by George Bentnall).

Second place, with a score of 90pc, was given to Koondrook & Barham Bridge for "Seven Days" (story by Alison Bohn).

Third place, with a score of 85pc, went to the Narromine Star for "When the River Runs Dry" (story by Sharon Bonthuys).

ENCOURAGEMENT AWARDS

A further 13 entrants in the Country Press NSW 125th Anniversary Writing Awards have been given an encouragement award.

They have each received a \$40 Collins Bookshop gift voucher, to support their future creative writing

endeavours.

The recipients were:

- Gillian Wherrett, Coonabarabran, "There Once Was A Forest"
- Frida Fernandes, Kiama, "Speak Up"
- Ellen Auriac, Tuncurry, "A Musical Path"
- Dermot Lynch, Coonamble, "Outback Mayhem"
- Jaxon O'Grady, Wellington, "No Boxers In The Stadium"
- Ameerah Clancy, Deniliquin, "A Hideous Monster Terrifies Locals"
- Jaden Ing, Aberdeen, "The Rooftop Awakening"
- Bruce Wilson, Cessnock, "Sunrise On A New Harvest"
- Philippa Yelland, Blakney Creek, "Cappucinos and Cockatoos"
- Imogen Jones, Wellington, "The Burnt Newspaper Shop"
- Neal Morris, Gunnedah, "Million Dollar Barra"
- Sally Pratt, Gilgandra, "Percy's Last Day"
- Zara Ryan, Wellington, "The Library Incident"

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.

Writing Competitions

JEAN STONE POETRY COMPETITION

Opens: 1st February 2026, Closes: 6PM, 31st August 2026

Open to all Australian Residents
Theme: Open, maximum 80 lines.
Prize: \$500

Entry Forms and Terms and Conditions found at
<https://fawns.org.au>

Winners will be notified via email on 31st October 2026
Inquiries to compconvenor@fawns.org.au or Phone
0492 833 522.

EASTWOOD/HILLS FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS

BOREE LOG AWARD FOR BUSH VERSE 2026

Entries close: 15th May 2026

First Prize: \$100 plus a trophy and certificate.

Ballads to be in perfect rhyme and metre with maximum
80 lines and an Australian Bush Theme.

Entry Fee: \$8 per entry or \$30 for 4 entries – Maximum 4
entries per entrant.

Cheques or money orders in AUS\$ payable to:
Fellowship of Australian Writers.

Fees can also be sent electronically (details on 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

EASTWOOD/HILLS FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS LITERARY COMPETITION 2026

Entries close: 15th May 2026

All categories Open Theme

Category 1: Flash Fiction

Max 500 words. First Prize \$150, Second Prize \$50

Category 2: Philippa Holland Award for Poetry

Includes all forms of poetry except Bush Poetry

(See separate Boree Log competition)

Max 80 lines per poem.

First Prize \$150, Second Prize \$50

Category 3: Alan Russell Award for Memoir

Max 1,500 words. First Prize \$150, Second Prize \$50

Category 4: Short Story.

Max 1,500 words. First Prize \$150, Second Prize \$50

Entry Fee: \$8 per entry or \$30 for 4 entries.

Cheques or money orders in AUS\$ payable to:

Fellowship of Australian Writers.

Fees can also be sent electronically (details on 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

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
Alison Ferguson
Thelma Flower *
Pam Garfoot
Shirley Goodbar
George Graves
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
Michael Costigan
Trevor Langlands *
Dr. Hilarie Lindsay *
Colleen Parker
Jean Paddison *
Peter Pike
Cate Plink
Barbara Snel
Ron Stevens *

*Deceased

Poet's Voice

Space-Age Santa

Solar sails power his sled
guided by AI
as it takes the quantum leap
into the southern sky

You can follow him on Google
Bing or Yahoo
it's nice to know that Santa
is up to date, too.

Bernard Smith, Macarthur FAW

The Cowra Japanese Garden

Cherry blossom buds open in the springtime,
Soft pink and white petals dancing in the wind,
Stunning flowers at the entrance to the garden,
'Stralian and Japanese flags, in harmony pin'd.

The Bonsho Temple bell's gong reverberates,
Made of copper and tin alloy to create the essence,
Sounds like the Cowra World Peace Bell but smaller,
In a highly decorative Japanese Temple's presence.

The Edo Cottage is in a classical style,
Tatami mats cover the timber floorboards,
The Furo stone bath, clean yet cold,
Family members shower before the bath forwards.

Upper Lake water flows down to yonder Lower Lake,
Water descends with the unseen power of gravity,
Shaped and trimmed hedges, round and shaded,
Leading to the empty stone bridge cavity.

