

# Writers Voice



Autumn Edition #271 MAR 2021

QUARTERLY BULLETIN OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS NSW INC.

## Short Story

### DANCE STEPS

by *Kaye Christensen,*

*Port Macquarie-Hasting FAW*

CLAUDIA huffed and puffed while pulling off pieces of paper towelling in the ladies' room. Claudia was easily put-out when cleaners didn't do their job correctly. She wanted the mirrors in her cornered practice area clean and un-smudged; offering a better view of her new costume and flawless dance routine.

Not for herself, she knew she was perfectly groomed and postured, it was for those about to arrive, especially Marcus. Claudia knew he arrived early and yesterday asked staff for a spare key, explaining that she wanted extra practice. An hour early, she'd relocked the door ensuring she'd hear his arrival.

Marcus has it all; gorgeous looks, great body and is a brilliant choreographer, she mused, and last season he'd added Co-Producer to his name after an awesome theatre presentation. He is having almost full reign this time with the Producer being rarely seen, Claudia has already noted, adding strength to her plan. One of last year's chorus dancers, this time nothing but Lead Dancer would satisfy her.

His key turned the lock. Claudia continued her routine, knowing he would not interrupt her. Marcus released his backpack to the floor. Completed, and turning elegantly, she implied a slight surprise when huskily saying,

"Oh, yes, good morning Marcus. I was so into that first-scene practice, I didn't hear you. I hope I have it exactly to your satisfaction."

"Well done, Claudia. Practice allows improvement on last season and that's what everyone strives for. Keep it up."

Claudia moved close, delivering a coquettish smile and walked her fingers up his arm.

"Perhaps you could give me extra practice, showing me how you want my moves done?"

Taking his bag to the table, Marcus didn't look back but replied,

"I don't give private lessons. After casting I give extra attention to the lead roles. In the meantime, we all practice as one."

The remaining cast-hopefuls flocked through the door, carrying bags and greetings and acknowledging Marcus before taking up positions. Even though she knew they were good friends, Claudia's rebuff multiplied when Marcus slapped Jarryd on the shoulder as they smiled their hellos. Jarryd is certainly an excellent dancer and will take the male lead again, she thought, but I must beat Erica. Claudia knew little of Erica; only that she kept mostly to herself, if not practicing with Jarryd.

Erica was already immersed in her routine. Practice feeds her intense focus which delivers near-perfection under instruction. Marcus was more than pleased with her last season so she's working toward a repeat performance. She has a few things on her mind but her professionalism allows nothing to hinder her work.

"Erica, if you please," said Marcus. "Plié. And. Assemblé please. Perfect." Everyone clapped and smiled. Except Claudia.

Once home Claudia dialled her father. She shouted at and pleaded with him.

"Daddy you've always fixed things. You know everyone. I want that lead." Taking a breath, she added, "You know the Producer, tell him it's important to me. And to you."

Her father wasn't pleased, saying he'd speak to, but not coerce his friend. Claudia's phone met the kitchen table at speed.

After their first full-dress rehearsal it was decision time for Marcus and Producer John. Marcus had banked hours, studying movement upon movement as each dancer thrust their best at him. There would be two further rehearsals but he was sure of his team and hoped John was ready to agree.

Two days later while addressing his dancers before practice, Marcus enthused over the incredible work achievement that led to their breath-taking stage rehearsal. He was met

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### QUARTERLY COPY DEADLINES:

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

### FAW NSW Inc. State Council: AGM and Delegates Meetings

The Executive Committee and Branch Delegates normally meet the first Saturday of May and November each year. Minutes are mailed to each Branch Secretary. *The May 2020 meeting and deferred AGM were cancelled. The 2020 AGM, to be held concurrently with the 2021 AGM, is now scheduled for Saturday, MAY 1, 2021.*

### 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 DECEMBER each year and paid to the Branch Treasurer where a member attends meetings. Cheques/money orders payable to Fellowship of Aust Writers.

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

**ISOLATED WRITERS – \$46 pa** (\$51 overseas, \$23 Youth U18)—see inside back page. Please mail subscriptions to the FAW State Treasurer Kay Bakon (address at left). Please make cheques/money orders payable to 'Fellowship of Australian Writers'.

### PAYMENTS VIA ONLINE BANKING:

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

### Writing Fellows

FAW Writing Fellows are listed here: <[fawns.org.au/membership/writing-fellows/](http://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, 3/91 Main Road, McLaren Vale SA 5171. The application should:

- be accompanied by a \$50.00 cheque, payable to 'Fellowship Aust. Writers'.
- indicate the Branch where the applicant is currently a member and the number of years of FAW membership.
- have attached a list of published, performed or broadcast works, with dates and details of publication. Also list any literary prizes awarded, although such works may be unpublished. Unpaid contributions to newspapers etc. and self-published works (unless widely sold and acclaimed) should not be included.

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

### Distinguished Service Award

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

Guidelines for assessing recommendations for Distinguished Service Awards:

- Recommendations must be the unanimous decision of a current Branch Committee.
- Qualifications to include the following features:
  - Length of service as a current financial member to be at least ten (10) years.
  - Required to have a regular attendance record at Branch Meetings.
  - Required to have participated in activities organised by the Branch Committee on a regular basis for at least eight years or to have served on the Branch Committee for at least eight years.
- All recommendations to be submitted to the DSA Assessment Committee, 3/91 Main Road, McLaren Vale SA 5171, by 30 June of each year.
- A committee comprising the State President, the Vice President, the Secretary and the Treasurer will assess recommendations. The DSA Committee's decision is final.

### ISBN

A FREE ISBN (one number per publication) is available to members—contact the FAW Hon. Secretary Maureen Kelly <[honsecretary@fawns.org.au](mailto: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 and \$25 (\$30 non-members) for one or two poems of no more than 60 lines each. A detailed quote for the critical assessment of the remaining work will be supplied should the author require further editorial or constructive advice. For manuscripts, please include a synopsis and approximate word count and a stamped self-addressed envelope for return of all the assessments. For further information phone 0417 403 720 or write to FAW Assessment Service, 3/91 Main Road McLaren Vale SA 5171

# State Council News

## From the President

Hi THERE members. Well here we are in 2021 – let's hope it's going to be a much better year.

I hope branches can get back to holding meetings and the Fellowship we have been missing since this awful period of our lives, although I am sure it has something to teach us.

I think the pandemic has also brought us together in many ways. Many have managed to write more, care for each other and take up new hobbies.

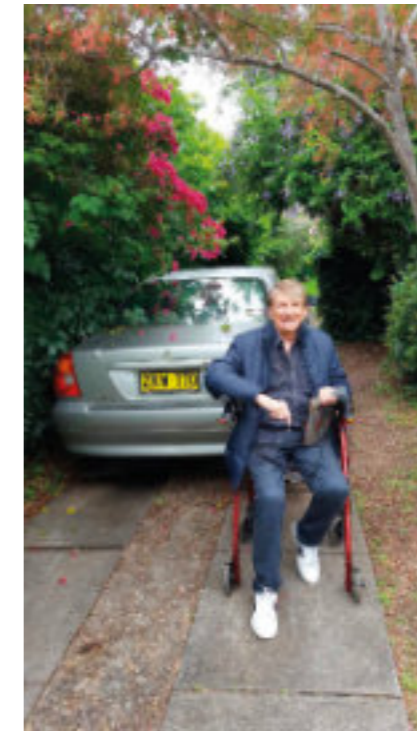
As many know I spent long weeks in hospital and have been a bit out of touch with what's going on.

Thankfully I am much improved and graduated to a stick for just one lazy leg, but improving weekly.

Thanks to my wonderful Committee members for their continued help and especially Maureen Kelly for keeping you all up to date with news and other information.

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM and also at some branch meetings, as well as at the Seniors Card workshops.

I am now back on my radio show, Wednesdays 9am–noon, 100.3FM.



Come join me online or on the radio, or go to our website <[2mcr.org.au](http://2mcr.org.au)> and just click on listen. We are also world-wide, heard around the world.

Photo shows when using walker. Now having just a stick to rely on. And hopefully that too will go.

**Trevar Langlands**  
NSW State President

## From the Secretary's desk

The beginning of another writing year with Covid-19 still problematic, however, many branches have resumed meetings. Maybe their meeting format isn't quite the same as in 2019, but they are meeting, which is to be applauded.

We are planning an AGM, details page 4, and we urge everyone to consider nominating for a position. Your present State Committee is working hard to steer the organisation towards its Centenary in 2028. However, we don't have the genes Peter Pan was lucky to inherit courtesy of J M Barrie!

I, personally, love my secretary/publicity roles and my connection with the entire membership via the State Committee. There is heaps of satisfaction in being involved as a committee member and these days you only have to meet face-to-face twice a year – May and November – please consider.

We are also seeking the services of a certified auditor/accountant for 2021/22 – perhaps a member, a family member or a friend? Have you a recommendation?

Recently, we lost the services of FAW stalwarts – Rae Luckie and Shirley Goodbar. As personal commitments are playing a major part in their lives, they have resigned from their respective positions of Manuscript Assessor and Poetry sub-editor (see page 4).

On behalf of the membership I wish to sincerely thank them both for their long and loyal service to the FAW and wish them good luck in their future endeavours.

Wollondilly member Pam Ferrari has also advised she won't be seeking State Committee re-election in May. She held a general committee position. Hopefully, a present financial member may consider nominating. Thank you, Pam for your support during your time on the committee.

There were no Distinguished Service Award nominations last year, however, the guideline criteria include at least ten years' service by a

cont. next page...

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD HONOUR ROLL



Denise Aldridge	Beryl Dundas*	Johan Luidens	Pat Strong
Carolyn Alfonzetti	Joan Dwyer	Elizabeth McVie	Frank Urban
Patricia Allen	Margaret Ekin	Vince Morrison	Carney Vaughan
Ellen Ash	Thelma Flower*	Esther Osborne	Mei-Ling Venning
Gavin Austin	Shirley Goodbar	Rosemary Peters	Linda Visman
Barbara Aylott	Eileen Gray	Peter F Pike	Margaret Wilkinson
Eileen Backhus*	Pip Griffin	Margaret Robinson*	Margaret Young
Jill Baggett	Mavis Gunter	Rina Robinson	
Rosemary Baldry	Mavis Hayes*	Alan Russell*	
Margaret Barlow	Dr Anne Howard	Albert Scott*	
Miriam Bates	Margaret Jackson	Bridget Sharp	
Cyril Bentley*	John Jacobs	Dr John Sheppard	
Meryl Bentley*	Maureen Kelly OAM	Margot Shugg	
Elaine Burton	Lyn Leerson	Barbara Snel	
Ken Challenor*	Pat Lindsay	Yvonne Sorensen	
Jan Dean	Helen Luidens*	Dorothe Squires-Cooper	

\*Deceased

## FAW NSW STATE LIFE MEMBERS

Trevar Langlands  
Colleen Parker

# State Council News

## From the Secretary's desk

*cont. from previous page*

nominee so, even if your branch hasn't been meeting face-to-face since 2019, there may be a member who fits the criteria for nomination this year (see page 2 for the criteria). I look forward to branch committees, confidentially, recommending a member for a 2021 Distinguished Service Award.

Lots to consider – please contact me on email <[honsecretary@fawns.org.au](mailto:honsecretary@fawns.org.au)> – if you are interested in any of the above positions. We would certainly love to hear from you.

**Maureen Kelly OAM**

### Let's keep this in mind...

## FAW publicity keeping us connected

MY first Publicity flyer for 2021 has arrived in each member's 'In Box' and, hopefully, you all have your fingers tapping away on your keyboards preparing a story/stories to enter in this year's free Seniors Card Short Story competition – that is, of course, if you are a senior?

The theme this year is: 'What's age got to do with it?' Well, plenty when you find it hard to get going in the morning because of those wretched aches and pains! It's nothing to do with old age – it's more about 'maturity!' However, the theme does give you great scope to write up to 1,000 words with ease. Good luck.

I would also urge you to write about your hobby or pastime and send off to Narelle – 'Networking with Narelle' – details p14, as well as sending in your poetry, short stories and anecdotes.

Our interim Membership Registrar, Jackie Laing is doing a great job. There's nothing like a 'baptism of fire!' Her takeover from Narelle Noppert went without a hitch thanks to Narelle's efficient record-keeping. This information, however, is ever-changing, especially at this time of year as your renewal details form the basis for the Writers Voice mail-out.

On a 'list of suggestions for 2021':

- (1) establishing a Long Service Award;
- (2) writing competition for Isolated Writers only to enter and
- (3) me, personally, I would like everyone to consider changing 'Isolated' Writers to 'Outreach' Writers. I find the word 'Isolated' has taken on a very different meaning since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and would love to put the wheels in motion to change this. I am 'testing the waters' and would love to hear from you regarding this and any other ideas you may have – email me on

<[honsecretary@fawns.org.au](mailto:honsecretary@fawns.org.au)>.

Finally, thank you for your amazing support of the publicity flyers I send out 'keeping us all in touch.'

**Maureen Kelly**

FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN  
WRITERS NSW INC.



## Annual General Meeting

10am, Saturday, May 1, 2021

at Campbelltown Arts Centre,

1 Art Gallery Road, Campbelltown NSW 2560.

Prior to this year's AGM, the 2020 AGM will be held (as per Dept of Fair Trading guidelines).

Please note: At the present time Covid-19 safety guidelines only permit limited attendance. The State Committee will be allocated seven seats, which means there is only seating for another 7 attendees. This, of course, may change before May but should you wish to attend please register your interest NOW with Maureen Kelly <[honsecretary@fawns.org.au](mailto:honsecretary@fawns.org.au)>

### ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

All State Council positions will be declared vacant at the meeting and new officers will be elected for the 2021/22 year. Any member who wishes to nominate a candidate for office must complete a nomination form. Nomination and Proxy forms may be found on the **BACK of your bulletin's ADDRESS SHEET.**

Nominations are sought for:

- PRESIDENT
- VICE PRESIDENT
- HON. SECRETARY
- HON. TREASURER
- MEMBERSHIP REGISTRAR
- GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Nominations will only be called for from the floor if there are insufficient written nominations received. Nominations must be made in writing, signed by two financial members and the proposed candidate.

Forms and proxy votes may be scanned and sent by email to <[honsecretary@fawns.org.au](mailto:honsecretary@fawns.org.au)>, or mailed to:

Hon. Secretary, FAW NSW Inc.  
3/91 Main Road  
McLaren Vale SA 5171

– to be received no later than **April 26, 2021.**

For further information, phone the Hon. Secretary, FAW NSW Inc on 0417 403 720 or email <[honsecretary@fawns.org.au](mailto:honsecretary@fawns.org.au)>

### Expressions of Interest are sought for:

- (1) **Manuscript Assessor** due to the retirement of Prof Rae Luckie
- (2) **Poetry sub-editor** due to the retirement of Shirley Goodbar
- (3) **Appointment of an auditor** for 2021/22.

If you, a family member or friend is a certified auditor and willing to examine our books we would love to hear from you.

Please send your details to the Hon. Secretary on <[honsecretary@fawns.org.au](mailto:honsecretary@fawns.org.au)>

## Resignation: Manuscript Assessment Service

To the Secretary, FAW NSW

Dear Maureen,

I wish to advise I will no longer be the FAW Manuscript Assessor. I am now doing a lot of work for the Australian Society of Authors, including their 'first ten pages' assessment and feel it is a conflict of interest. I am imagining you have a member who will be more than willing to take it on. I appreciate all the work you have been doing (especially the branch newsletter).

**Dr Rae Luckie**

Rae's contribution to the FAW over the years has been invaluable. She remains an Isolated Writer and is a Professional Member of the Australian Society of Authors (ASA) and Institute of Professional Editors (IPEd).

Rae was saddened that the FAW Walter Stone Life Writing competition was discontinued but thrilled to hear that Sandie Jessamine, who was short-listed in the final 2018 Walter Stone award, will have her book *Borderline* mainstream published around April this year. Rae did a professional assessment of the book, Sandie saying it was entering the Walter Stone which gave her the confidence to keep going!

Richard Yaxley was the Walter Stone Winner in 2016, His entry, 'Homecoming' has formed part of his latest novel *Harmony* (coming out in a couple of weeks with Scholastic).

**Maureen Kelly**

## Dance Steps

*cont. from page 1*

with resounding applause when he introduced his Lead Dancers; Erica and Jarryd.

"This show will be a success because of your calibre, commitment and professionalism. From John and myself, thank you all; our leads, our chorus and especially to our extras who've worked, waited and wondered. I'll speak to you guys shortly about availability."

Motionless, Claudia felt and observed a craziness everywhere. She'd not experienced this before. Erica and Jarryd hugging and pirouetting non-stop. And she, Claudia, incredulous but indecisive of

how to react. Then quite unexpectedly, Marcus called her into the office. Why now though, before his talk to the extras, she thought, most unusual.

"Claudia, you've performed well in chorus. With time, you could become an excellent dancer. However, there isn't a place for you in this production." Claudia was silent.

"Your behaviour has not been professional with me, or with your father. But hear me out please. Keep practicing. Learn from these mistakes and dance yourself into the better person your father believes you really are. Erica has told me she believes in

## Online Banking

A reminder to all branch treasurers/members using the online banking method to deposit their 2021 membership fees.

Please ensure that your name/branch name appears in the 'message' section of the online payment advice. If this is not included, it will delay the arrival of your receipt, membership card and *Writers Voice* while I make enquiries regarding ownership of the deposit.

Please also email details of your payment to Jackie Laing, interim Membership Registrar. Jackie's email is <[fawmembership@fawns.org.au](mailto:fawmembership@fawns.org.au)>.

Again, if Jackie is not aware of your payment it could delay the arrival of *Writers Voice*.

Thank you for your kind co-operation.

**Kay Bakon,**  
FAW NSW Treasurer

## Financial Members List

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all centres who have sent me alphabetical lists of members who have paid their fees for 2021. This has made my task of ensuring that all members receive their *Writers Voice* so much easier.

Treasurer Kay Bakon will issue your member numbers for this year but if I know who has paid, I can add them to my distribution list.

I have had three WV returned for December so if you know someone has resigned or moved please let me know. Happy writing for 2021.

**Jackie Laing,**  
Acting Membership Registrar

# FAW Branch Reports

## BLUE MOUNTAINS FAW

HAVE you noticed how nimble our country has been in the face of our recent challenges? Like everyone in our writers' community, we continue to adapt with creative responses to change. Wanting to invite a larger group to our December meeting and Christmas party, we decided to book a table at the Oriental Hotel in Springwood. Sixteen members and guests joined the celebration and enjoyed catching up in person after a year where the majority of our meetings were via Zoom. We also took the opportunity to wish John Smith a happy 90th birthday for the following week. John has been an active member of our group since 2010, has held various offices including President, Vice President, Publicity Officer and has served on the committee for many years. John continues to delight us with his writing.

We were saddened to hear news of the passing of former member and past branch President, Ron Lyons. He was an integral part of Blue Mountains Writers from 2001 to 2012. Ron wrote short stories, traditional poetry, haiku and limericks which he loved to share with our group. Some of our members reflect on Ron's life in the following pages.

Gathering in January, our committee set about making plans for 2021. We realised the growth of our membership has been stifled due to the restricted numbers permitted under the Covid-19 rules at our regular meeting room. So we cast about for new options. Our local Springwood Sports Club has come to our rescue and offered us complimentary use of their meeting room. It is spacious, well equipped with multi-media facilities, has lovely garden views and we will enjoy the catering facilities of the club. Another example where a problem has become an opportunity for new thinking and solutions!

At our first general meeting in February we congratulated our members on their recent successes which you can read about on the

Literary Achievements pages. Kathryn Walls, after years of research and rewrites has now published her first historical novel titled *Tallawoladah: on the Rocks* which is available on Amazon Kindle as an e-book. Turn to the Members' Bookshelf page where Kathryn describes her novel.

Having had three successful writers, Pat Allen, Rosemary Baldry and Margaret Onus, included in the *Seniors' Stories Volume 6*, our group is keen to submit more entries for the 2021 competition. During our February meeting we focused on the elements of writing a good short story referring author Joy Williams' thoughts on the subject. We also revisited how to edit and approach rewriting. Other tools not to be overlooked are free software such as Libre Office which is compatible with many platforms. It has spell check, thesaurus and word count functions to help all writers.

Rosemary Baldry was recently interviewed by Jean Kittson for the *Seniors' Stories Volume 6* launch. Entering the cavernous film set at Fox Studios, she admitted to having an elevated heart rate. Rosemary talks to us about the experience in the following pages [see page 13].

Looking towards our March meeting we plan to read and offer critique of members' *Seniors' Stories* for 2021 as they take up the challenge to write to the theme of 'What's age got to do with it?' Many of us will also attend the *Seniors' Stories* workshop in the Blue Mountains with presenter Jill Baggett.

Although our branch has made some plans for this year, we remain mindful that, as Robert Burns reflected, even our best laid plans may go awry. If we have learned anything from 2020, we recognise the need to keep on our toes and respond creatively to change.

*Jeanette Temesvary*

## CANBERRA & REGION FAW

This year we welcome two new members, Dianne Porter and Kerrie Walker and farewell Barbara Horton who suffered another stroke and died

on 16th January. We shall miss our little live wire.

We extend our best wishes to Phil Perkins who has endured an extensive hospital stay after surgery went awry. Hope you are back with us soon Phil.

We look forward to another busy and productive year as we compile, edit and produce another anthology entitled *School Days*.

Our membership is slowly building up again after dropping to four stalwarts who held it together by a string in 2018.

I am delighted to announce that I am no longer the President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Kerrie Walker is our new Secretary and Eva Warren is our Treasurer. Thank you so much Ladies. Your help is greatly appreciated. I shall stay on as President for the time being.

*Jennifer Warren*

## EASTWOOD/HILLS FAW

Though this report includes December, 2020, we are now in early months of 2021. Welcome to all and may this year prove to be quieter and less dramatic.

Our **December, 2020** meeting was on Zoom. It was pleasant to see and 'catch up' with friends. Elizabeth Collins gave us her judge's report on the topic of Magic Realism. This genre involves stories set in the real world with magical elements accepted by this world. The first placegetter, Kathryn Berryman, and second placegetter, Grant Burger, read out their winning stories. These were: 'Heads in the Clouds' (1st) and 'An essential Clash' (2nd).

During the **Christmas Break**, (ie. post the December, 2020 meeting and January, 2021) our members were kept busy. The 2021 programme, which was discussed by the Committee in November, 2020, was completed and compiled. You are welcome to visit our website and read the upcoming events, which list our workshops, visiting speakers and competitions open to all.

Some members worked diligently on their entry for the in-house

Pauline Walsh Award, due at the February meeting.

Our **February, 2021** meeting was a return to our usual premises, however, with significant differences. In keeping with Covid-19 health regulations, we all wore masks, used hand sanitisers, distanced ourselves and brought all our needed drinks and snacks. Furniture was also cleaned for our meeting. Though our group was smaller than usual, we enjoyed seeing each other, even if it meant hearing muffled voices.

Carolyn Alfonzetti presented the results of her workshop on Microlit. The winning entries were read out. Grant Burger's entry was first with Sally Maxwell, second and Karen Lieversz was Highly Commended. Congratulations to all.

Two workshops were presented with a possible theme of giving practical advice to writers. The first was presented by Laura Davis: 'Going Dotty. Colons and Semi-Colons.' Explanations of the differences in the correct use of the colon and semi-colon were given with highly useful exercises to hone our skills. Ellipses (or dot, dot, dot ie ...) were also explained. Did you know that it is customary to use only three dots at one time?

The second workshop, 'Presenting Your Work' by Dr Anne Howard, was also highly practical. We were advised to be careful in looking at and conforming to guidelines for competitions, how to set out poetry, use of correct punctuation and spelling, word usage, fact checking of your own work: these were only some of the topics covered. We were also encouraged to read our work aloud so as to highlight possible errors.

Thank you, everyone for an enthusiastic start to 2021.

*Helena Hamilton*

## FOREST FAW

As writers, we should perhaps be happy that we are living in interesting times! However, these are also very unpredictable times.

At Forest FAW we missed out on our December meeting by just one day, when the Northern Beaches

suddenly went into lockdown.

President Maureene and Treasurer Catherine Smith had gone to considerable trouble to make sure the meeting would be festive, despite restrictions. Sometimes, you just can't win.

Come January and again by just one day, we were lucky to be able to hold our meeting, with a (belated) Christmas theme. All those attending had work to read out and it seems that many have continued writing despite disruptions to our usual activities.

We begin 2021 with a sense of optimism and renewed enthusiasm.

*Margaret Zanardo*

## ISOLATED WRITERS BRANCH

Welcome to all our new members who joined in 2021 and those who have renewed their membership.

I hope 2021 has been an improvement on last year, and everyone is staying safe, despite COVID-19 outbreaks in certain areas.

Once again, the Seniors Card Short Story Competition is seeking contributions for *Seniors' Stories Volume 7* from Thursday, 1 April, until 12 noon Monday, 31 May 2021.

This year's theme is '**What's age got to do with it?**'

It's wonderful when receiving feedback – whether it is writing and/or your website.

Recently, a friend said he was very impressed with the website's layout and my article on the Battle of Hastings.

I nearly fell off my chair when I received the e-mail and blown away when he called.

He was asking who created my website as he was tossing up whether to do it himself or pay someone \$5,000 to remove the hassle and frustration, by doing the work for him by setting it up.

I think that is the question for most, including writers, whether to do the job themselves or save time by outsourcing to a professional.

Has anyone had any dealings with Xlibris? If you sign-up to their e-mail list, be prepared to receive calls trying to persuade you to sign up to self-publish.

So far I've said no, as I was keeping my options open, especially in the hope of having it published by a traditional publisher.

Last week, I asked them to remove my name from their mailing list. After I called back, they called me again twice, so I ended up blocking them.

Then there was this cautionary tale from Mrs D on *Goodreads* – [www.goodreads.com/author\\_blog\\_posts/4058249-what-i-learned-about-self-publishing-with-xlibris-the-author-must-have](http://www.goodreads.com/author_blog_posts/4058249-what-i-learned-about-self-publishing-with-xlibris-the-author-must-have).

If anyone would prefer to receive notifications by e-mail, rather than snail-mail, please contact me at [isolatedwriters@fawns.org.au](mailto:isolatedwriters@fawns.org.au) as mail deliveries are so slow, especially in regional areas.

*Carolyn Cash*

## LAKE MACQUARIE FAW

In December 2020 many of our members gathered, in person for the first time in several months, for our annual Christmas celebration. We abided by all the necessary rules and restrictions, of course, but still had a great time. It was wonderful to catch up, to share some Christmas-themed written pieces, listen to one of our talented members on clarinet, and to acquire some new reading material for our personal libraries (courtesy of our traditional Secret Santa activity).

January is normally the month when members look back over what they have achieved in the previous year and start thinking about their plans for the forthcoming writing year. This year we did this via Zoom. Naturally, most of us had not quite ticked off everything we had on our lists but we felt pretty proud about the number of things we actually had achieved. Members had published books, completed final or first drafts, won competitions, and made quite a bit of progress made towards their writing goals. One thing that members seemed particularly interested in tackling during 2021 was understanding the self-publishing process – something we hope to address, from various viewpoints, in the forthcoming year.

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# FAW Branch Reports

## Lake Macquarie

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With member numbers continuing to grow, our critique sessions are becoming ever more popular. However, as we run only two sessions each month and as time available in any one critique session is limited we might need to turn our attention to other ways of getting the feedback we need for our written pieces.

It has been wonderful to see two more of our members publish books recently. Jan Mitchell's *Food for eyes*, a valuable book offering practical nutritional advice for eye health, was published just before the end of last year. Olga Korlevic, a newer member of our group, has published a delightful children's book, *Little Lorie had a farm*. It contains ten stories designed for children 3-6 years and is beautifully illustrated by Julia Khmyrova.

This February we were still holding general meetings via Zoom, but were delighted to have a fantastic presenter to join us on the screen. Lauren Daniels, Director of the Brisbane Writers Workshop and co-author of Winning Short Story Competitions, gave a workshop on the short story genre, its value to us as writers (whatever our preferred genre), and how we could turn out stellar stories which might lead to success in competitions. We also touched on the interesting concept of motif in writing.

**Pam Garfoot**

## LAMBING FLAT FAW

February saw the first meeting of the Lambing Flat Writers for 2021. An eager attendance at the Young Services Club worked through an agenda that addressed activities for the year and reflected on last year's successful writing competition. We looked at nuances of punctuation and exercised our writing skills by presenting short stories we had written as 'homework' – an exercise that was completed by all members.

We have recently welcomed a couple of new members and we wish

to encourage a greater attendance at our meetings this year. To accomplish this, we held a session called "Meet the Writers" on Saturday 20th February at the Young Services Club. At this event, members of the public were encouraged to meet members of the Lambing Flat Writers and to learn about our activities. We hope to encourage the good citizens of Young and district to join our group and then exercise their latent writing skills.

We are planning a workshop in May, hosted by Professor Rae Luckie, on writing family histories. We hope this will be a success and provide valuable information to writers of that genre.

The Lambing Flat branch of the FAW usually meets at the Young Services Club from 5.30 PM to 7.00 PM on the second Monday of each month; except for December, when we meet for a Christmas function, and January, when we take a break. Guests are always welcome and any enquiries concerning the branch can be made to me on 0413 827 217.

**Peter Symes**

## MACARTHUR FAW

Once again, this year, our monthly meetings will take place at the Campbelltown RSL Club. We are grateful to the club for providing us with such pleasant and modern premises – air-conditioned with coffee and cakes available downstairs, as well as for their support throughout the pandemic. Thanks also to Secretary Kim Sami, for the vital work she has done liaising with the club.

Our long-running in-house short story competition continues to be well supported, the theme of the current competition being 'Haunted'. I am still waiting for the spirit to take me.

Not so Kim Sami, who won first prize in the Oran Park Parish Short Story Contest on the theme of 'A Good News Story', the title of her piece being 'A New Beginning'.

Good news, also, from Victoria Chie who has sold two more stories: 'More Fool Her' to *English Woman's Weekly*,

and 'The Ming Test' to *English Woman's Own*. Congratulations, Victoria.

I have received a report from Macarthur member, Susannah Thompson concerning two books she has recently read, *The Dry* and *Force of Nature*, both by Jane Harper. Susannah says: "Both books feature Aaron Falk, a detective, both books are centred around a crime, and both are set in Australian backgrounds. I am predominately a city person, so to be made aware of the dangers of drought and dense bushland, written about so vividly, was terrific."

For my own part, I have been reading non-fiction: *Rome* by Robert Hughes (full of amazing stories!), and *Homo Deus* by Yuval Noah Harari, with its challenging ideas about the future.

As our AGM is scheduled for this month, I will take the opportunity to thank those who have served us so ably during a challenging year: President and Acting Treasurer, Victoria Chie; Vice President, Cathy Hobson; and Secretary, Kim Sami. Your efforts on our behalf are greatly appreciated.

Our inhouse bulletin, *Inkblot* (Victoria Chie, editor), has reintroduced the idea of member profiles, in which people are invited to write a summary of their lives as they relate to their writing, a great way for us to learn more about one another. Contributions in the way of book and film reviews, poems etc are also invited. Coincidentally, this month's edition contains a review by Paul Phillips of the film, *The Dry*, mentioned above. There is also a wealth of advice on writing as well as items of general interest.

To finish on a light note, Victoria Chie tells me that the training course provider, Knowledge Academy, has compiled a list of the best word rates paid to living authors. At the top of the list is J K Rowling with earnings of 1,563.47 pounds per word on *The Philosopher's Stone*... not difficult, really; just a matter of choosing the right words.

**Bernard Smith**

## MUDGE VALLEY FAW

We are hoping for an active year in 2021. We are planning to host the Norman McVicker Youth Literary Award for short stories and poems once again, with entries open from July to the beginning of October. Young people up to and including the age of 18 years will be invited to participate. As well as cash prizes this year we are planning to produce a book of all prize winning entries and each entrant will receive a copy.

Jill and Pamela are presenting a writing workshop at Springwood and another at Katoomba on 28th and 29th March in preparation for the 2021 Seniors Card Competition. This will be the third year we have been involved with this very interesting project. Beautiful big books of the 100 best competition entries are published. A great way to preserve senior's stories for the future.

**Jill Baggett**

## PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS

My final words in our previous bulletin '... trust that we can all return to our face-to-face meetings with our first meeting in 2021' did in fact happen.

We did meet face-to-face but not in our usual Meeting Room, rather we drove about 60kms south to the delightful coastal township of Harrington to the home of one of our members who travels all that way every month of the year. We wanted to show our appreciation to her and recognise some of the many sacrifices our members make to ensure their commitment to our branch.

We used the opportunity to brainstorm ideas to include plenty of variety to write, read and critique this year. We intend to invite a Presenter or two, to hold a National writing competition, to research various genres and experiment with them, to produce an anthology and welcome two new prospective members in February. So our year is looking very exciting indeed. Of course we will be writing our short stories to submit for **Volume 7** of the Seniors Card

competition and an interested group in 'novel writing' will form in the middle of the year and research the aspects to realise their goal ... to write a novel ... a huge undertaking which is not for the faint-hearted but an exciting challenge for those who are up for it.

I've saved our best news for last on this occasion because it was an extremely exciting honour for our branch ... we were nominated for an Australia Day Award in the community category. We were invited to attend our beautiful Arts Centre, the Glasshouse, by our council to receive our Certificate for the service we offer our residents. Jackie, our President, Raylene our Secretary and I as nominee to represent us, attended and felt honoured to be sitting among the excitement of those gathered when we were introduced with the reason for our nomination to the short list. We were not disappointed when the Lake Cathie RFS took out the honour because like everyone else, we were truly thankful for their fine effort during 2020 bushfires.

Happy 2021 Everyone!

**Colleen Parker**

## REVESBY WRITERS FAW

It was with much regret at our last Christmas Luncheon on Saturday 5th December we had to say 'Goodbye' to Carney Vaughan who decided to retire from our Writing Group after more than twenty years' service as our President and helpful writing advisor. He was presented with an Award for his many years of service by John Rodwell the Revesby Writers Vice President/Director and watched by all of our writing group members. Simon Kaddissi our President took the photograph.

The rest of our members were all watching Carney holding his trophy for them to see. He has been travelling up to Revesby from Thirroul for many years and sadly decided it was time to give it away.



Revesby Writers FAW farewell Carney Vaughan. L-R: Sitting was Robert Spencer, standing Joe Plaza, James Foster, Shirley Galloway, and John Rodwell. Sitting down with his trophy was Carney Vaughan, his wife Bev and Millie Mock.

Needless to say Carney is still writing what could be his fourth book.

Our February meeting was held on Saturday 6th in our usual venue the Macarthur Room with most members there including a new writer in attendance. We received five apologies from our regular members. Each member had a separate table and was very well set out, thanks to Simon.