Koi fish swim in golden orange and white patterns,
Their swirling tails and hungry mouths wait for food,
Nearby snowdrop flowers are fragrant in full bloom,
The running stream is gurgling as it carries the mood.

Time for a rest from walking at the halfway Tea House,
Bridges and mini temples adorn the perimeter pages,
Then, the ancient gum trees and natural rocks protrude,
The Sugao Forest is filled with trees of all ages.

Kisetsukan is the style of Japanese planting,
Meaning 'A Sense of Season' of the fours,
Appreciating and respecting the beauty of our nature,
The purple Wisteria Pergola rests and pours.

A Shishi Odoshi device to chase deer and wild boar,
Bamboo strikes a rock to make noise in the fields,
Water is diverted to a channel on the wooden pivot,
Using only gravity and the weight of water yields.

Bonsai House is filled with mini-tree forests,
Rocks and wire pull branches into shapes,
Cormorants retreat to rock islands in the sunshine,
Stretching and cleaning wet black feather drapes.

The peaceful four seasons of friendship,
Reflected in the varied Sculpture garden outside,
Drinking deeply from The Well of Wisdom,
Beauty and tranquillity remind us of mortality beside.

Debra Widdicombe, Eastwood/Hills FAW

Stepping Back in Time

Many steps to enter the stately house
Within, many stairs to climb
Presenting a challenge to ageing legs
Stepping back in time.

Up the wide staircase to the first floor
Secured by strong balustrades
Sidling up cramped stairs into the turret
To rooms one assumes were the maids.

Fashionable formal dining at night
Silver candelabras gleaming
Long table with high backed, elegant chairs
Adding to the old world feeling.

A writers retreat to remember
Inspired by a setting so fine
Glimpsing how genteel folk used to live
Stepping back in time.

Lesley Jean Irvine, Canberra FAW

Deluge

Mid-North Coast, May, 2025

Almost a week and my singers,
(who would perch in nearby trees),
to lift and lilt their creation song
have been absent.

Replaced by notes of 'riverine
flooding', 'rescues,' 'flash flooding';
rain heavy drumming on Colourbond; further
South, even worse.

Until this new May morning:
cloud broken; trees baptised and glistening,
branches held out; ready to welcome
once more the singers.

Donna Moody-Martin, 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

Four of our members were included in the 2025 *Seniors Stories Volume 11* book and audiobook launched 10th November at State Library of NSW, Sydney:

Rosemary Baldry for her story titled *A Comedy so Bizarre*

Pirie Klemmer for her story titled *How to Choose a Career Without Even Trying*

Christine Stickley for her story titled *A Bit Fit*

Yvonne Wilson for her story titled *Memories of Kingswood*

Jeanette Temesvary and Rosemary Baldry each had an untitled tanka published in *Eucalypt: A Tanka Journal, Issue 39*, November 2025

EASTWOOD / HILLS FAW

Erina Booker

Co-judged the Eastwood-Hills FAW's Philippa Holland Award for Poetry, Literary Competition 2025

Published 'A Gendered Vessel' online at 'She Speaks'

Published 'Tree of Life' and 'Apples' online with the artistry of Rita Winkler, WA

Read a new poem 'A Gendered Vessel' at the August meeting of 'Live Poets at Don Bank'

Poem 'Between the Layers' was accepted for online publication by Silver Birch Press.

A tanka was accepted for *Eucalypt 39*

Carolyn Eldridge-Alfonzetti

Short Story 'The Sceptic of Stanton Hall' selected to feature in *Seniors' Stories Volume 11*

HC Eastwood/Hills FAW John Kelly Award for original myth, folktale or fairytale

Tanka accepted for publication in *Eucalypt: a tanka journal - Issue 39*

Linda King

E/H FAW competition (short story) 'The Truth Will Out' - The Five Commandments of Storytelling - Second place

E/H FAW competition (short story) 'Black Death' - Taking the Tension out of Tenses - First place

Sally Lewry

Winner of the John Kelly trophy for 2025 with an original fairy tale: 'Witches Bunting.'

Liz Shaw

CWA Cultural writing report Northumberland first

CWA Cultural digital writing Northumberland first

CWA Cultural Northumberland winner

Julie Thorndyke

Turning the Calendar: twelve tanka strings. Swan Bay Books, 2025.

One tanka published *Quail Eggs 2* [online]

One tanka published Tanka Society of America anthology 2025

Two tanka in *Ribbons 21* no 2 Fall 2025 (USA)

One haiku in *Echidna Tracks*

Weidong Tian

One tanka accepted by Tanka Society Of America 2025 Anthology

One tanka accepted by *Eucalypt Issue 39*

Chris Weston

Novel *One Day*, self-published on Amazon. 2023

Commended: '100 Bucks is 100 Bucks' [Short story]

Eastwood/Hills FAW competition 2023

First Place: 'The Power of a Duc' [Short story] Eastwood/Hills FAW competition. 2023

Novel *The Way You Kiss* published by Xlibris 2023

Highly Commended: 'Unfinished Chapters' [Short story] E/Hills FAW competition. 2025

'The X Factor' published in the E/Hills Branch's *Celebrating Writing 50th Anniversary Anthology*

First Place: 'The Butcher's Mark' [Short story] Eastwood/Hills FAW competition. 2025

Debra Widdicombe

Commended Certificate received for "Feeling Intense" submission based on the "Taking the Tension out of Tenses" Workshop by Anne Howard and Peter Moore.

Vera Zegarac

'Shadows in The Conservatory' HC E/H FAW June assignment - writing crime fiction.

ISOLATED WRITERS

Carolyn Cash

Two interviews for Right Royal Roundup:

- Rowan Dean, editor of *The Spectator Australia*, on why King Charles III should abdicate
- Andrew Lownie, author of *Entitled: The Rise and Fall of the House of York*, on how he has opened up a can of worms on Prince Andrew and his ex-wife.

History of St Phil's written for St Phil's Anglican Church, Caringbah, mentioned in *The St George & Sutherland Shire Leader* (30 September 2025)

LAKE MACQUARIE FAW

Sandi Boyd

Organised a successful writers retreat for a small group of members and others; has helped with the 'Write a Book in a Day' project for the Kids' Cancer Project (<https://writeabookinaday.com/>).

Olga Korlevic

Edited and released third issue of IndigoTeen Magazine, including article "Healthy ways to use AI in your creative journey" (<https://indigoteen.org/2025/10/02/healthy-ways-to-use-ai-in-your-creative-journey/>).

Wayne Russell

Published his second book, a crime thriller, titled *Ironbark* (<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/242543748->

Literary Achievements

[ironbark](#)).

Ned Stephenson

Longlisted in the 2025 Sydney Hammond Memorial Short Story Competition, short story 'In the Shadow of Ozymandias'; longlisted for the Newcastle Short Story Competition, short story "Until the end of the year".

Linda Visman

Has been posting poems to her poetry blog, Pause and Ponder, at <https://www.poemsonlife.blog/>.

LAMBING FLAT FAW

Steve Thompson

Memoir – Back Home – published

Maree Myhill

Eucalypt: A Tanka Journal, Issue 39 2025, Tanka published Short Story 'No More Sunday Phone Calls' published in *Seniors' Stories Volume 11*, theme 'Then and Now'

Lyn Yates

Poem accepted for The Australian Country Women's Anthology, theme 'Her Beauty and Her Terror'.

Eucalypt: A Tanka Journal Issue 39 2025, Tanka published

MUDGE FAW

Sue Pridmore

Story *An Unexpected Visitor and a Buried Secret* in *Seniors Stories 11*

Jane Munro

Story *Let the Flowers Fade* in *Seniors Stories 11*

Jill Baggett

Poem *The Swaggie* Australian Country Women's Anthology

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS FAW

Donna Moody-Martin

Short Story highly recommended prize in the Port Stephens Literature Award.

Ian Keast

Poems, 'Homeless' and 'Cast adrift' published in, *Life's Tapestry* (Anthology published by Poetica Christi Press, 2025)

Book Review, 'The poetry of place' (Review of 'Galilee' by Peter Stiles) published in, *Studio*, Number 165

SUTHERLAND SHIRE FAW

Helen Armstrong

Published article on generative AI for Writers Voice

Tracey Chauvin

Directed the play, 'Missing' written by Pat Ruell at Cronulla Arts Theatre.

Had her film accepted in a short film festival in Amsterdam called, 'Where the Goldtops Grow.'

Cherie Corbett-Jones

has been accepted to the Varuna Master Class. On-line Zoom for 6 weeks.

Christine de Matos

Has published, 'Classical Mateship: A Transtemporal View of a National Ideal' in *Journal of War and Culture Studies*, (2025). Available online: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17526272.2025.2549178#d1e256>

Published an academic paper in *International History Review* 'Becoming the Occupier'.

Had her short story accepted in the Senior Stories 2025 competition.

Sal Gallaher

Submitted recipe for publication to Australian Author Baking Cookbook.