All our Committee Members from last year were nominated and accepted. Simon Kaddissi our President, organised the monthly topics which were then voted by the rest of our writing group. It has also been recommended that we go back to having a 10-minute writing session, which we then read out to members in attendance. It was always very interesting previously and can be challenging!

Madeleine Pizzuti has been requested by Bankstown Library to talk to school children about her recently published book entitled *BEAR* during the next school holidays. Madeleine is now working on her fourth book and doing extremely well with her writing.

**Shirley Galloway**

## SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS FAW

*Membership:* As COVID-19 requirements ease, members have been slowly returning to meetings. In addition, we are still maintaining contact via our web site for those members unable to attend meetings; members are encouraged to submit their work for uploading. President Greg Baker with his other, web manager's, hat has been working to

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# FAW Branch Reports

## Southern Highlands

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keep everyone electronically connected. We expect that meetings in 2021 will continue to show an increase in numbers.

Our monthly 100-word challenge has continued. The prompt for the November meeting was 'eating an apple'; ten members wrote pieces for sharing. We held over this challenge for our Christmas meeting and resumed in February with a prompt from Nellie; she wanted us, hypothetically speaking, to provide the title of our next published work and to write 100 words to promote it. Again these challenges exercised our minds and showed a wide range of approaches. This popular 100-word flash fiction challenge may be rested in 2021 or perhaps be morphed into an even tougher 50-word challenge.

**Chain Story.** At our Christmas meeting, Greg Baker read a synopsis of the story so far, then read his final instalment. The promised blood bath did not eventuate but Greg left us, like much fiction, with as many questions as answers. Members who took up this chain story challenge were Greg Baker, Morag, Uta, Ingrid, Kathryn, Decima, Sandy and Gail. The authors were presented with a printed copy of the story with Sandy's story title 'A chain of events'; 2021 may yet present the opportunity to begin a new chain story.

Our November meeting included a discussion of poetry. Words of wisdom from our poets included a quote from an American poet saying that poetry is the history of the human heart. Our resident poet Greg Tome suggested that the reader should not worry about what the poet is trying to say instead worry about one's reaction to it. He said that to write poetry one needs to read poetry and aloud if possible. It was decided that one of our guest speakers in 2021 should be a poet and in the meantime, members could perhaps try their hand at writing some poetry.

Our December Christmas meeting was excellently emceed by Ingrid and included poems, stories and readings from Ingrid, Kathryn, Pamela, Greg

Baker, Uta, Greg Tome, Ruth, Debbie, Pamela, Brian, Paula and Decima. Doug and Nellie did a wonderful recitation of 'To a louse' by Robert Burns. Nellie wore a very decorative hat with a louse attached and used her phone to make louse noises. Paula played her cello and managed to have members sing along to a variety of tunes. As the conclusion to this festive occasion Brian sang the song 'Smile' for us.

Our February meeting featured member Pamela Waugh's play writing workshop. Using her 10-minute play 'Those thorny Roses' as an example, she led us through the elements of a good play including plot, characterisation and, importantly, dialogue. Pamela explained how she had come to write this piece and two members, Kathryn and Jim, together with local actor Mark, performed the play; Pamela fielded questions at the conclusion. The meeting decided that such workshops and other skill enhancing exercises would be a feature of the branch 2021 activities.

Ten-minute unseen written exercises were again included in our November and February meetings. In November, after a colourful and dramatic entrance, Paula supplied us with the beginning of seven Melbourne Cup stories and also a list of cup horses as prompts. In February, President Greg Baker, having discovered an online random word generator, asked members to write for ten minutes using all three words 'recover', 'smart' and 'wisecrack'.

Books members have been reading. These included Uta reading *A thousand splendid suns* by Khaled Hosseini; Greg Baker *The shapes of sleep* by J B Priestly, *Moon at perigee* by George Johnston and *Exactly* by Simon Winchester; Greg Tome *The well* by Elizabeth Jolley; Pamela, *Jessica* by Bryce Courtney; Sandy, *Enid* by Robert Wainwright; Kathryn, *Long walk to freedom* by Nelson Mandela; Jim, *The fall of the House of Byron* by Emily Brand; and Uta, *Too much lip* by Melissa Lucashenko.



At the Southern Highlands Christmas meeting. Left: Doug and Nellie. Right: Paula on the cello.

Meetings again included presentations by our members of their written work.

Since our last report, our poet and cruciverbalist Greg Tome has created four more challenging crosswords and, of course, solutions. Having circulated a set of etymology exercises before the February meeting, Greg talked us through the answers and then supplied new activities to try for the March meeting [Crossword page 25].

Special interest groups. These are proving popular, with poetry and prose meeting being held at the Old Post Office Café in Moss Vale. Poetry is held on the first Thursday of the month and the prose gathering is on the third Thursday of the month. These gatherings provide the opportunity to share work and receive positive and constructive feedback. The Bundanoon Crash Test Drama has continued throughout the pandemic. The format has been adapted to COVID-19 protocols with plays being videoed and made available on YouTube.

**Greg Baker and Uta Purcel**

## STROUD FAW

A very warm welcome to Peter; another published male has joined our ranks and we are really looking forward to hearing your stories and getting to know you.

As we welcome a new member, we also bid farewell to a long term member.

Sadly **Olive Spiers** passed away unexpectedly on the 11th of December 2020.

Olive joined Stroud Writers in 2016 and has been a highly valued member of our group. She always looked on the bright side of things



*Olive Spiers dec.*

and her inspirational words of wisdom and unwavering humanity were always delivered in her own quiet way.

A homework piece was sitting on her desk the night she passed away, the topic was "Where will I be this time next year". Olive's family has given us permission to share her words here...

*"A hard question to answer, for I have no idea. Who could have possibly dreamed that 2020 would turn out the way it has? Drought, bush fires, floods and covid all came our way.*

*I have dreams for the future, winning Lotto, writing a book and having it published, we all can dream. I have been studying for years to enable me to use my imagination and come up with a classic. I read and read and convince myself that I am studying-lol.*

*My biggest problem is procrastination. How do you overcome this? Why, with discipline of course but do you know what? I do not like rules and I think they are meant to be bent.*

*I must make a greater effort I see but I am finding that a little difficult at the present time.*

*Where will I be next year?*

*Do not know I fear, Maybe I'll be lined up at the Pearly Gates,*

*Waiting to meet some of my mates?*

*But do not despair,*

*Course I'll be here,*

*For a while yet*

*Too much to do before I forget."*

**Olive Spiers 2020.**

In true Olive style her last piece has a very important message for us all. Don't get tangled in the web of procrastination, don't wait for tomorrow, write that story now, create the classic and publish that book. After all "Tomorrow is never promised" (Walter Payton).

**Meggz B**

## SUTHERLAND SHIRE FAW

2021 has started and what a beginning it has been worldwide.

Plans have been made by the Sutherland Shire FAW under the



Winners of the Sutherland SPARK competition with the president of Tradies Gymea and high school organiser of SPARK, Samantha Hill.

guidance of the Sutherland Shire FAW Festival Committee to hold the **Writers Unleashed Festival** on August 21st 2021 at Gymea Tradies Club, Gymea. It will be an outstanding day with a full program for all attendees to see and meet with various published authors. The audience will listen to a variety of authors at the festival. The quality of the presenters is very exciting.

Hopefully there will also be an opportunity for some attendees to present their manuscripts to well-known publishing houses and receive feedback. This is a very important step in the writing process. Of course, all this depends on the pandemic's progress in containing it.

A couple of the authors could be available on digital platforms. More news on the planning for the festival and the presenters will be available in the next *Writers Voice*.

This year Sutherland Shire FAW will also be publishing their next anthology on the theme, 'undercurrents'. Our editor, Helen Armstrong, has already started the editing process with members submitting their short stories. The anthology will be launched at the Writers Unleashed Festival in August.

The **Picture Book Competition** under the leadership of Sylvia Vago is in the planning stages. More information on dates of the competition will be available soon on the Writers Unleashed Festival website. Last year's entries were outstanding.

At the end of 2020 members of the Sutherland Shire FAW also judged the **SPARK** competition for high schools in Sutherland Shire. This competition had over 70 entries and shows the depth of writing that students in the Shire are capable of. It was very impressive to read the entries. Presentation of the winners happened in February 2021 at Gymea Tradies Club, Gymea.

Thank you to all the judges Sylvia Vago, Julianne Miles-Brown, Fiona Johnstone and Helen Armstrong and to the coordinators of the competition for encouraging the writing development of young writers in the Shire area. The future of writing is in good hands.

This year the FAW Sutherland Shire will also be having guest speakers at some meetings. The first speaker for the year will be in March with Alan Baxter speaking on speculative fiction. Cost is \$10 for visitors. Anyone is welcome to attend.

There is a plan to have other speakers at future meetings with our vice president Christine Sykes discussing her new book, *Gough and Me*, which will be launched in April.

One thing I have found in the last year as I have tried to write different stories is that procrastination is a real issue, whether it is just watching Netflix or Stan or reading other people's stories. I am really amazed how writers can write at all.

**Fiona Johnstone**

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# FAW Branch Reports

## WOLLONDILLY FAW

Hello All,

We held the Launch of our branch Anthology *Wollondilly Matters* back on 6th December 2020. Due to Covid-19 restrictions we were only allowed to welcome 30 people to the Tahmoor Inn back room for the launch at 11am with lunch following. Congratulations and thanks to everybody who made this a very proud day.

We are looking forward to the *Seniors Stories Volume 7* Competition which is looming, as well as the free workshops.

We have booked a table each month in the back room at Tahmoor Inn for high noon lunch, with Wollondilly Branch FAW meetings following since March last year. We will continue to do so until this pandemic loosens its shackles enough to enable us to get into our new premises at Taara Gardens Community Hall at Thirlmere.

We have not let this trying time stifle our output. Our members creative stories and poems have been published in our monthly in-house magazine called *Scribblings*. We conduct gentle critiques and simple writing exercises at our meetings which has helped our learning experiences enormously.

'Ta-Ra' and 'Hoo-Roo',

*Jean E-D Mills, Pandemic President, Wollondilly branch*

*Below: Wollondilly Anthology Launch. L-R: Deputy Mayor Michael Banasik, President Jean Mills, Anthology Coordinator Narelle Noppert (with book) and Mayor Robert Khan.*



## WYONG WRITERS FAW

Happy New Year to everyone. Let's hope 2021 will be less stressful than last year. Who would ever have believed that one little virus could spread so much disruption and misery? On the flip side, it certainly gave us as writers plenty of fodder for stories!

Wyong Writers ran a Pandemic Writing competition towards the end of 2020, with a first prize of \$100. The winner was Alison Ferguson, with her story 'Covid Corpse'. The judges looked for plot, characterisation, conflict, style, mechanics, setting, and dialogue. Using a point system, we found we had a tie. So then we looked at literary devices, descriptions and ease of reading, which brought Alison's story narrowly to the fore. The quality of writing was high, which made the judging an exacting task. Congratulations, Alison.

A special mention must be given to (now) member Jessica Anscombe for her successful inclusion in the long-list of winning stories for *Furious Fiction* for November, 2020. Considering the popularity of the contest, over 1,100 stories internationally, this was no mean feat. This competition is particularly difficult in that the time frame is so short, the word length also short and distinct criteria have to be included. Well done, Jessica.

Also, in November 2020, member Jan Forrester and I had the pleasure of being guest speakers for the Wyong Neighbourhood Discussion

Group. Jan and I took turns to provide the group with details about Wyong Writers, then to read short stories to them. All in all, it was a successful day, and Jan and I were both presented with a hand-made gift in appreciation.

Here at Wyong Writers, we were more than thrilled to be able to get back into our normal venue for our January 2021 meeting, and the fact that we welcomed new members was very gratifying. Our small original off-shoot critiquing group managed to keep going throughout 2020, and when our President asked for expressions of interest for a second group, hands went up enthusiastically. It seems Covid doesn't have a say as far as keeping creativity down!

Our focus for January was Poetry. We had a guest speaker, Oriol Parker, from the Central Coast Poets Society. Part of Oriol's presentation was a section on Haiku, a Japanese style of poetry, usually (but not always) written about the four seasons. We have selected this style of poetry for our next in-house competition due in March 2021, and Oriol was gracious in giving us hints and examples, so members got a better grasp on what to write. She also gave Wyong Writers a folder she had put together on different forms of poetry to keep as a reference. Many thanks go to Oriol for her great presentation and generosity.

2021 is lining up to be a busy year, with topics such as Pitch/Synopsis, Copyright, Editing, Family History, YA Fantasy, Place and Time, Travel Writing, Romance and Crime on our agenda. We had a guest speaker for Poetry, as mentioned previously, and have more guest speakers for Romance, Family History, Pitch/Synopsis, Copyright, and Place and Time set to talk at future meetings. As this goes to Press, negotiations are underway to secure more guest speakers for the remaining topics.

From all at Wyong Writers, we wish you the very best for 2021, and hope those creative juices keep flowing.

Kindest Regards,

*Patricia Webb*



# Interview

*Jeanette Temesvary talks to Blue Mountains FAW member Rosemary Baldry, who was one of four successful writers to be interviewed by emcee Jean Kittson for the launch of Seniors' Stories Volume 6. We thought you might enjoy hearing about her experience.*

**Q:** *I expect that you were already pleased to be one of 100 writers published. What went through your mind when you were contacted to do the interview with Jean Kittson at Fox Studios?*

**A:** 'Why me?' was my first thought. I knew there would be lots of good stories in the book and wondered why I had been selected to be interviewed. I also thought, 'Jean Kittson, wow! What a privilege to be interviewed by Jean.' And indeed it was!

**Q:** *How did you feel when you entered the Fox Studios?*

**A:** Excited, nervous and overwhelmed. Fox Studios in Sydney are huge, occupying 32 acres which includes film stages, sound studios, technical support, workshops, restaurants, cafes and more. There was a queue getting through security, COVID checks and onto the site. I was wondering how we'd find the correct studio. Fortunately security gave our taxi driver a map and the Senior Events Officer from the Department of Communities and Justice was waiting to greet us.

**Q:** *You mention the Green Room. Few of us would have sat inside there, was it really green? Did you feel like a celebrity?*

**A:** Sorry to disappoint you but the Green Room was not green. It was light and bright, quite a large room with a kitchenette at one end, tables arranged in the middle of the room with suitably spaced chairs to meet COVID requirements. I wouldn't say the room made me feel like a celebrity but the staff from the Department of Communities and Justice certainly made me feel special.

**Q:** *Can you describe the film studio for us?*

**A:** My strongest memory of the studio is heavy black curtains, bright lights, lots of cameras and technical gear and Jean's warm welcoming smile. The photo on the cover of *Seniors' Stories Volume 6* was enlarged and formed the backdrop in front of which were two chairs facing each other, a pot plant behind each chair and a table and glass of water beside each chair. There were rugs on the floor and a low table holding copies of the book.

**Q:** *I understand that the YouTube video is just a snippet of your conversation with Jean Kittson. How did she put you at ease and what topics did you discuss?*

**A:** Jean is a people person and easy to talk to. It was like talking to a friend. She asked thought provoking questions.

We talked about writing and storytelling: why it's important, the process, my writing journey, writers that have influenced me, how writing helps in breaking down stigmas and stereotypes...

Bushfires: the event, outcomes, recovery, and the ongoing effects.

The influence of COVID-19 on the creative process.

Resilience: where it comes from, does it change over a lifetime, is there a type of resilience specific to seniors.

Adversity, trauma and tragedy.

**Q:** *What was it about your story that Jean admired?*

**A:** Jean said my story was powerful, moving and well written. She felt the emotion, trauma, tragedy and ups and downs as if she was there. She also liked that it was a story about the community pulling together, helping and supporting each other.

**Q:** *Being over 60 there would be many moments in life where your resilience may have been tested. Why did you choose the Blue Mountains bushfires in 2013?*

**A:** It was a story I had tried to write a few times since the 2013 bushfires that devastated my street. The theme 'Resilience' gave me a different point of view. I thought about why our street not only survived but became stronger, property values increased and people moved in from out of area when it could have gone the other way. I believe it was because of the community spirit, caring and supportive neighbours.

**Q:** *In your interview you mention that writing makes you "think". Did the experience of writing your story give you new insights to the nature of resilience?*

**A:** Yes, very much so. As adults we help our children build resilience. We do the same with family, friends, work colleagues, and others. Writing 'The Phoenix' made me think about the resilience of a community and I realised that part of resilience is helping others and also accepting help, being in an awful situation together and working through that for the good of all. It also made me think about adversity, trauma and tragedy. While these are challenging they are part of life, can give you a different perspective and even enrich your life.

**Q:** *Your husband Roger accompanied you. What was his impression of the day?*

**A:** Rog loved it! He particularly enjoyed chatting to the authors in the Green Room and found them interesting and articulate. He was delighted to be invited into the studio when I was being interviewed and was fascinated with the technical side of that. An experience not to be missed!

**Q:** *Will you be entering the Seniors Stories Competition again in 2021?*

**A:** Definitely. 2020 was my first experience of *Seniors' Stories* and I'm keen to repeat that and encourage others to do the same. Seniors have amazing stories that when told enrich life for all.

*Well, I will be eager to read your next story Rosemary! I know we are encouraging all our seniors at Blue Mountains FAW to enter. Thanks for chatting with me.*

You can watch Jean Kittson interview Rosemary here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QSN17FMK-7k&feature=youtu.be>

**Contributed by Jeanette Temesvary, Blue Mountains FAW**

# Networking with Narelle

Hello,  
It is hard to believe we are so far into the new year. Hope a better one all around.

I started the year with positive creations, picking up an old leadlight, dresser door and giving it new life on the front of a box my bar fridge stands on.