Interviewed author Rachael Johns for 'In conversation with,' Kirrawee Library.

Linda Joannides

Published corporate history, launched "Heritage and Heart" history of Cabravale Diggers.

Fiona Johnstone

Had her story published in the Oatley Writers Group anthology

Frank McGuire

short story published in "Summer Contemplations" anthology in the UK.

Had his short story accepted in Senior Stories 2025 competition

Ian McGregor

had his short story accepted in the Senior Stories 2025 competition.

Had his story published in the Oatley Writers Group anthology, "Between the Lines."

Pat Ruell

had her short play 'Missing,' performed at the Cronulla Arts Theatre.

Published a short story in The Oatley Writers Group anthology, 'Between the Lines.'

Christine Sykes

Has submitted 11 pieces of work for an independent writers group. Her play version of *Tap Girls of the Sunshine Coast* was performed at Stanwell Park Arts Theatre (SPAT) to packed houses.

Published a short story in the Anthology 'Shifting Sands' by the Sequels writing group based in Wollongong.

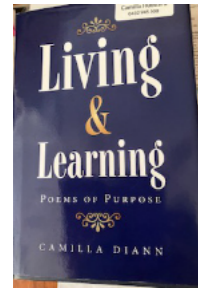
Sylvia Vago

Had her story published in the Oatley Writers Group Anthology, 'Between the Lines.'

Had her story published in *Rarae Aves*, Wollongong e-magazine.

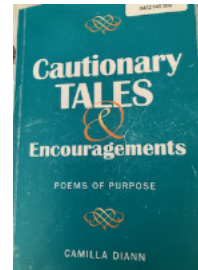
Bookshelf

CAMILLA HUBBARD



Living & Learning

'Poems of Purpose', written under the pen name 'Camilla Diann', presents a collection of poems to dip into for comfort, reassurance, humour, and a different slant on everyday occurrences. It covers a myriad of topics with many verses to relate to, whether light hearted or thoughtful. May still be available from AMAZON. (My 80 copies sold.)



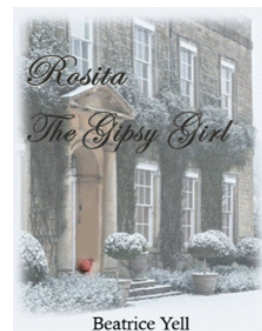
Cautionary Tales

Another thoughtful collection of 'Poems of Purpose', written under the pen name 'Camilla Diann', presents poems written from the heart on everyday subjects common to humanity. It speaks to the heart of readers. 'For children 2 – 102.'

Camilla's main purpose in writing these poems is to glorify God and be helpful to others. Books \$20 each with all profits + donations going to Allowah Presbyterian

Children's Hospital (Dundas). Only 2 copies of the 100 print run left. If you would like a poem on a particular subject contact Camilla. All enquiries to Camilla.hubbard@bigpond.com or by phoning 0432 945 508.

BEATRICE YELL



Rosita The Gypsy Girl

In Victorian England, a young girl, Rosita, runs away with Richard, the squire's son, cutting contact with her gypsy family. Richard is called home urgently, and loses touch with Rosita after she is evicted from their lodgings by the landlady.

Rosita has his baby and brings her to Richard's family home. She leaves her on the doorstep then hides, watching for the door to open. Richard's mother

takes her in and has her christened Arabella after her own mother.

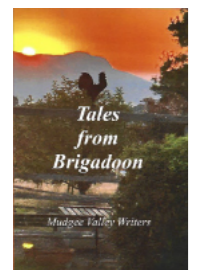
Subsequently, in London, Rosita encounters Richard in Hyde Park. He is overjoyed to see her as he had been searching for her, unaware of her pregnancy.

This tenderly told story of an abandoned baby is imbued with the author's deep knowledge of the living conditions, cultural differences and class barriers of Victorian England.

Helen Lyne, Author

To order a copy, please contact Beatrice Yell at beatrice.yell@outlook.com.

MUDGE VALLEY WRITERS

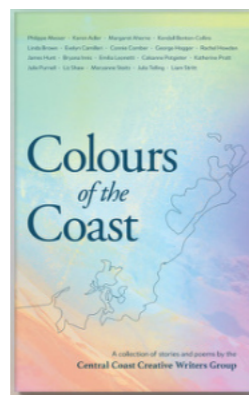


Tales from Brigadoon

Anthology of memoirs, written by the Mudgee Valley Fellowship of Australian Writers.

The price is \$25 including postage.