Narelle Noppert

I cleaned, repaired, painted, added a new handle, then making a fit I was more than pleased with. I didn't know it was to be my last project for some time!

Now, anyone who knows me, knows the creations I enjoy having a go at using all sorts of materials and tools. So you would think if I was to do myself an injury, it would be doing one of my beloved DIY projects, WRONG.

January 18th, I tripped on a quilt I was pulling off the line... tripped,

tried to save myself going further into its folds and falling head first onto the concrete. After an Ambulance trip and a night in hospital, scans and X-rays, I came home black and blue with a broken arm. Tough head I think! So hopefully our wonderful editors will correct any of my one handed typing errors; a whole new skill there. I'll keep you updated.

My guest, from my branch, is **Kerry Joseph**. Kerry is a relatively new member, but produces many great items for our monthly magazine. Her enthusiasm is infectious. Kerry is a dog lover, has written many stories about their antics, and was an exhibitor of English Bull Terriers.

I hope you enjoy her story.

To keep this column alive please email your feedback or photos and interest to [narellenoppert@gmail.com](mailto:narellenoppert@gmail.com)  
See you again in June 2021.

Narelle

## Exhibiting Beautiful Monsters

Whilst not active anymore, for many decades I was a keen exhibitor of English Bull Terriers. I was a resident of Port Macquarie when I met a couple who were active in the world of dog showing, with Dobermanns their main interest. I was dogless at this time but my new friends convinced me a canine companion would be good for my soul. They were right, and I finally opted for an English Bull Terrier. Her house name was Chloe, and she was born at one of the top Bull Terrier kennels of the day (Gilavon Kennels, Catherine Fields). I fell in love with her, finding her intelligence, loyalty and humour irresistible.



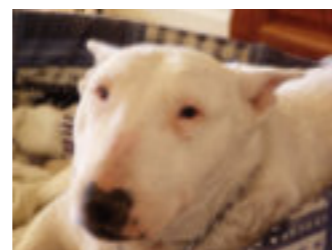
Kerry Joseph

I was initiated into the show world and absolutely loved it. I travelled to all the country shows, mostly agricultural shows where, along with dogs, all manner of farm animals, crafts and local produce were exhibited. I amassed an impressive camping kit and some great friends and their varied dogs. It was a great way to spend time, meeting your friends at the various shows, arranging where next to get together.

Chloe became Australian Champion *Gilavon Gellion* and shortly after she attained her title, I decided to become a registered breeder and a search for a worthy stud dog for her was launched. Chloe produced six puppies, one of which became *Verity (Aust. Ch. Eddystone Xcelsior)*, who lived with me for all her 10 years. Sadly, Chloe died just before her fourth birthday from acute renal failure, then prevalent in the breed. I was devastated, but at least I had her daughter.

Verity was a stunner to look at but was very dominant and, in the wrong hands would have been a lethal weapon, so not willing to put her in strangers' hands, I kept her. With me she was a sweet and loving girl, but not many others saw that side of her. About this time I went into partnership with a friend and fellow exhibitor, co-owning a white medium/ heavy female named *Jordan (Aust. Ch. Bracklyn Bright Star)*. She was the comedic foil to Verity's more serious personality, but they hated each other at first sight and after their one and only fight had to be kept apart from that time on.

Over time my bullies won many Challenge certificates, Best of Breed and Best of Group ribbons and even sported some wins at the Royal Easter Show, and I enjoyed the thrill of it all. The best part was, we still had fun, even on the days we were unsuccessful and came home empty handed.



Jessie (left), Daisy (above) and Esther (below).



Years passed and my dogs lived their lives-always home companions who just happened to be show dogs, not the other way round like in some places, where they were treated simply as commodities-and we enjoyed our mutual companionship whilst going to shows, camping and having fun.

In between, we rescued a lovely five year old female Bully named Jessie. She was pedigreed and registered with the Canine Council, but never saw the inside of the show ring, being used solely for breeding. Most of her puppies had been, quite illegally, attributed to other females, unfortunately highlighting one of the shadier aspects of the dog showing world. We took her home and gave her the best two and a half years of her life, as sadly she succumbed to cancer, aged only seven and a half.

Our next potential show dog was Daisy (*Stardom Silver Dollar*), an all-white small build Bully, who developed juvenile arthritis at the age of six months. This, of course, stopped her show career even before it began. She became our 'special needs' girl, living with her disability well into old age, dying at 12½ years. She was a wonderful friend and funny as they make them.

Next came Esther (*Aust. Ch. Stardom Sterling Silver*) who, although we didn't know it when we brought the little demon home, was to be our last show girl; our last Bully. Essie was funny and smart, but quite difficult to show. She wasn't interested in treats or the other dogs, being happy to snooze in her crate. Her first show was at Milton, in dreadful 42 degree heat, but she did well. Better than me, actually! Her illustrious show career came to an end when she was five years old, due more to my work hours than anything else. She didn't care.

My favourite memory of showing Esther was at Yass, where we camped overnight. As I made up my camp bed for the evening, having showered and fed us both, I saw that my bed had been taken over!

That night the two of us snuggled together, zipped up like sardines. She was a puppy all her life, never quite growing up and constantly creating havoc with her devilish sense of fun. Esther succumbed to heart disease shortly before her 12th birthday, three years ago.

I didn't love any one of my Bullies more than the other, but among the strong personalities of them all, some were larger than life and they were Chloe and Esther. My first and my last.

There are no Bull Terriers living in my house now. Like their rescue companions they shared their lives with, their time with us has passed and a couple of rescue greyhounds keep us company today.

I love them both but they will never replace the wonderful years I spent living with and showing my beloved Bull Terriers.

Kerry Joseph

## Vale

### LAURIE BOOKLUCK

Sutherland Shire branch member

Any strong organisation is dependent upon its foundation pillars and the FAW is no exception. Laurie Bookluck from Sutherland branch passed in September along with decades of FAW history but thankfully, some of which he shared with me when I called for submissions to our planned Centenary book in 2028.

Laurie was a very proud member because his father was so influential in our organisation's formation days back in 1928.

In 1938, the Fellowship of Australian Writers amalgamated with the Writers Association which had developed into an extremely active body. The FAW through inactivity was falling into decay. A meeting of the joint membership was called and the amalgamation put through. The united body took the name Fellowship of Australian Writers. Katharine Prichard and Roderick Quinn the poet, were made patrons. The executive committee sparkled with leading names of the Australian literary field. Laurie's father was made one of the four vice-presidents who writes about how he found much pleasure, in the companionship of his writer friends, and in the social gatherings of the Fellowship – the cocktail parties, the monthly 'socials', the meetings of members.

He was particularly, delighted in the company of Marjorie Barnard, Flora Eldershaw, Frank Dalby Davison and Miles Franklin. The quick reactions of those brilliant intellectuals, the erudition and discernment of their conversation, stimulated his cognitive faculties. He came to love Marjorie Barnard dearly, for her softness and generous nature.

Laurie's love of poetry and 'tongue in cheek' style of some of them, gave an insight into his wonderful sense of humour and his memoir will be archived for generations to come.

One of the strongest pleasures received from serving on the State Committee is the opportunity of meeting so many of our fabulous members whether in person, or on the phone. Hon. Secretary's recent remark, 'I found Laurie, warm extroverted and funny full of knowledge in fact a great bloke! I was always happy when he phoned me which was often. Condolences to Anita and family'.

'Tales from Clarence Street' (where the original F.A.W. used to be) and 'How I received the d.c.m.\*' (Once I held a valued position as cleaner to the Fellowship of Australian Writers room.) are just two of Laurie's poems that he submitted to me.

\*d.c.m. was 'don't come Monday' a slang used when a worker was sacked.

I join with Maureen Kelly and all members who knew Laurie in offering our condolences to Anita on the sad loss of one of Australia's true-blue funny 'blokes'.

With fondest memories

Colleen Parker



## Break Away

My little child you prattle on  
your words I try to hear,  
but in my mind another voice  
is calling sweet and clear.

Reminding me of myriad things  
of grass and birds and trees,  
of waterfalls and glistening rocks  
(oh please be quiet – please!)

I'm held a captive in this bus  
by circumstance – and you,  
but thoughts are free and can escape  
out where I want them to.

Your words are bouncing off my ears  
I can't grasp what you say  
'cause in my mind I'm running free  
in hills far, far away.

*Rhonda W Rice © 1970*  
FAW Ingleburn NSW

## Infants School Playground

Like a plague of mice they scamper  
in all directions  
Their laughter  
squealing  
create moments sealed off  
from  
envy fright spite  
from any sense of care  
The sight of their hats  
with wide floppy brims  
as much as their subtly varied uniforms  
brand them as tribal members  
In adult life will they remember  
this purity in fierce energy  
this uncritical acceptance of life?  
If only there were some machine  
able to freeze such moments  
fossilise aspects of adult lives  
inside the resulting ice.

*Greg Tome,*  
Southern Highlands FAW

## Ordinary Days

We have crept out of our caves  
away from Zoom meetings  
home-made coffee  
washing-up  
take-aways  
on the first morning  
after the stroke of the designated midnight  
into a coffee shop  
(no more than ten people seated)  
use hand sanitizer first and no cash  
to sit on a chair at a disinfected table  
be served a cup of flat white with crema  
near distanced friends  
and strangers. We smile  
in turn at them all and chat  
renewed.

None of us thought that we'd miss  
the habits of ordinary days  
so much.

*Wendell Watt,*  
Moocooboola FAW

## Hedgerows Encounter

Each June she's remembered. An encounter in a long-ago time. In a place of much renown  
Frail memories still know. It was brief and wonderous, albeit in a red-stained beach town  
Who are you her Father tested June 6th? Of the sodden young man very late at their door  
I was dropped last evening. An American paratrooper. Lost. Unable to find our War  
Then you are so welcome said Father. We knew we'd need help in the long run  
We've prayed to meet you. Much more of Mr Hitler and we'll all be undone.

He had been blown off target. Shaken. No direction. Numbness. Already lost friends  
Papa said Daughter be quick. With clothes food and drink. On him you must tend  
Her eyes down on approach, then up to him. Shyly. A tired face smiled right back  
First landing. I am most fortunate to find you. Through those hedgerow tracks  
Roosevelt and Churchill miscalculated some. We'll not let that take us down  
Weather was bad. They'll work it out. I can just imagine Churchill's frown.

She understands Encounter. It's to run into, be up against, come across. Meet face to face  
She caressed every meaning. When she looked at him. This unexpected paratrooper ace  
He drank more. Taking French bread. He reasoned a moment while touching her hands  
I'm now in Normandy. But why? Ah, I recall. Roosevelt said we must all take a stand  
Papa is leaving. Eat. Get sleep young man. There's tomorrow. Then we'll all talk  
Not a soldier, the man. Saw what she felt. Hats off to Papa silenced his thought.

Boats also came. Atop rough bloodied waters, and below. Much loss trying to turn the tide  
Generals Dwight and Monty ensured its success. Time called it a victory. For the right side  
The measured purpose-built encounter turned a War. Releasing an interval for all to grieve  
History says epic encounter. Halting one man's insatiable quests for all the wrong needs  
Meeting again. Hand touches, face to face. Within the hedgerow tracks after the War  
Brief and indeed wonderous. Moments soothing the recall. Of the atrocities they saw.

*Kaye Christensen, Port Macquarie-Hastings FAW*

## Cold Case

Disappeared at eighteen  
but hope remains eternal  
for the one left behind.  
The longing 'to know'  
if he fulfilled his life's dreams  
or met an early demise?  
Cold Case has reopened  
and with the availability  
of DNA Testing,  
will he be found in an  
aged care facility  
or a mortuary amongst  
skeletal remains?  
A sister's heartache of 62 years  
wanting only 'to know'  
where not why?

*Lyn Yates*  
Lambing Flat (Young) FAW

## Winter Song

When fields lie fallow under an eiderdown  
of frost and fog and ice.  
Where watery sun peers through leaden, sombre sky.  
When dark night closes in and street lights dim  
garlanded by coils of mist.

Winter Song comes deep and rich and true.

When all is stripped bare go deep into the wood  
search out the dry logs of life's chances lost and past.

Kindled with sticks of the games of life  
and the crumpled papers of life's plans gone awry

Winter Song builds a fire,  
where ashes fall and embers glow  
harbingers against the hoary days.  
Forging all broken, shattered things  
refined and strong and new.

When days grow short and memories long  
heartbeats metronome counts down the hours.

Where from the embers and the ash  
Winter Song stokes the fire within  
crackling and roaring into life, setting fire to ice.  
When illuminating beacons breach dark night  
soaring flames sing Winter Song  
strong and clear and true.

© Jennifer Haynes, Lambing Flat (Young) FAW

## Shifting Goalposts

The goalposts all shifted through most of last year.  
But regardless of that, a new year is here.  
So now we've a choice – step right or step left  
to outsmart those goalposts that left us bereft.

I'd like to kick goals and to do this, I must  
believe in myself and in doctor's – place trust –  
as they are the ones who are keeping us well.  
We should do as we're asked, not rant, scream or yell.

So, I'll be home for a conference that's zooming me in,  
I'll read all those books that I've yet to begin.  
I'll be planning my trips for the year twenty-two,  
I'll follow the rules – and no doubt I'll get through.

But what should I do so I know I'm on track?  
Perhaps just look forward with no turning back?  
Continue to try and live life day by day.  
Don't sweat the small stuff, know things are okay.

So, if I'm rejected, I'll not get upset.  
If I miss out on grants, well, there'll be no regret.  
For I tried and got in there and just had a go.  
And that's kicking goals in this great writing show.

So, during the year, I'll be pleased if I write,  
and if I am published – I'll probably skite!  
But if every day brings back those goalposts that shift.  
I'll look on good health as a wonderful gift.

*Caroline Tuohey, Griffith Riverina FAW*

## To A Teacher

The clinging hand  
I once pried loose from mine  
and trusting - placed in yours  
now holds the future in its palm.

The frightened eyes  
I vainly dried  
when last goodbyes were said  
gaze past today and seek tomorrow.

The feet, unwilling, that I led  
time and again to your door  
now stride with confidence  
through a lifetime.

The young hearts  
innocent and fresh  
the minds absorbing  
all you said and did  
go armed with what you taught them  
into adulthood.

*Rhonda W Rice © 1996*  
FAW Ingleburn NSW

## Release

Quick quick slow  
Quick quick quick slow  
The irregular pattern repeats.  
Moments of calm,  
Moments of fear.

Imprisoned in this cage  
of bone and flesh  
A body so weak, a soul in pain.  
Waiting, waiting  
In hope of release  
Which never seems to come.

A monotonous metronome  
Set in motion  
From birth, a heart that beats  
Now so broken  
Hands cruelly rewind.

Here again, it comes I know  
Hurry, hurry, I await your call!  
Quick quick slow  
Quick quick quick... stop.

*Ingrid McCulloch*  
FAW Southern Highlands

## NEW POETRY EDITOR REQUIRED

Shirley Goodbar has resigned from the  
position of honorary Poetry Editor, effective  
from this March 2021 issue.

Shirley says, "I have done my best these six  
or so years, and now, at 90, I think I should  
pass it on to someone else. I thank you for  
your consistent assistance and your  
friendship. It's been a wonderful experience  
and a valuable one."

Would any poetry aficionado like to  
volunteer? The role involves vetting and  
compiling member contributions  
considered suitable for publication and  
sending them in by the quarterly deadline.

Meanwhile, until we have a replacement,  
poetry contributions for this page in future  
issues can be sent to the *Writers Voice* editor  
<[wveditor@fawns.org.au](mailto:wveditor@fawns.org.au)>.

Please provide author name and FAW  
branch, and remember that poems accepted  
for publication under the 'Poets Voice'  
banner will be deemed to have been  
published and therefore are not eligible for  
entry in FAW competitions.

We hope to publish contact details for a new  
Poetry Editor in June issue. Poetry lovers,  
help us to keep this page going.

Any takers?

Many thanks Shirley, for your time and  
assistance in this role.

*Ken Driver, Writers Voice Editor.*

## Hope

is a tree  
standing tall  
sprouts  
of new growth  
on charred limbs  
Hope  
is the sapling tree  
untouched  
by flame  
Hope  
the blade of grass  
in blackened soil  
the gentle  
soaking rain  
Hope  
the china teapot  
in the wreck  
of a burnt-out home  
Hope the sound of chooks  
scratching  
in an unburnt vegie patch  
Hope  
the people  
going back  
to start again.

*Eileen Dillon-Smith*  
Eurobodalla FAW

# Roundup

## 2021 Australia Day Awards

### CERTIFICATE FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE CATEGORY

CONGRATULATIONS to members past and present in the **Port Macquarie Hastings branch** which was short-listed in 2021 for its 43 years of community service.

Our January 2021 branch meeting in Harrington at member, Kaye Christensen's home, proudly celebrated the honour with the members and thank everyone from its inception in 1978–2021.



#### Port Macquarie Hastings Australia Day Community Service Award.

BACK ROW: L-R Walter Van Hoorn, Treasurer; Brian Tolagson, Vice President.  
MIDDLE ROW: L-R Emma Gaulton; Kathy Robison; Colleen Parker, Publicity; Kaye Christensen.  
FRONT ROW: Raylene Austin, Secretary and Jackie Laing, President, holding our Australia Day Award Certificate.

## Canberra and Region Anthology

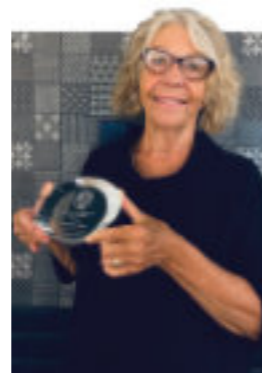
### Call for Submissions

CANBERRA AND REGION FAW members, past and present, are invited to submit two items for inclusion in our anthology entitled 'School Days'. Short stories are limited to 2,500 words and poetry to 50 lines. Entries to be submitted by 30 April 2021.

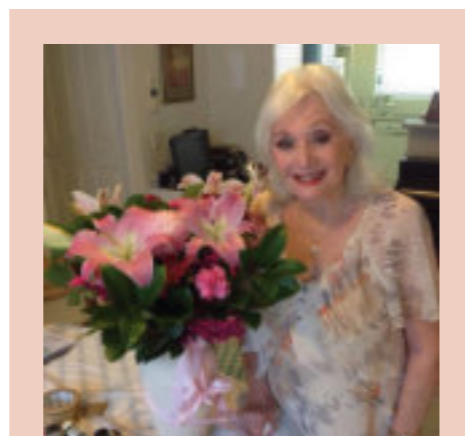
Its aim is to reflect personal experiences of schooling as a student or staff member.

This anthology will be launched at the University of Canberra to coincide with the 25th Anniversary of the Australian National Museum of Education in October 2021.

Inquiries to Jenni Warren (President) <jenniferj.warren@bigpond.com>. Phone 0408 434 954 or 02 6293 2120. Please leave a message and Jennifer will call you back.



Christine Sykes, Sutherland FAW Vice-President, won the fiction prize from Society of Women Writers for her novel, *The Changing Room*.



My good friend Hazel Phillips, our past Literary Awards lunch guest whom many of you met, sends greetings. Latest photo from Hazel now in her early 90s, taken on her birthday.

Trevar Langlands

## Writers Unleashed



SAVE THE DATE!

Sat 21 Aug 2021

shirewritersfestival.weebly.com



## BARGAIN BOOKS FOR SALE

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*Stories and Plays published in the A4 size.  
Ideal for Amateur Drama groups / Senior Citizens  
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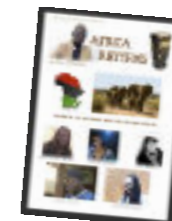
<b>CENTRE STAGE:</b> 10 One-Act Plays	\$20.00
<b>FOLIO OF FIVE:</b> Murder Mysteries (five). Title <i>It's Murder She Said</i>	\$15.00
<b>COFFEE TABLE TALES:</b> A collection of 9 short stories	\$15.00
<b>LOVE REIGNS:</b> A collection of 44 love poems	\$15.00

Contact Joan Lane <jayelle341@gmail.com>  
or Tel 0484 504 334

PETER F PIKE celebrated the anniversary in November of the first edition (1993) of his magazine for writers, *FreeXpresSion*. The magazine is now in its 28th year of publication and is also distributed in an online, interactive format for subscribers.

The March supplement of *FreeXpresSion* features **Africa**. There are some interesting views expressed by writers from many African nations. Apart from the interesting poetry, the links provide much more information about the history, geography, social, flora and fauna and life in general about this often overlooked continent.

<[online.fliphtml5.com/leqjf/yfkr/](http://online.fliphtml5.com/leqjf/yfkr/)>



## RESULTS: LAMBING FLAT COMPETITION 2020

### National Cherry Festival Writing Competition

Lambing Flat FAW branch: Celebrating 38 years at Young 1982–2020

#### ADULT SHORT STORY SECTION

First Place: 'Mad Molly', Jenny McLoughlin, Arundel, QLD  
Second Place: 'Menopaws', David Dodd, Sapphire Beach, NSW  
Highly Commended: 'I Mean', Colin Campbell, Holt, ACT  
Highly Commended: 'How Did That Happen', Janice Williams, Stawell, VIC  
Commended: 'Layers Of Conflict', Janice Williams, Stawell, VIC  
Commended: 'Arthur's New Diggs', Narelle Noppert, Picton, NSW

#### ADULT POETRY SECTION

First Place: 'Feeding Time', David Campbell, Airey's Inlet, VIC  
Second Place: 'Epitaph To Democracy', Robert Winston, Mitchell's Island, NSW  
Highly Commended: 'Between Two Wars', Colin Campbell, Holt, ACT  
Highly Commended: 'The Great Unravelling', Pippa Kay, Hunters Hill, NSW  
Highly Commended: 'Platform One', John Egan, Ashfield, NSW  
Commended: 'Saltwater People', Catherine Lee, Mona Vale, NSW  
Commended: 'Beset By Dire Strait', Terry Norwood, Bowral, NSW  
Commended: 'Another Dawn', Brenda Joy, Charters Towers, QLD

## Vale

### RON LYONS

We were saddened to hear news that Ron Lyons had passed away on 22 January 2021. He was a former member and past branch President of Blue Mountains Writers FAW from 2001–2012. Ron wrote short stories, traditional poetry, haiku and limericks which he loved to share with us.

We have received emails from members with personal recollections of Ron and his contribution to our group. They also refer to another well loved and respected member, the late Joan Vaughan-Taylor, a poet...

*'Like the thought of he and Joan having some good chats. Brings back memories too of committee meetings at Ron and Beryl's kitchen table!'* Kate Santleben.

*'I'm sorry to hear this news, I enjoyed Ron's work.'* Susan Robinson.

*'Ron was president not long after I joined FAW. And I remember Ron loved trains, having worked with them for many years. He was quite generous by letting me accompany him to the FAW meetings in town and we had lots of good conversations about writing. I was fond of Ron and he let me see through the window of his passion for poetry. I'm sorry he has passed, but I think he and Joan will be setting up new writers' meetings in a quiet corner of heaven. RIP Ron xx.'* Annette Brown.

*'Ron was a band master and had a sense of rhythm which he taught me. I remember him sitting at meetings tapping out the rhythm on the table when members read poetry. His limericks were fun and he happily shared the secrets of limerick writing with our group. I also remember committee meetings at his home and one evening when we arrived to a freshly cut lawn in which Ron had mowed a message to his wife, 'Ron loves Beryl!'. Rosemary Baldry.*

A lovely way to be remembered. We offer our condolences to Ron's family and friends.

**Blue Mountains Writers FAW**

# Never Ending Story

## BEN'S STORY

by *Narelle, Jill and Maureen*

**"I'm innocent, I'm innocent. I know nothing!"** Ben yelled over and over as the PCs pushed him into the back seat of the police car and drove him to the Port Fairy lock-up.

The sergeant shoved Ben into the interview room. Ben pulled away from him, responding with an angry, belligerent look. He flopped down onto the wooden chair looking at the meagre surroundings. It was a dark, depressing room. Old-style timber walls, chairs and a table which, if it could talk, could probably tell a milliard chilling tales!

A short time later Detective Mark Whitehead came in, introduced himself, sat down, dropping a folder on the table.

"Ben Miller?" the detective established, opening the folder ready to question him.

"Yes, but I don't know why you have me here? I keep telling them I am innocent, I swear!"

The detective studied Ben's face. He had years of experience, and there was something about Ben that made him feel he was innocent. He didn't know what it was, but his instincts were often right.

"Settle down Ben, we just need to get to the bottom of this. Julia Kelly is missing and you were the last one to have seen her." Ben wriggled in his seat but settled down once he felt the detective's calming approach.

"How long have you been in town, Ben?" He questioned.

"I arrived last week, it is true I had come to meet Julia. We have been talking on social media for some time, we arranged to meet, but at a safe place, a safe place," he repeated in a convincing voice.

"Okay, settle down Ben, what place, day, time were you to meet?"

"I'm not one of those awful 'groomers' that you hear about. Julia and I are around the same age, she isn't a minor. I am careful of that, and we have spoken on video so we knew exactly what each other looked like."

**"We arranged to meet at the seafront café,** we planned on going to the Folk Festival, we are buskers and both wanted to experience this event for years, decided to do it together, good way to get to know each other, have fun and not be under any pressure if it didn't work out."

"And... did it work out?" prompted the detective.

Ben shifted uncomfortably in his chair, rubbing his ear, as he tended to do when stressed. Mark Whitehead made a mental note of the body language.

"Not really," Ben was aware it didn't make him look good but decided to tell the truth. He'd never been a good liar, he thought, dejectedly. "The chemistry just wasn't there. She had a really irritating laugh and... she kept making these slurping noises when she was drinking her coffee. I made an excuse, said I had a 7pm gig at the hall and needed to get down there. She got pretty shirty, said why hadn't I told her, said I was making an excuse to ditch her before we even got to know each other. I never was a good liar..."

**W**ELCOME again to the NEVER ENDING STORIES page.

Covid still hasn't let us get back to normal but Maureen, Narelle and I have been busy with our stories. We hoped other members would join in but you've all been very quiet.

We have been sending our stories to sites advertising for content and are very thrilled Kyabram Town Hall Writers are publishing our story 'The Pink Cushion' in their International Women's Day anthology.

We are now on the way to having written 25 stories. Most are between 5000 and 10,000 words but here is one of our earlier ones of 1000 words. We hope you enjoy it and feel inspired to start a group with other writers.

It's fun, believe me. I love the feeling of expectation when I turn the computer on of a morning wondering if it is back to my turn and finding out what the characters have been up to since I last pressed "send".

*Jill Baggett*

"Did you leave the café together?"

"I got up and paid the bill but as I turned to leave she started yelling at me, said I was just a creep and should be ashamed of myself. It was embarrassing and I hurried out and went down the road. She started following me, calling me all sorts. I saw a car pull up beside her and she stopped to talk to the driver. I thought it must have been someone she knew."

"What make of car? Think carefully," Detective Whitehead interjected.

"I'm not sure, I was too anxious to get away from her, dark blue or black, medium sized..."

"How many occupants?"

"Two I think, I didn't take much notice."

"And is that the last time you saw her?"

"Yes, I swear," said Ben rubbing his ear.

The detective got up and spoke to the two constables, "keep him locked up for the night." He turned back to Ben, "Julia was reported missing by her boyfriend three days ago. Our investigations into her movements have all ended with several witnesses remembering your row at the café. We can find no trace of her since."

"Her boyfriend?" stammered Ben. "What boyfriend?"

**"She didn't mention him?"** Interesting? We'll talk to you again in the morning," promised Mark as Ben was escorted to a cell.

Detective Whitehead and his sergeant, Charlie Drummond returned to the café to further their enquiries.

"Yeh! I remember that couple, they were disturbing all my customers, not good for business, yer know? The car was dark blue, a Ford."

"You didn't get the number, I suppose?"

"No, I didn't mate, I run a café, I'm not a cop, but old Jack over there might tell you more."

"Hey, mate, wake up," said Charlie, shaking the old dishevelled man, slumped in the doorway of the empty shop opposite the café.

cont. page 22...

# Short Story

## WHY ARE WE HERE?

By *Vera Zegarac*

**L**inda took a seat in a secluded spot near a window and checked her watch. The café Paradiso was buzzing with Sunday brunchers.

When the waiter came to take her order, she said she was waiting for a friend, and he moved to another table.

What does she want? Linda mused, chewing on the inside of her mouth. Waiting, she focused on the street, spotting Amanda—fifteen minutes late.

Wearing a floral dress in hues of blue, Amanda walked confidently in her stilettos as if she was born wearing them. She guarded her face against the sun with a broad-rim hat and the inevitable Prada sunglasses. As she entered the café, she looked around, so sure that Linda would already be there.

"Hi Linda," she said. Acting like her lateness didn't matter she drew the chair and sat opposite Linda.

"You are late," Linda returned with an edge.

"Sorry."

"It's been a long time since we've seen each other. It surprised me when you called," Linda said.

"Not exactly. I mean, I saw you the other day. Didn't I?"

Amanda took off her sunglasses. Linda scanned the botoxed landscape in front of her shielded with perfect makeup. Amanda's forehead reminded her of a plasma screen, her plumped lips of a goldfish. She thought about the time Amanda must spend on such perfection, which would beg for more time to remove it before bed. Makeup was something Linda rarely used, just a dab of lip gloss and a touch of blush on the apples of her cheeks.

"Where? Where did you see me?"

"Oh, Linda, it doesn't matter, does it?"

"But can you at least tell me why we are here? Why did you want to see me?"

"We've been friends since high school, haven't we?" Amanda said.

"Yes. But we went separate ways."

"I know. Last time I saw you was two years ago at your and Martin's wedding. I wanted to meet you, to rekindle our friendship."

A waitress with a tablet in her hand came to take their order.

"Flat white, please," Linda said with a smile.

"Mineral water," Amanda said without looking up. She focused on Linda's hands, the unpolished nails cut short.

"And we are here because you want us to be friends after all that time?"

"Well, yes," Amanda said, taking her Chanel compact from her tote. She clicked it open and checked her lipstick, looked at her face from side to side and smiled at her reflection in the mirror. They were deliberate and mean-spirited gestures; Linda instantly recognised them as such, and their impact was not lost on her. She took a sip of coffee and waited for Amanda's next move.

With the compact still open, Amanda leaned toward Linda: "A woman must keep her looks up, doesn't she?"

Men get fickle, and it's easy to lose them if we let ourselves go," she shut her compact, smiling unpleasantly.

"I'm not sure what you mean."

Amanda took a long gulp of her water. "I saw Martin, yesterday afternoon." She put down her glass and stared at Linda with glee in her eye.

"Where?"

"At the Town Hall."

"You couldn't have," Linda said tersely.

"What do you mean I couldn't?"

"Martin's in Melbourne."

"I'm sure it was Martin walking with a tall blonde woman—I thought it must be you, but no..." Amanda broke off and cast her eyes over Linda, a sneer on her face. "The woman he was with was beautiful. And I know Martin. Too well actually, if you remember," Amanda persisted.

"How could I forget that?"

"I know what I saw, Linda."

"No, you don't. I took Martin to the airport a day before yesterday, spoke to him when he arrived, and he called last night to tell me that the project he's been working on for six months has been approved. I'm so proud of him."

Amanda was quite seething with the anger that had never been too far from the surface since Martin had dumped her for Linda some years earlier. Filled with jealousy and hatred she'd come uninvited to disrupt their church wedding. It didn't work. After the ceremony, Linda and Martin's guests had ignored her, some laughing, as she scurried to her car like a mouse running from a cat. "This is not the end of it, Martin," she mumbled under her breath before driving off in a squeal of tyres.

Linda's voice broke the silence. "You were going to tell me about Martin and this tall blonde woman—the beauty. What about them?"

"Oh, never mind," Amanda said almost in a whisper. Her face reddening, her eyes flashing with the anger she'd been trying to hide.

"I'm picking him up from the airport at 5:30 PM, and we are going to have dinner at the Casa Ristorante Italiano at Darling Harbour. His entire team will be there to celebrate."

Amanda grabbed her tote and took her phone out, checking her messages. "It was nice talking to you, but I've got to go," she said dropping the phone back in the bag.

"Oh, what's the rush? I thought you wanted to rekindle our friendship."

"Sorry, something's come up; I've really got to go."

"I'll stay and enjoy my coffee. Are you sure you don't want to finish what you were going to tell me tell me about Martin?" Linda said with a wry smile.

Amanda ignored the question and walked off, her heels click-clacking as she slammed her way out of the café.

Nice try, Linda thought, her smile widening as Amanda melted into the crowded street.

# Writing Competitions



Opens 1st April – Closes Noon 31st May 2021

## SENIORS CARD SHORT STORY COMPETITION 2021

The NSW Dept of Communities and Justice and FAW are again conducting a Short Story Competition. The Top 100 stories will be published in *Seniors Stories Vol. 7* and launched in November 2021. Stories showing senior years are when age doesn't matter and are worth sharing. Tap into your memories, ask family/friends for their anecdotes, or maybe you are witness to others who love living every day to its fullest—and create a short story for others to enjoy.

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. The competition is open to all New South Wales Seniors cardholders.
2. Seniors Card Membership Number must be included on the entry form.
3. Seniors Card Membership, competition entry and Workshops are FREE.
4. The theme for this year is *'What's age got to do with it?'*
5. Story length max. 1,000 words (Poetry not accepted) [excess word count will be disqualified – however the title is exempt.]
6. Multiple entries may be submitted but only one will be published. None will be accepted outside the stated competition dates as the link will close.
7. The top 100 entries will be published in the Seniors Card anthology to be released in November 2021.
8. The judge's decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.
9. The **Entry form** is available from the FAW website <[www.fawnsw.org.au](http://www.fawnsw.org.au)>. The forms are interactive from **1st April**, and the entry can be attached.

Due to the requirement of the printer, entries to be in digital form. (Help for non-computer users available on 0417 403 720 – leave your name and contact number). Entries must be a **Word document**, not a PDF or JPEG. Entries sent in a format other than Word not accepted. Entries should be typed in 12pt font, double spaced. **AUTHOR NAME SHOULD ONLY APPEAR ON THE ENTRY FORM... NOT THE STORY.**

Queries please contact: Maureen Kelly OAM 0417 403 720 or email <[honsecretary@fawnsw.org.au](mailto:honsecretary@fawnsw.org.au)>.

### WORKSHOPS

Workshops are being held around the State for Seniors new to writing who would like to participate in the competition. Upcoming workshops are at Sydney City Mar 16, Goulburn Mar 23, Albury Mar 25 and Katoomba Mar 29. They have already been held at Port Stephens Feb 24 and Coffs Harbour Mar 9. Attendance is FREE.

### BOOKINGS – Maureen Kelly OAM 0417 403 720

Please share this information with your senior family members, friends and colleagues.

*Bring with you:*

- Writing paper and pen
- Personal water bottles with caps.