LIZ SHAW



Colours of the Coast

This is the Central Coast as you've never seen it before – brought to life through stories and poems that explore colour in all its beauty.

Colours of the Coast is a vibrant anthology of short stories and poems, penned by 20 members of the Central Coast Creative Writers Group. Each piece offers a unique interpretation of the theme "colours." Altogether, they form a delicate mosaic of the hues of human experience – rich with emotion, memory, metaphor, and mystery.

Meet a grieving son who inks his sorrow into skin. A former artist, chasing the spark of a lost muse. The enigmatic Aunty Jean, in her unforgettable red dress. Drift into the tale of a stranger found in the surf. And discover poetry that asks what it means to love, to remember, and to be drawn to the moments that shaped us. Whether you're craving the warmth of nostalgia, the chill of suspense, or the bright glow of poetry, this collection paints life in the Central Coast in every imaginable light.

Contact: Authors Liz Shaw and Connie Comber

liz@takemoreholidays.com

Pre-order from: <https://genreless.com.au/shop/p/colours-of-the-coast>

Ships from 29 September.

UTA PURCELL



A Parallel Story of Little Dino, Tina, and Lewis the Fossil Hunter

Young children, and Lewis is one of them, love to explore the ancient world of the dinosaurs. They are fascinated by the size and variety of these creatures that inhabited the Earth during the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous periods. The act of identifying dinosaurs, pronouncing their names, empowers them in the use of complex words and language. Lewis even created his own dinosaur alphabet for use in

imaginary dinosaur game. Hoping one day to find a real dinosaur fossil and name it is his dream.

Half of this story is set in Winton Queensland during the Cretaceous Period, where Little Dino – an imaginary small dinosaur – is lost. Tina, short for Diamantinasaurus, is a real dinosaur discovered by Scott Hocknull in 2009, looks after Little Dino. They spend time playing "The Roar of the Dinosaur Game" as they romp about the prehistoric forest.

Price: \$15.

To order a copy, please contact Uta Purcell at utapurcell@gmail.com

FAW members:

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

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

Postal: 91 Buena Vista Road, Winnmalee 2777

Facebook page: Blue Mountains Writers FAW

CANBERRA & REGION FAW

Second Sunday – 2:00 pm

O'Connor Uniting Church Hall, Cnr Brigalow St and Scriviner St, O'Connor, ACT 2602
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

GOULBURN FAW

Third Wednesday – 6:00 am to 8:00 pm

Goulburn Worker's Club, McKell Place, Goulburn
Enquiries: Janice Jensen (Sec)
Email: Goulburn.FAW@gmail.com

ISOLATED WRITERS FAW

This group of writers do not meet in person but keep in contact through Philippa Yelland, 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 (Topaz Room), Carberry Lane.
Enquiries: Victoria Chie
4862 2771
Email: macarthurfaw@gmail.com

MOOCOBOOLA FAW

3rd Thursday – 1.30 pm

Gladesville Library
Pittwater Road, Gladesville.
Enquiries: Robert Dickens
9713 8048
Paul Valis 0415 068 163

MUDGE VALLEY 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

ORANGE FAW

4th Sunday of the month – 2:30pm to 4:00pm

Orange Library Research Room, Civic Square Byng St., Orange 2800
Enquiries: Uta Purcell (Sec.)
Email: orangenswfaw@gmail.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

Enquiries: Ian Keast (Pres.) 0437 006 202
PO Box 67 Port Macquarie 2444
Email: iankeast74@gmail.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
Email: 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: sydcityfaw@gmail.com

WOLLONDILLY FAW

2nd Sunday – 1.00 pm

Enquiries: Annette Pearce (Pres.)
0432 857 236
Email: 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
Email: glenndc@ozemail.com.au
Web: www.wyongwriters.org

FAW ISOLATED WRITERS BRANCH

MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES:

Philippa Yelland, Isolated Writers Convenor
Email: isolatedwriters@fawnsw.org.au
Mobile: 0449 651 190

ASSISTING THE CONVENOR:

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

MEMBERS' ACHIEVEMENTS:

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

AFFILIATION FEES:

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

Isolated Writers: \$40.00 pa (*\$20.00 pa for the period July to December 2025 only*)
Under 21/Youth Rate: \$20.00 pa (*\$10.00 pa for the period July to December 2025 only*)
Overseas Members: \$51.00 pa (*\$25.50 pa for the period July to December 2025 only*)

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@fawnsw.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: Membership Registrar, FAW NSW Inc., Annette Pearce, PO Box 432, Picton. NSW 2571 (PO Box 271, Woy Woy is closed)

Internet: www.fawnsw.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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