### COVID-SAFE PRACTICES

Sign in on arrival or use QR code on phone. Face mask in case you can't keep your distance from others. Wash your hands often, and use hand sanitiser on arrival.

For more information visit the NSW Government website <[www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19](http://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19)> or call the National Older Persons COVID-19 Support Line on 1800 171 866.

looking for a missing woman – Julia Kelly, last seen talking to the occupants of a car bearing this resort's name."

The clerk gave a loud laugh.

"Hey, this is no laughing matter, young man."

"Look, mate Julia's a regular, she's a sometime busker, sometime loopy rich bitch! Gets on social media, can't help herself, makes dates and disappears. She's been gone three days this time. Her long-suffering boyfriend and our driver brought her back a while ago!"

Mark and Charlie sighed!

□

Closing date 31 August 2021:

## FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS NEW SOUTH WALES INC MARJORIE BARNARD SHORT STORY AWARD 2021

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Failure to comply with the terms and conditions will mean disqualification.

- 1 The Award is for Short Stories up to 3000 words
- 2 Entrants must be permanent residents of Australia.
- 3 Submitted entries must not have previously been published, nor be under consideration for publication. Entries may have been entered in other competitions but not won a monetary prize. Receipt of entry will not be acknowledged.
- 4 Multiple entries are permitted, a separate Entry Form must be submitted with each entry.
- 5 Entry Fee is \$10.00 per entry.
- 6 The closing date is 31st August 2019.
- 7 Entries are to be submitted via the online form available on the FAW website at <[www.fawnsw.org.au](http://www.fawnsw.org.au)>
- 8 The details for direct Deposit are as follows BSB: 082 574 Account Number: 177 603 608. Please use the competitor's name, and the competition as the payment details (ie. J Doe Marjorie Barnard), and attach a copy of the receipt to the entry form.
- 9 For those unable to use the online form, a separate form will be forwarded on request by email from <[compconvenor@fawnsw.org.au](mailto:compconvenor@fawnsw.org.au)> and should be accompanied by a receipt for the direct deposit, a cheque made out to the Fellowship of Australian Writers, or a postal note.
- 10 The author's identity must appear on the Entry Form and Cover Sheet ONLY. The author's name must NOT appear on either the manuscript or the Title Page.
- 11 Only page number and title of the entry is to appear on each page of the manuscript.
- 12 The results, and the judge's report, will be emailed to all contestants after the Awards Luncheon in November.
- 13 The author retains copyright to all work submitted, although prize-winning entries or a precis must be available for publication in the Fellowship's bulletin Writers Voice and on the FAW NSW website. Unsuccessful entries will not be returned unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope of appropriate size and postage.
- 14 Entries must be original, creative and inspiring works which present to the audience an engaging work of literary excellence.
- 15 The judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. There will be no individual appraisals.
- 16 FAW NSW reserves the right not to award any prizes if, in the judge's estimation, no entries of sufficient merit are received.

- 17 Normal Competition  
Conditions apply [see p 24].

**THE AWARD  
PRIZE: \$500**

THE WINNER will be announced at the Annual Luncheon to be held in Sydney. All Enquires to <[compconvenor@fawnsw.org.au](mailto:compconvenor@fawnsw.org.au)>. Phone 0492 833 522.



Closing date 31 August 2021:

## FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS NEW SOUTH WALES INC 2021 HILARIE LINDSAY YOUNG WRITERS SHORT STORY COMPETITION FOR AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL CHILDREN

Entries are sought in the following categories:

### SECTION 1: Years 10, 11 & 12

Up to 2500 words Prize \$150

### SECTION 2: Years 7, 8 & 9

Up to 2500 words Prize \$125

### SECTION 3: Years 5 & 6

Up to 1500 words Prize \$100

### SECTION 4: Year 4 & under

Up to 1500 words. Prize \$50

The entry fee is \$3.00 (please note that entries that do not include the fee will be disqualified).

Entries should be typed on A4 paper, double spaced in The student's name should **NOT** appear on the entry.

Entries should be made via the **online entry form** found at <[www.fawnsw.org.au](http://www.fawnsw.org.au)>.

The details for direct Deposit are as follows BSB: 082 574 Account Number: 177 603 608. Please use the competitors' name, and the competition as the payment details (ie. J Doe Hilarie Lindsay), and attach a copy of the receipt to the entry form.

Should online submission not be available students may request an entry form <[compconvenor@fawnsw.org.au](mailto:compconvenor@fawnsw.org.au)>.

Email must contain the entry, the entry form, and the Direct Deposit receipt number. Posted entries will be accepted, and should be mailed to the address on the entry form, and be accompanied by a cheque or postal order made out to The Fellowship of Australian Writers NSW.

Entries must be student's own work, unpublished and not having won any competition at time of entry. Normal Competition Conditions apply [see page 24].

Winners will be announced at the FAW NSW Annual Presentation Luncheon in November. Should it not be possible to have a Luncheon again this year, then the certificates will be sent directly to the schools for presentation, and the prize money deposited in the school's bank account via direct debit.

Results will be published in *Writers Voice* and on the FAW NSW website.

Enquiries to Cate Plink <[compconvenor@fawnsw.org.au](mailto:compconvenor@fawnsw.org.au)> Phone 0492 833 522.

### BEN'S STORY

cont. from page 20

Having established Jack had seen the car, and yes he remembered it had a sign on it, Happy Valley Health Resort, Mark dropped a few coins in Jack's cap by way of thanks and they set off down the highway to the resort.

The resort's entrance was impressively lit up, a multitude of lights illuminating the driveway to a large mansion, probably once owned by someone of wealth, now catering for yuppies obsessed about their image!

Displaying their police warrant cards, Mark addressed the fit young man behind the reception desk, "We are

# Writing Competitions

Closing date 15 May 2021

## EASTWOOD/HILLS FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS LITERARY COMPETITION 2021

All categories Open Theme.

### Category 1: Flash Fiction

Max 500 words.

First Prize \$150, Second Prize, \$50

### Category 2: Philippa Holland Award for Poetry

Max 80 lines per poem. (Includes all forms of poetry except Bush Poetry—see *Boree Log* competition on this page).

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: Pauline Walsh Award for 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 payable to: Fellowship of Australian Writers. Fees can also be sent electronically.

Enquiries: Frances Moon <[riaraebeam@gmail.com](mailto:riaraebeam@gmail.com)>.

Each entry must be accompanied by a separate signed entry form. Electronic entries accepted. Please email a Microsoft word file (.doc or .docx) with a separate scanned signed entry form to <[hillsfawcomp@gmail.com](mailto:hillsfawcomp@gmail.com)>.

Conditions of entry and entry forms can be found on the Eastwood-Hills FAW website: <[hillsfaw.wordpress.com](http://hillsfaw.wordpress.com)>.

Closing date 15 May 2021

## EASTWOOD/HILLS FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS BOREE LOG AWARD FOR BUSH VERSE 2021

First Prize \$100 plus a trophy and certificate. Entrants are eligible for one award only.

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

Entry Fee: \$8 per entry—maximum 4 entries per entrant. Cheques or money orders payable to: Fellowship of Australian Writers. Fees can also be sent electronically.

Enquiries: Frances Moon <[riaraebeam@gmail.com](mailto:riaraebeam@gmail.com)>.

Each entry must be accompanied by a separate signed entry form. Electronic entries accepted. Please email a Microsoft word file (.doc or .docx) with a separate scanned signed entry form to <[hillsfawcomp@gmail.com](mailto:hillsfawcomp@gmail.com)>.

Conditions of entry and entry forms can be found on the Eastwood-Hills FAW website: <[hillsfaw.wordpress.com](http://hillsfaw.wordpress.com)>.

Closing date 31 March 2021:

### Call for submissions

## EUCALYPT: A TANKA JOURNAL ISSUE 30

Please submit up to six original, unpublished tanka (one will be selected) in the body of your email to the *Eucalypt* editor, Julie Thorndyke <[editor.eucalypt@gmail.com](mailto:editor.eucalypt@gmail.com)>

For subscription information visit: <[juliethorndyke.com/eucalypt-a-tanka-journal/](http://juliethorndyke.com/eucalypt-a-tanka-journal/)>

For information about the tanka form please refer to: <[www.eucalypt.info](http://www.eucalypt.info)>

## NORMAL COMPETITION CONDITIONS

### Unless stated otherwise, these conditions apply to ALL WRITING COMPETITIONS

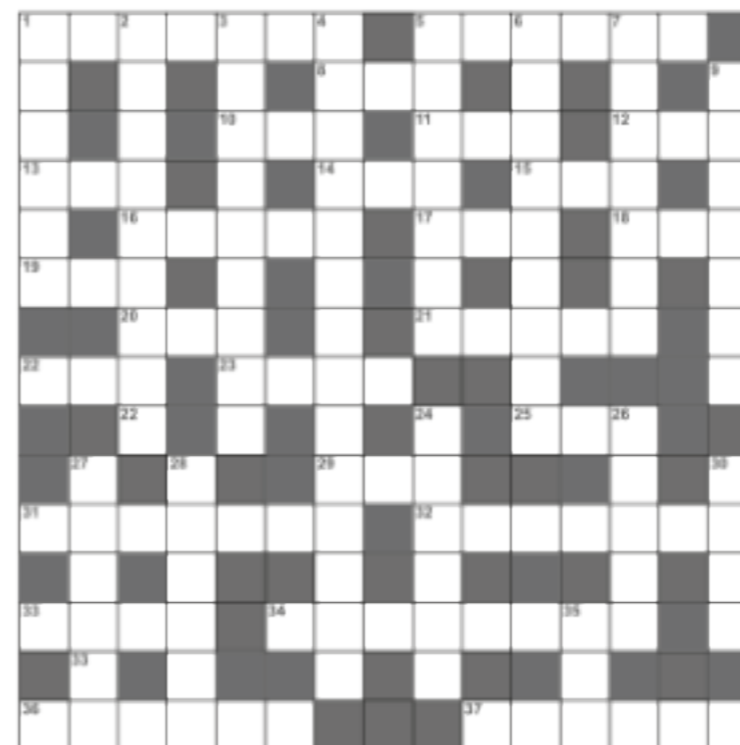
- Entries should be submitted in English, using one side of A4 paper, typed double-spaced (except poetry) in a standard typeface (12 pt min.), using generous margins. No fancy fonts, clip art or decorations of any kind.
- NO names or addresses to appear on manuscripts. A separate COVER SHEET must be 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.*

# Crossword



Thanks to Greg Tome, Southern Highlands branch

Closing date 14 April 2021 (8pm):

## HUNTER WRITERS CENTRE 2021 NEWCASTLE SHORT STORY AWARD

2000 words maximum. Entry Fee \$16.50 (\$15.00 + GST).

1st Prize \$3,000 cash. 2nd Prize \$1500 cash

3rd Prize \$1000 Westfield voucher.

Finalists will be published in an anthology, to be announced on the promoter's website and across its social media channels.

For full Terms & Conditions and online Entry Form, visit [hunterwriterscentre.org/newcastle-short-story-award-2021/](http://hunterwriterscentre.org/newcastle-short-story-award-2021/)

Closing date 30 April 2021:

## FURPHY LITERARY AWARD NATIONAL SHORT STORY COMPETITION

This year's theme is "This Australian Life (in all its diversity)". The competition welcomes fiction and non-fiction entries under 5,000 words from writers aged 18+.

First place wins **\$15,000**, second place **\$3,000**, and third place **\$2,000**. Select finalists will receive publication in the 2021 Furphy Anthology.

Storytelling is part of Furphy's DNA. During WWI, Australian soldiers would trade wild tales (known as "furphies") behind Furphy water carts. The Awards honour both the 'furphy', and Joseph Furphy – brother of Furphy founder John Furphy, and author of the Australian classic *Such is Life*.

To enter, and for full Conditions and more info, visit <[www.furphystory.com.au/furphy-literary-award/](http://www.furphystory.com.au/furphy-literary-award/)>

## ACROSS

1. Statue used as a supporting column in a building. (8)
4. Middle name of poet who wrote *Ode to the West Wind*. (6)
7. Paddle. (3)
8. Antigone's unforgiving, unyielding uncle. (5)
9. Country contracted to assist another if threatened. (4)
10. Male swan; head of maize. (3)
12. Sharif. (4)
13. Of, same quality, type, thing, person. (3)
14. Persian king who invaded Greece with success until a defeat at sea ended his plans. (6)
15. Range of understanding, knowledge. (3)
16. Mouth throat or gullet, usually of a voracious animal. (3)
19. Shipboard prison. (4)
20. Young of monotremes. (7)
21. Possessive pronoun, first person, singular. (2)
23. Ancient life symbol, most often Egyptian. (4)
25. Producing electricity; having an effect from an electric charge. (8)
28. Unusual middle name of a disgraced U.S. president. (7)
30. Soothing for the stomach (less common spelling) (8)
31. Bairn; newborn. (6)
32. Highly regarded director of many films, including, *Strangers on a Train*. (9)

## DOWN

1. Small tapering bone at the base of a human's spine – named after its shape resembling a cuckoo's beak. (6)
2. Greek goddess who resented having to marry a human, mother of hero warrior who killed and was killed at Troy. (6)
3. Put on (a garment). (3)
4. See 19 down.
5. Lewis Carroll nonsense word; a critical remark. (5)
6. Australian dancer, choreographer and actor, internationally renowned. (8)
11. Liberal politician, Chief Justice of the High Court at the time of Whitlam dismissal. (7)
17. Eager, expectant. (4)
18. Largest and most populous continent. (4)
- 19 & 4 down. Nineteenth century English wit, dandy, leader of fashion and injudicious gambler. (4,8)
20. Suburb where the power station was located which lit Sydney streets with electric lighting for the first time in 1902. (7)
22. Chide, upbraid. (5)
24. Another name for Ancient Greece. (6)
26. Disappear. (6)
27. Papal ambassador. (6)
28. Plant used in cooking, or making money. (4)
29. Garment worn by women in South Asia, wrapped around the body. (4)

Answers page 28

# Article

## The Human Face of Kokoda

by **Suellen Holland**, Lake Macquarie FAW

OPPORTUNITIES present themselves all the time and it's our choice whether we act upon these 'opportunities' or not.

Two years ago, I was presented with an opportunity to 'walk' the Kokoda Trail. I admit I am not a person who enjoys camping or 'living rough', I am far too used to modern day conveniences, however, after much thought, I decided to take up the challenge. I conveniently put aside my misgivings of the 'experience' people told me I would remember for the rest of my life; bile rises in my throat at the thought of a long drop toilet, cold water showers leave me well, *cold* and I know that a leech will smell me a mile off, I wonder if leeches like *Diors' Dune*, I hope not. Aside from all that, I felt myself drawn to the idea.

Almost from day one, I decided that I *just didn't want* to scramble up a couple of hills that had a 'mean' reputation and I certainly had nothing to prove, nor did I really care that people thought I was 'brave or tough' because I had committed to a gruelling twelve months training schedule. What I really wanted was to find the 'human face of Kokoda', if she had one. Was she just a dirt track in the Papua New Guinea jungle that happened to have 'war history', a dirt track, that one nation revered and another sought to forget, or was she more than that?

These days the Kokoda Trail is known as the Kokoda Track. Kokoda Trail is the correct name, for the track. It seems *Trail* sounded American, so Track was (unofficially) adopted instead.

The Kokoda Trail story has been told and re-told well. In 1942, the savage campaign fought between Australia and Japan is one of the most epic *and* documented episodes of (our) war history; a few short months when two mortal enemies pushed each other back and forth along a muddy, precipitous bush track over a mountainous spine in southern Papua New Guinea. A few short months when both sides flouted war conventions, shot prisoners, tortured the local villagers for information, raped, pillaged and plundered. A few short months where at times, the conditions were so inhuman, men were reduced to a primal level that, quite literally, left a nasty taste in their mouths.

The courage and sacrifice of our soldiers (mostly unblooded militiamen) supported by the Papuan Infantry Battalion (PIB) is legendary *and* they suffered greatly. The mountainous terrain was foreign to the Australians, they had little or no support from their superiors and to add to the confusion, our troops didn't even have a 'proper' uniform. They had 'sand coloured' cast offs from our desert campaign, the light colour clashed with the dark green of the jungle and made the men an easy target for the enemy; it is documented that the 96-kilometre track claimed the lives of over 600 Australian and PIB soldiers, with well in excess of 1600 wounded. The little-known local jungle path between Owers Corner and Kokoda became a blood-stained path for supremacy. A path where many earned the respect of an awe-inspired (grateful) nation and for many more, the absolute right to wear a medal on their chest. *A human face, I'd say so, wouldn't you.*

But what of the shadowy enemy lurking in the dense wet undergrowth. The smart, smug, sullied and blooded, highly trained, elite 144th Regiment of the Japanese Imperial Army, an army *better* known for their atrocities other than their participation in battle.

This story has been published in the Papua New Guinea Assoc of Aust quarterly magazine *Kundu* (formally *Una Voce*) and also appeared as a blog on June 8, 2019 on the author's web site <[www.suellenholland.com.au](http://www.suellenholland.com.au)>

The Japanese felt the shame of surrender after WWII so acutely that, even today, there is little recorded, much less spoken about. However, I chanced upon a book that gave me an insight as to what it was *really* like for the Japanese soldiers forced to take Kokoda; the mission was doomed to fail, the 'good road' between Buna and Kokoda was non-existent, the promised supplies never arrived, at times the soldiers were so hungry their 'stomachs stuck to the inside wall of their backs' and conditions of the track, lied about. I learned of the desperation to hold their (Kokoda) position at all cost, the breakdown of human decency when faced with defeat, the lack of medical supplies and the accepted demise of the wounded left behind. 'A path of infinite sorrow'. *A Human face traumatised for life.*

And of course, there is the story of the 'Bone man of Kokoda' another young Japanese soldier who fought along every foot of the blood-soaked path. He was the only one from his platoon to survive. After he was evacuated, he made a promise that one day he would return to Kokoda, find the remains of his fallen comrades and bring them home to Japan for a proper burial. Thirty-seven years later he returned to Kokoda, this time he carried a shovel and garden hoe instead of a grenade launcher and rifle. Over the next 17 years he 'worked' the track and unearthed hundreds and hundreds of Japanese remains. Many a time he faced opposition, but he kept his promise and now many of his friends rest in eternal peace in Japan. *A human face that rattled authorities.*

What of the 'Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels', the Papuans who lived along the Kokoda Trail. The villagers lived a wholly traditional existence before the war, however in 1942 everything changed. The young men were recruited to ferry supplies to the front line and carry the wounded back to base; their old and infirm, as well as their women and children, were left to fend for themselves. As the fighting encroached the villagers' land, the soldiers both Australians and Japanese trampled crops, destroyed huts and stole food. *A human face that accepted the inevitable.*

There were five of us in my Kokoda party. We started our trek at Owers Corner 'the bottom end' near Port Moresby and for the next 8 days 'walked' and I use the term loosely up to Kokoda. We waded through rivers, splashed our way over streams and scrambled over huge fallen trees. On day 3 the thunder rolled around the Maguli Range, the heavens opened, and the track became a mud bath. We skidded and slithered our way through Marani and Neuro and then there was Brigade Hill. Little did I know, I was about to face my biggest challenge. The gruelling climb left me, dehydrated and vomiting with exhaustion. That night, I crawled into my tent and dreamt of evacuation. Personal hygiene became a distant memory and the kilos dropped off. Blisters bled and for one of our party, a tummy bug threatened a medical evacuation. Tempers flared and harsh words were spoken and a long-standing friendship, fractured beyond repair. Onward and upward we climbed and trekked and climbed and trekked again. We passed through Myola, Templeton's Crossing and at Isurava rested a while in quiet reflection. Kokoda was firmly in our sights. Finally, on the afternoon of day eight we walked through the hallowed arches that marked the entrance to Kokoda. Our mission complete.



In many aspects the Kokoda Trail of today is as it was back then, a well-used highway. The Owen Stanley Ranges still echo with the sounds of battle; cries of anguish pierce the air, heavy footed, rubber soled boots shake the ground, and the rattle of water bottles announce the arrival of another group of bloodied and weary 'troops'. The path is full of trekkers, all decked out (as I was) in their state-of-the-art gear; fancy expensive hiking boots, pure wool socks, waking sticks and brightly coloured day packs. They sweat, groan and stumble and as darkness falls, crawl into their warm sleeping bags and sleep like the dead. But *what if*, the clothes they wore was a bull's eye for the enemy, the water they guzzled was muddy and full of mosquito lava and their childhood mate lay in a hastily dug shallow grave further up the track; oh God how am I gonna tell his Mum he took the bullet for me. What if?

And what about the locals, the Papuans who call Kokoda home; they run along the track in bare feet, often with a child on their hip. Leap from log to slippery log and step off the path to let you (and a hundred others) pass. They shelter under a leaf when it rains, drink from a stream that gushes from the hillside. Fill their string billums with yams and coconuts and offer you a banana and a hand when you stumble. Much the same *really* as in 1942. What is that about? Said no one ever.

I am happy to say I found my 'Human Face of Kokoda'. The Australian Troops and the PIB who stopped an almost invincible enemy, the Japanese Imperial Army who sacrificed themselves for their living deity and the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels who so many owe their lives to. Let us cross the boundaries and remember whatever their colour or their creed, they all had a *Human Face*. But in my mind the *true* 'Human Face of Kokoda' are the Papuans both past and present. The Porters, guides and local peoples who carry our packs, clean our boots of mud and nourish our tummies with food. Tend to our wounds, fill our water bottles and offer words of encouragement when the going gets tough. All without a murmur of malice *and* they graciously share their Kokoda with us, just as they did in 1942.

They are the *true* Human Faces of Kokoda.

My admiration and respect are heart felt for the local guides and porters from Kokoda Spirit who not only attended my *every* need and shared *their* Kokoda with me, but showed me that the Kokoda Trail has many, many human faces, both past and present, not just one.

Lest We Forget.

**Suellen**



# Literary Achievements

## BLUE MOUNTAINS FAW

**Pat Allen, Rosemary Baldry and Margaret Onus**

Their stories were included in *Seniors' Stories Volume 6* which you can read here: <[www.seniorscard.nsw.gov.au/news-activities/seniors-stories](http://www.seniorscard.nsw.gov.au/news-activities/seniors-stories)>.

**Jeanette Temesvary**

Had her short story titled 'Counting on You' included in the 'Blue Mountains Stories: A Year Like No Other' exhibition. This will be displayed in their virtual gallery and retained as part of Blue Mountains City Council historical archives. Read her story here: <[yoursay.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/blue-mountains-stories](http://yoursay.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/blue-mountains-stories)>.

**Kathryn Walls**

Successful publication of her historical fiction novel titled *Tallawoladah: on the Rocks* on Amazon Kindle as an ebook. Read more about her novel on the 'Bookshelf' page.

## FOREST FAW

**Maureene Fries**

Maureene's novel, *Stones, Bones and Hollyhocks: Life and Legend Collide*, was published in January.

**Sophie Chenoweth**

Sophie has self-published two full-colour books of poetry through Internet site Story Jumper: *The Ballerina* and *The Paperbark King*.

**Colleen Russell**

Colleen's poem 'Moon of my Delight' was shortlisted in the *Positive Words* End-of-Year Short Story and Poetry Competition 2020

Short Story 'Run, Marlee, Run' was commended in the Port Stephens Literature Award 2020.

**Margaret Zanardo**

Margaret has had the following poems published: 'Ophelia', in *Polestar Writers' Journal* #39, November 2020; 'Barefoot Ballerina', in *Positive Words*, December 2020; 'Sleepyhead', in *Positive Words*, December 2020; 'Ain't Misbehavin'', in *The Mozzie*, October 2020; 'The Wind from the South', in *The Mozzie*, October 2020; 'this other normal', in *The Mozzie*, October 2020; 'In My Blood', in *The Mozzie*, January 2021; 'Aretha', in *The Mozzie*, January '21.

## LAKE MACQUARIE FAW

**Alison Ferguson**

Awarded first prize in the Wyong Writers 500-word Pandemic Story competition, short story 'COVID corpse'.

**Pam Garfoot**

Published in *Morisset and Peninsula Bulletin*, No. 94 Dec 2020, short story 'Any other name'

Published in *Morisset and Peninsula Bulletin*, No. 95 Feb 2021, poem 'Statis'

Published in *Hunter Professional Arts Magazine*, Issue 5 Nov 2020–Feb 2021, article 'Focus on writing' and short story 'Washing day'

Shortlisted in January 2021 in the *Newcastle Herald* Short Story Competition 2021, short story 'Living the blues'.

*cont. next page...*

# Literary Achievements

## Lake Macquarie

*cont. from previous page*

### Elizabeth Horwitz

Published in *Hunter Professional Arts Magazine*, Issue 5 Nov 2020–Feb 2021, editorial.

### Olga Korlevic

Published by Languedoc, children's story book *Little Lorie had a farm*.

### Tony Lang

Published in *Hunter Professional Arts Magazine*, Issue 5 Nov 2020–Feb 2021, poem 'Mother moon, father sun, Venus child' and article 'Marley's ghost'.

### Bronwyn MacRitchie

Shortlisted in January 2021 in the Newcastle Herald Short Story Competition 2021, short story 'Blank'.

### Kristen Mair

Shortlisted in January 2021 in the *Newcastle Herald* Short Story Competition 2021, short story 'A grave mistake'.

### Jan Mitchell

Published in *Hunter Professional Arts Magazine*, Issue 5 Nov 2020–Feb 2021, article 'Phosphorescence or bioluminescence? Some musings, part one' and short story 'The missing sapphire', also review 'A morality play set to music'

Published, book *Food for eyes: nutrients for ailing vision*.

### Rina Robinson

Published in *Hunter Professional Arts Magazine*, Issue 5 Nov 2020–Feb 2021, poems 'Desires', 'Tribute' and 'Why Christmas?'

### Margaret Young

Published in *Hunter Professional Arts Magazine*, Issue 5 Nov 2020–Feb 2021, poem 'Simpson Desert: a sestina'.

## MACARTHUR FAW

### Kim Sami

1st Prize in the Oran Park Parish Short Story Competition on the theme of 'A Good News Story'.

### Victoria Chie

Two short stories sold to English magazines: 'More Fool Her' to *English Woman's Weekly* and 'The Ming Test' to *English Woman's Own*.

### Bernard Smith

Winner of end-of-year 2000-word short story competition with a story entitled 'A Good Book'.

## MUDGE VALLEY WRITERS

### Kevin Pye

TSA Lyrics Award at Tamworth for 'The Sepia Soldier'.

### Pamela Meredith

'Shiloh Grace Has A Problem' published in *FreeXpresSion*.

### Marilyn Sayer

'The Donkey', 'Trying To Diet or Dying To Try It', 'Covi What?' and 'The Farmer From Mudgee' published in *FreeXpresSion*

Plays, 'Covid Bandits' and 'You Can't Die Twice' accepted for performance in Mudgee Shorts 2021.

### Jill Baggett

Short stories, 'The Blue Umbrella' and 'Matilda's Friend' in *Celebrating Women* book from Kyabram International Women's Day

Play, 'Move Over Picasso' accepted for performance in Mudgee Shorts 2021.

## PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS FAW

### Ian Keast

Tanka published in *Eucalypt Journal*, November 2020, 'To a Child's Eye'

2 Tanka published in *Kendall Chronicle*, December 2020, 'Coffee Moods'

Poem (Anthology) published Poetica Christi Press Melbourne 2021, 'Early Enough', in *Joy in the Morning*

### Jackie Laing

Published in *NSW Seniors' Stories Volume 6*, 'The Sixtieth Birthday Treat'

PMH, In-house competition Short Story Winner, 'A Weekend Away'

### Brian Tolagson

Published in *Seniors' Stories Volume 6*, 'All Quiet on the Eastern Front'

### Jill Schuler

Published in *Seniors' Stories Volume 6*, 'My Father's Story'

### Kaye Christensen

PMH, In-house competition Poetry Winner, 'Tis Our Centenary My Darlin'.

## REVESBY WRITERS FAW

### Madeleine Pizzuti

*Bear* which has had excellent reviews by Goodreads was scheduled to be promoted in a local café KaDeli at Panania on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th March. *Bear* is a story of a much loved teddy bear and his young companion.

### Diana Jabbour

Bankstown Library are looking forward to Diana's next book regarding the history of Georges Hall and local area such as Bankstown Airport.

## SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS FAW

### Lorraine James

Short story 'Spring rain' published in *Writers Voice*, December 2020.

### Deborah Ritchie

Poem 'Susan in a photograph' to be published in *Burrow*, 2nd edition.

### Greg Tome

Play 'The three sisters' best play and best director awarded at Bundanoon Crash Test Finals 2020

Poem 'Ophelia drowning' to be published *Burrow*, 2nd Ed Book of poetry 'Tilting at time' reviewed favourably by *Plumwood Mountain Literary Magazine*

## SUTHERLAND FAW

### Helen Armstrong

Editor, Oatley Writers' Group 2021 Anthology.

### Fiona Johnstone

Short story in Oatley Writers' Group 2021 Anthology.

### Pat Ruell

Short story in Oatley Writers' Group 2021 Anthology.

### Elaine Staples

Published a book of her short stories illustrated with reproductions of her oil paintings for her 90th birthday.

### Christine Sykes

Won Best Fiction Award from The Society of Women Writers for her novel, *The Changing Room*

Her memoir, *Gough and me* to be published by Simon & Schuster Australia in May 2021.

### Sylvia Vago

Published a short story in Oatley Writers' Group 2021 anthology.

## SYDNEY CITY FAW

### Pip Griffin

*Margaret Caro, the extraordinary life of a pioneering dentist, New Zealand 1848-1938*, Pohutukawa Press, was Highly Commended in the poetry section of the Society of Women Writers' Awards 2020 at a ceremony at the State Library of NSW on 10 February 2021.

The Covid-postponed launch of *Margaret Caro* held at the Leichhardt Town Hall on 21 February 2021

Two poems in the anthology *Democratic Poetic: the finest poems published in Poetry Matters 2006-2019*, Issue 40 December 2020

Currently working on *Harriet Webb: My Adventures in New Zealand*, a fictional verse narrative about a sixteen-year-old housemaid who migrates alone from Portsmouth to NZ in 1863.

### Colleen Keating

*Hildegard of Bingen: A poetic journey* won two awards at the Society of Women Writers NSW Biennial Book Awards: SWW Poetry Book Award 2020 and SWW Non-fiction Book Award 2020

*Desert Patterns* Highly Commended Poetry Award at the SWW Biennial Book Awards Feb 2021

*Brush of Birds* by Colleen Keating: A Picaro Poets collection, January 2021 published by Ginninderra Press Australia and can be purchased from [www.ginninderrapress.com.au](http://www.ginninderrapress.com.au)

Poem 'summer anguish' in *Mozzie* Volume 28 Jan. 2021

Blurb written for the back cover of poetry collection *The mathematics of love* by Sonia Hunt January 2021

Haiku in *Windfall* #9 2021, ed. Beverley George

Two poems, 'face of verity' and 'no virtual meeting here' in *Mozzie* Vol. 28, 2021

Five poems 'escape with cezanne', 'seeing eyes', 'not narcissus', 'marilyn', 'memory' in *Poetry Matters*.

Democratic Poetics subtitled *A Gathering of the Finest*. Poems published in *Poetry Matters* from 2006 to 2019.

Blurb written for back cover of poetry collection *Now and Then* by Joanna Van Kool December 2020

[www.ginninderrapress.com.au](http://www.ginninderrapress.com.au)

Book Review of *Hildegard of Bingen: A poetic journey*, reviewed by Beatriz Copello *Women's Ink* March 2020

A poem, 'Platypus Spotting is Fun!' and short story, 'I was Lost' in Society of Women Writers, NSW Inc 95th anniversary anthology *Splash, Splish, Squawk* 2020

Poem, 'Sydney to Melbourne' in *Mozzie* Vol 27 May 2020

Poem, 'Ritual' in *Mozzie* Volume 28 July 2020

Poem 'Pandemic' in *Womens Ink*, SWW July 2020

Poem 'In search of Hildegard' translated into German and made into a Podcast as part of the Pilgrimage in honour of Hildegard of Bingen, Germany in September 2020

Poem 'Gardeners of Hope' published in *Holy Shenanigans* Podcast of Pastor Tara Eastman Central New York *Mists of Time* co-edited with Decima Wraxall. Ginninderra Press Chapbook

New collection of poetry, working title *Salty Beachcomber* for publication mid 2021 accepted by Ginninderra Press.

## WOLLONDILLY FAW

### Andy Renella

Playwriting member Andy made it through to the yearly finals with his entry to the Bundanoon Crash Test Drama Play competition for 2020.

### Narelle Noppert

Two entries accepted (along with Jill Baggett from Mudgee) by Kyabram Town Hall Writers in Victoria for their book written for women or about women for International Women's Day 2021. The launch of the book was on 6th March at Kyabram Town Hall.

**Narelle, Maureen Kelly and Jill Baggett** as joint writers, also had a joint story accepted for the same publication, *Celebrating Women*. □

## Crossword Answers

[Puzzle page 25]



# Branch Meetings and Contacts

## BLUE MOUNTAINS FAW

1st Sunday – 1.45 to 4.45 pm

Note new venue:

Springwood Sports Club  
Enquiries: Jeanette Temesvary  
Phone: 0423 908 199  
91 Buena Vista Rd, Winmalee 2777  
Email: <[temesvary.jns@gmail.com](mailto:temesvary.jns@gmail.com)>  
Facebook page:  
<[Blue Mountains Writers FAW](#)>

## CANBERRA & REGION FAW

Second Sunday – 2:00 pm

The National Library of Australia  
(Friends' Room)  
Parkes Place West, Canberra. ACT.  
Enquiries:  
Jenni Warren 0408 434 954  
Email:  
<[jenniferj.warren@bigpond.com](mailto:jenniferj.warren@bigpond.com)>

## 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](mailto:riaraebeam@gmail.com)>  
or Laura Davis (Sec.) Email:  
<[lauraceedee@yahoo.com.au](mailto:lauraceedee@yahoo.com.au)>  
Web: <[hillsfaw.wordpress.com](http://hillsfaw.wordpress.com)>

## EUROBODALLA FAW

1st & 3rd Wednesdays –  
10.30am to 2.30pm and  
1st Tuesday 6.30–8.30 pm

McKay Centre, Page St, Moruya.  
Enquiries: Rosie Toth 0437 627 756  
Email: <[rosietoth102@gmail.com](mailto:rosietoth102@gmail.com)>  
Web:  
<[www.eurobodallawriters.org](http://www.eurobodallawriters.org)>

## FOREST FAW

3rd Saturday – 2.00 pm

Forest Community Arts Centre  
Darley Street, Forestville.  
Enquiries: Maureen Fries  
0421 551 157  
Email:  
<[maureen.fries@gmail.com](mailto:maureen.fries@gmail.com)>

## GRIFFITH RIVERINA FAW

Last Thursday – 6.30pm

Family Funland Rooms  
Bunnings Complex,  
Kidman Way  
Enquiries: Cara Anderssen  
Phone: 0424263412  
Email:  
<[cara.anderssen199@gmail.com](mailto:cara.anderssen199@gmail.com)>

## HUNTER FAW

1st Wednesday – 10.00 am

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

## ISOLATED WRITERS FAW

This group of writers do not meet in person but keep in contact through Carolyn Cash, their Convenor, either through the state FAW website <[fawns.org.au](http://fawns.org.au)> or email <[isolatedwriters@fawns.org.au](mailto:isolatedwriters@fawns.org.au)>. See Isolated Writers page (inside back cover) for full details.

## KIAMA FAW

4th Saturday – 10am to 12 noon

Kiama Leagues Club  
109 Terralong Street, Kiama.  
Enquiries: Sandra McCarthy (Sec.)  
0409 366 723  
Email: <[sandramc@uow.edu.au](mailto:sandramc@uow.edu.au)>

## LAKE MACQUARIE FAW

2nd Saturday – 2.30 to 4.30pm

Please note the slight change of time, with meetings beginning at 2.30 for a trial period.  
Toronto Multi-Purpose Centre,  
9 Thorne Street, Toronto.  
Email: <[lakemacfaw2@gmail.com](mailto:lakemacfaw2@gmail.com)>  
Facebook: </LakeMacFAW>  
Website:  
<[lakemacfaw2.wordpress.com](http://lakemacfaw2.wordpress.com)>  
Twitter: @lakemacfaw2  
Instagram: #lakemacfaw2

## LAMBING FLAT (YOUNG)

2nd Monday – 5.30 to 7.00pm

(Except December and January)  
The Young Services Club  
Cloete Street, Young  
Enquiries: Peter Symes (Pres)  
0413 827 217  
Email: <[peter@pjsymes.com.au](mailto:peter@pjsymes.com.au)>  
Branch email:  
<[lambingflatbranchfaw@hotmail.com](mailto:lambingflatbranchfaw@hotmail.com)>

## MACARTHUR FAW

3rd Sunday – 1.00 pm

Campbelltown RSL Club  
(Jade Room), Carberry Lane.  
Enquiries: Victoria Chie 4862 2771  
Email: <[vchie46@bigpond.com](mailto:vchie46@bigpond.com)>

## MOOCOBOOLA FAW

3rd Thursday – 1.30 pm

Gladesville Library  
Pittwater Road, Gladesville.  
Enquiries: John Egan 0435 835 346  
Robert Dickins 9713 8088  
Dai Fei Wang 0422 432 130

## MUDGE VALLEY FAW

2nd Tuesday – 12 Noon

Club Mudgee,  
Mortimer Street, Mudgee.  
Enquiries: Jill Baggett 02 6372 0743  
PO BOX 356, Mudgee 2850  
Web: <[mudgeevalleywriters.wordpress.com](http://mudgeevalleywriters.wordpress.com)>

## NORTH ARM COVE FAW

3rd Thursday – 6.30 pm

Community Centre, The Ridgeway,  
North Arm Cove.  
Enquiries: Lee Clayton 0411 883 264  
Email: <[agiftofsong@icloud.com](mailto:agiftofsong@icloud.com)>  
FaceBook: <[North Arm Cove Fellowship Of Australian Writers](#)>

## PARRAMATTA FAW

1st Saturday – 12.30 pm

Room A Level 2, 1 Fitzwilliam Street  
(RAFFLES building next door to the library, across from Parramatta Stn).  
To gain access to the 2nd floor ring the Secretary, Lyn Leerson 0421 188 770.

## PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS FAW

Last Saturday – 1.00 to 4.00pm

The Mac Adams Music Centre  
33 Lord Street, Port Macquarie  
(behind the Players Theatre near the pool carpark)  
Enquiries:  
Jackie Laing (Pres.) 6559 5387  
PO Box 67 Port Macquarie 2444  
Email: <[jackiel3@bigpond.com](mailto:jackiel3@bigpond.com)>

## PORT STEPHENS FAW

3rd Thursday – 10.00 am

Tomaree Library, Salamander Bay  
Enquiries:  
Christine Gregory (Pres.) 4982 2004  
Email: <[gregorywrite@bigpond.com](mailto:gregorywrite@bigpond.com)>  
Web:  
<[portstephensfoaw.wordpress.com](http://portstephensfoaw.wordpress.com)>

## REVESBY WRITERS FAW

1st Saturday – 1.00 to 4.00pm

Macarthur Room,  
Dixon Lane, Revesby  
Enquiries: Shirley Galloway 9709 4117  
Email: <[revesbywriters@gmail.com](mailto:revesbywriters@gmail.com)>  
Web: <[revesbywriters.com](http://revesbywriters.com)>

## SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

2nd Saturday – 10.00am to 1pm

New Venue to end of 2020:  
Welby Hall, Welby.  
Enquiries: Uta Purcell (Sec.)  
02 4862 1793  
Email: <[fawshnsw@hotmail.com](mailto:fawshnsw@hotmail.com)>  
Web: <[fawsh.wordpress.com](http://fawsh.wordpress.com)>

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.

**NOTE: While COVID-19 restrictions are in place, normal scheduled meetings listed here may not be held—please contact the relevant branch for more details.**

## STROUD WRITERS FAW

Fortnightly Thursdays  
9.00 am to 12 noon

Stroud Library, Church Lane, Stroud  
Enquiries:  
Dianne Foster 0429 487 601  
Email: <[stroudwriters@gmail.com](mailto:stroudwriters@gmail.com)>

## SUTHERLAND SHIRE FAW

Last Saturday – 12.30 to 3.30pm

Sutherland Multi-purpose Centre  
123 Flora Street, Sutherland  
Enquiries: Sylvia Vago  
All postal mail to 43 Jellicoe Street,  
Caringbah South. NSW. 2229  
Email:  
<[sutherlandshirefaw@gmail.com](mailto:sutherlandshirefaw@gmail.com)>  
Web:  
<[sutherlandshirefaw.weebly.com](http://sutherlandshirefaw.weebly.com)>

## SYDNEY CITY FAW

3rd Friday – 4.00 pm

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

## WOLLONDILLY FAW

2nd Sunday – 1.00 pm

Tahmoor Community Centre,  
6 Harper Close, Tahmoor.  
Enquiries: Jean Mills (Pres.)  
0427 213 300  
<[wollondillybranch.faw@gmail.com](mailto:wollondillybranch.faw@gmail.com)>

## WYONG WRITERS FAW

4th Saturday – 1.30pm

Woodbury Park Community Centre  
1 Woolmers Cres. (off Woodbury  
Park Drive), Mardi.  
Enquiries:  
Mei-Ling Venning (Pres.) 4333 7489  
85 Oaks Road, Shelly Beach 2261  
<[meilingvenning@hotmail.com](mailto:meilingvenning@hotmail.com)>  
Web: <[www.wyongwriters.org](http://www.wyongwriters.org)>

## Fellowship of Australian Writers NSW Inc.

ABN 59 557 152 715



General correspondence: Hon. Secretary, FAW NSW Inc.  
3/91 Main Road, McLaren Vale SA 5171

Internet: <[www.fawns.org.au](http://www.fawns.org.au)>

Facebook: <[www.facebook.com/FAWNNSW](http://www.facebook.com/FAWNNSW)>

## 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 opposite page) or by contacting the FAW NSW State body (as above).

## The Fellowship of Australian Writers INTERSTATE BRANCHES

### Victoria:

Fellowship of Australian Writers (VIC) Inc.  
453 Bourke Road, Katamatite VIC 3649  
VENUE: The Hive Creative Centre,  
53 Summerhill Road, Reservoir VIC. 3073.  
Phone: 03 9478 1942  
Email: <[president@writers.asn.au](mailto:president@writers.asn.au)>  
Web: <[fawvic.com.au](http://fawvic.com.au)>

### Tasmania:

Fellowship of Australian Writers (TAS) Inc.  
PO Box 234, North Hobart TAS 7002  
Phone: 03 6234 4418  
Web: <[www.fawtas.org.au](http://www.fawtas.org.au)>

### Western Australia (FAWWA):

Fellowship of Australian Writers (WA) Inc.  
PO Box 6180, Swanbourne WA 6010  
Phone: 08 9384 4771  
Email: <[fellowshipaustralianwriterswa@gmail.com](mailto:fellowshipaustralianwriterswa@gmail.com)>  
Web: <[www.fawwa.org](http://www.fawwa.org)>

### Queensland (FAWQ):

Fellowship of Australian Writers Queensland (FAWQ)  
Email: <[fawqwrite@gmail.com](mailto:fawqwrite@gmail.com)>  
Web: <[www.fawq.com.au](http://www.fawq.com.au)>

## FAW ISOLATED WRITERS BRANCH

### MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES:

Carolyn Cash, Isolated Writers Convenor  
Email: <[isolatedwriters@fawns.org.au](mailto:isolatedwriters@fawns.org.au)>

### MEMBERS' ACHIEVEMENTS:

The Editor, Writers Voice  
28/100 Government Road, Wyeec Point NSW 2259  
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### AFFILIATION FEES:

FAW NSW Affiliation Fees are due 31 December each year.

Isolated Writers: \$46.00 pa  
Under 21/Youth Rate: \$23.00 pa  
Overseas Members: \$51.00 pa

Mail subscriptions to the FAW State Treasurer Kay Bakon (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 <[fawmembership@fawns.org.au](mailto:fawmembership@fawns.org.au)> that you have paid. This will ensure that you are included on the mailing list to receive *Writers Voice*.

### ELECTRONIC ROUND ROBIN (ERR):

This consists of manuscripts submitted by members, sent as email attachments for reading and comments by other members. They are collated and at least two parcels of the manuscripts are sent to members as listed, who in turn read, comment and send them on. The last person on each list sends the parcel back, at which time the items are reviewed with comments and each manuscript returned to its author. Poems, articles, short stories, plays and chapters of books are acceptable.

Please limit your submissions to:

- 1 short story, maximum 5,000 words, or
- 2 short stories, total maximum 5,000 words, or
- 1 article of similar length, or
- 3 poems (or 1 poem, maximum about 80 lines), or
- 1 chapter of a book in progress (of reasonable length).

These guidelines are flexible. A combination of several of the above can be offered if the items are only short.

Apart from your comments, your contribution to the scheme is no more than the time required to send the parcel of manuscripts on to the next person on the list—a small price to pay for the value that can be derived from others' constructive remarks on your work.

### ERR Closing Dates

The ERR closes at the end of each month.

### ERR Submissions

Send your submissions to the ERR coordinator, Brian Armour. Email: <[isolatedwriters.err@gmail.com](mailto:isolatedwriters.err@gmail.com)>



# FAW Members' Bookshelf

MAUREENE ANN FRIES

*Stones, Bones & Hollyhocks*

*Stones, Bones & Hollyhocks* reveals what can happen when Life & Legend Collide and the footsteps of today, find the footprints of the past. Set in southern England, both iconic and secluded sacred sites play centre stage to a life changing adventure and uncover a tale of powerful vengeance reaching across the ages. The reader is taken on a journey across England but the story begins well before. It slowly reveals the bizarre events leading up to the trip and those that continue to happen. These experiences open up a new or perhaps forgotten world and provide the catalyst for a magical tale, spanning almost a thousand years. Fuelled by legends, events and imagination, the history of a cursed Druid amulet, winds its way across the centuries. Available as an eBook on (KDP) Amazon Kindle (\$5.99) and Paperback (\$21.99 plus \$5.50 postage). Available direct from Author <[maureene.fries@gmail.com](mailto:maureene.fries@gmail.com)>

MADELEINE PIZZUTI

*Bear*

When bear first meets baby Michael, they get off to a shaky start. From close encounters with ceiling fans to confrontations with slobbery dogs, Bear's life never lacks adventure! But through the bad times and the good, friendship grows—a bond not even time can break. Suitable for 7–12 years, and bedtime stories for younger children. Available through Amazon or by emailing <[maddymissin@yahoo.com](mailto:maddymissin@yahoo.com)>

CAROLINE TUOHEY

*Piper Picks the Perfect Pet*

"My dad says I can choose a pet, but I'm not sure which pet to get. A dog, a cat, a fish, a rat?"

How can Piper pick the perfect pet when there are so many appealing possibilities? A rhyming picture book for the 0-8 year old age range. Illustrated by Nicky Johnston and published by Ford Street Publishing it's available in both hardcover (RRP \$24.95) and paperback (RRP \$16.95). Able to be sourced from all good bookshops. Signed copies can be purchased from the author's website at [www.carolinetuohey.com](http://www.carolinetuohey.com)

VALERIE PARV AM

*34 Million Books*

Part memoir and part writing guide, Valerie Parv's book takes you inside her world of words, from the drama of Parvgate to being made a Member of the Order of Australia. Published in fiction and nonfiction since the age of fourteen, she's sold over 34 million books and ebooks translated into 29 languages. Each chapter includes a "writing takeaway" for those interested in how she works her story magic or would like to follow in her footsteps.

"Valerie is one of the world's most widely read romance fiction writers," *New Woman Magazine*.

ISBN 978-0-6489168-0-2 Published in September 2020. Available in paperback and ebook formats with purchasing links at <[www.valerieparv.com](http://www.valerieparv.com)>

LAKE MACQUARIE FAW

*Beneath the Surface*

An anthology of writing from Lake Macquarie. This volume is a collection of short stories, poems and experiences written by members of the Lake Macquarie Branch of the Fellowship of Australian Writers. We were inspired by the lake we live by and what lurks beneath its surface.

**UPDATE:** This anthology is now available in paperback, ebook, and large print versions.

ISBN 978-1-876409-63-0 Available through all major online book retailers, including Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Kobo.

JAN DEAN

*Intermittent Angels*

*Intermittent Angels* is a wonderful, varied collection from the poet Jan Dean using several poetic forms including tanka, pantoum and sestina. As she says in her quote: "The angels in my life are either wondrous or wicked; often both."

This is a collection with surprises and delights on every page. It is witty, poignant, gloriously visual and daringly original. Even if the angels are only 'intermittent', this is a wondrous account of an intensely experienced earth-bound life.

Copies are available for \$20 plus \$3.50 ordinary postage, by cheque or bank transfer for 100 plus pages of poetry. Registered, express and tracked mails are more expensive. For further details please email Jan Dean <[jandidean@bigpond.com](mailto:jandidean@bigpond.com)>

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*Writers Voice* to: <[weditor@fawns.org.au](mailto:weditor@fawns.org.au)>

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For the FAW NSW *website*, members should also send a

cover image and blurb to the webmaster:

<[webmaster@fawns.org.au](mailto:webmaster@fawns.org.au)>

The FAW Bookshelf web page address is: <[fawns.org.au/bookshelf/](http://fawns.org.au/bookshelf/)>

COLLEEN KEATING and PIP GRIFFIN

*Mood Indigo*

A collaboration of poetry by Pip Griffin and Colleen Keating, *Mood Indigo* is a Picaro Poets chapbook published under the umbrella of Ginninderra Press. It is composed of 24 succinct and lyrical poems which are perfect for the reader wanting to retreat into a pocket-sized poetry book with an inner covenant of peace.

Colleen and Pip's poetry transports the reader to Alice Springs, to Lake Ainsworth, pleads for an end to war and finds renewed hope in the return of a single red wattle bird.

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PIP GRIFFIN

*Margaret Caro, the extraordinary life*

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Margaret Caro, the author's great aunt, was unusual among New Zealand middle-class women reformers of her time in that during her married life she worked continually and with financial success in a male-dominated occupation.

"This is a truly astonishing book with its depth of scholarship... (showing) a profound understanding of the family history (and) a picture of late 19th century and early 20th century New Zealand culture, dentistry processes, Adventist rites, dress and Western and Maori medical techniques. There is something for everyone in this book"—Les Wicks, Australian poet, publisher and editor.

Available from the author, <[pipegiffin8@gmail.com](mailto:pipegiffin8@gmail.com)>, \$25.00 plus \$7.00 postage within Australia.

JULIE THORNDYKE

*Watching Through The Day*

Beautifully interpreted by illustrator Nandina Vines, this book is one day's visual journey with a young photographer who observes small creatures encountered in the southeast Australian coastal landscape.

"Watching Through the Day is an exquisite closer look at all that flies, creeps, weaves and floats about the Australian bush, backyard and seaside, a visual sensual feast that satisfies both nature-lovers and those with a fondness for detail."—Dimitry Powell, *Managing Ed, Kids Book Review*. IPKidz, 2020. ISBN 9781922332073 (HB, 32pp) \$26. <[www.ipoz.biz/portfolio-single/watching-through-the-day/](http://www.ipoz.biz/portfolio-single/watching-through-the-day/)>

J GAULTON

*Our Tom*

Tom Middleton sees the outbreak of war a chance to escape his humdrum life. Upon hearing of the sinking of the *Lusitania*, Tom decides to enlist not only to get away from his lonely life but to protect his family and the country he loves. Tom and his new friends are catapulted into the heat and dust of garrison duty in Egypt. A country where disease is rampant, debauchery just around the corner and death hides in plain sight. Amid the turmoil, he meets a fiery young nurse, Ella, who helps him come to terms with the death of his friend and shows him what love is. As the eve of the third battle for Gaza looms, Tom and Ella are torn apart by the rigid rules and a hidden secret. Will their love survive the desert storm that is about to hit them, will they be together at the end?

Available in Paperback, Hardback and eBook formats from the Publisher, Xlibris and from Amazon; or in Paperback only (Cost \$20 + \$5 postage), direct from the Author <[jgaulton@gmail.com](mailto:jgaulton@gmail.com)>



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