



In Print



Official Newsletter of The Society of Women Writers of WA, Inc

April 2009

President's Patter

I am delighted to tell you that plans are in hand for a Writers' Retreat at Fairbridge, from Monday August 3rd to Friday August 7th. To those who have never been on a Retreat, think seriously about coming along. There is a lot of talking and making new friends but primarily it is a time to write. Some people use the time to finish already established projects and others delight in different exercises as their imaginations are teased.

The Society has moved into another era with e-newsletters. For those of you who will still receive the print edition, from **MAY** your copy will arrive in the second week of the month. There was no volunteer to take over the printing and posting therefore the committee will do this prior to their monthly meeting.

It is with sadness that I have to record the passing of our esteemed Life Member Carmel Cottrell. She will be missed.

However you spend the Easter holidays, enjoy them. Keep your eyes and ears open to snatch inspiration wherever you may be and **KEEP WRITING**

Linda

Next Monthly Meeting 14th April 2009

How long does it take to write a novel?

Our guest speaker in April will be Jennifer Gay Albertson and will speak to this topic. As an international creative director in advertising and a writer/producer in the film industry*, Jennifer Albertson is the recipient of national and global awards.

Jennifer's interest in serious prose began in 2001. In that year she won the inaugural Port Fairy Ex-Libris National Short Story Competition and was published in The BooBook Anthology. Since then further stories have appeared in Southerly Vol.63 No.2, Spiny Babbler Anthology of Australasian Stories, Silverfish New Writing 2, Silverfish Collateral Damage and Silverfish New Writing 4. Jennifer's first novel, 'In Two Minds' (currently with a literary agent and publisher) was the creative component of the MA in Creative Writing awarded by the University of Western Australia's Graduate Research School in September 2008.

Jennifer lived and worked in Western Australia for ten years, practicing as a Jungian psychotherapist, giving seminars and workshops and contributing a regular therapeutic column on dreams. When her husband passed away Jennifer decided to return to her home state to be near her family. She now lives in Nambucca Heads, NSW.

*All film credits are under the nom de plume Jenny Nussinov

The Society of Women Writers, WA, Inc

Patron: Ruth Reid AM Cit.WA

2008 – 2009 Committee

President: Linda Blackshaw
Secretary: Mavis Evans
Treasurer: Stella Hewson

Committee: Judith Hyams, Barbara Mansfield
Silvana Preo, Patricia Sagers,
Lorraine Spring, Sally Richardson

Webmistress: Helen Iles
Writers' Circles Co-ordinator: Raelene Hall

Newsletter Ed: Frances Richardson
Competitions: Anne Dyson

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING – 17TH MARCH 2009

Minutes of the General Meeting of The Society of Women Writers WA, Inc, held on 17th March 2009 at Citiplace Community Centre, Perth Railway Station.

The meeting commenced at 12:15pm

There were 29 members including former member Jennifer Browne and 1 visitor, Robyn Geraudo in attendance.

Apologies were received from Shirley Carton, Mary MacGregor, Kathy Browne, Lorna Clark, Pat Fletcher, Sarah Evans, Enis Pearce, Lynne Doyle, Maude Michell and Sue Clennell.

Mavis Evans, Secretary, read the February minutes. Moved by Silvana Preo. Seconded by Jacqui Stewart.

Business Arising:

- Linda said that there will not be any sessions of Poetry Corner at Pages Café.
- Linda reminded the meeting that the April Newsletter will be emailed to those who had listed email addresses, the same week as usual. Mailed Newsletters will be sent the second week, as a decision had been made for the Committee members to arrive one hour early on the same morning as the Committee Meeting, to print and fold so they can be posted the same day. This will save on rental costs for the first Tuesday.
- Frances Richardson gave a reminder for all members to check that they have given their correct email address. 25% of emails that she sends come back to her. Please access and read emails to keep them open.
- Linda suggested that G-Mail is a free email option.

General Business:

- The Perth Poetry Club will be kicking off on Saturday March 28th, from 2-4pm, and every Saturday thereafter, at The Court hotel and restaurant, 50 Beaufort Street, Perth. Entry is free but donations will be encouraged to cover payment of guest poets, and there may be some expenses. Hosts are Janet Jackson and Helen Child.
- The Peter Cowan Writer's Centre Prize is up again on 3rd July.
- A date for your diary, Romance writers workshop for 16th May has been changed to 23rd May, 9am at Good Earth Hotel, St George's Terrace, Perth.
- Our Visitor, Robyn Geraudo was welcomed to the meeting. Jennifer Browne was also acknowledged and presented her book, Sarjan. Jennifer introduced her typing partner Angela Smith.
- A writing retreat will be held on 3-7 August. This will be for 5 days and 4 nights, location to be advised, when selected.
- Linda apologised for the error in the Newsletter, the Creative Writing classes are still held in the Rod Evans Senior Citizen's Centre and not at Citiplace from 9.45am to 12noon every Wednesday. During classes she has been running, she had been trialling ½ to ¾ of an hour writing by participants, rather than several shorter periods of time. This seemed to be agreeable to writers in attendance.
- Frances Richardson asked that an Agenda be available for General Meetings. Members needed more voice and maybe discussions on decisions made by Executive Committee. She suggested Committee Minutes could be tabled.
- There will be a Creative Writing Course, all day on Saturday, 4th July. Venue could be at Citiplace. To be advised.

Raffle first prize went to June Kornock, second prize to Robyn Geraudo

After a short break for refreshments Linda introduced the guest speaker, Cartoonist from The West Australian, Dean Alston. Meeting closed at 1:45 pm

The Silver Collection

Our wonderful anthology is on now on sale for \$5 a copy – postage is \$5 for one and \$10 for two or more.

Easter? Birthdays? Even next Christmas? Email: swwofwa@gmail.com

Guest Speaker for March - Lorraine Spring

Cartoonist Dean Alston was the guest speaker at last month's meeting. In between bouts of laughter we heard about the world of political cartooning, and what makes a cartoonist.

Dean has always drawn, yet never had any formal training. After running a country hotel, selling out and journeying to England, difficulty in finding cartooning work brought him and his wife back to Western Australia. A warped sense of humour, inherited from his father, influences from Paul Rigby, and good fortune saw him become the cartoonist for the West Australian newspaper.

According to Dean, cartooning 'violates all the rules of journalism.' A political cartoonist is relentless, very one sided and unfair, and targets high profile politicians such as Alannah McTiernan, and John Howard. A cartoonist takes issues out of context to provoke a response; mostly angry, some happy. One lady wrote kindly to him for twenty years; however various women's movement have taken him to task; he has been sued, one case lasting seven years (which he won); and he has received death threats.

During the afternoon Dean handed out paper and showed us how to draw a cartoon – the end results were fascinating. He guaranteed each one of us would have a satirical sketch of John Howard. I know mine looked like a cartooned Mr Howard; I am sure others would say the same.

Dean Alston loves the excitement of his job. He attends the newspaper office daily, regularly visits Parliament House and reads voraciously for ideas; he can think of nothing else he would prefer to do. We were fortunate to be entertained to a pleasant afternoon of fun.

Items for Agenda at next General Meeting:

To Linda Blackshaw: 9275 9794 or linda.blackshaw@gmail.com

Or

Mavis Evans: 9274 0803 or mavisevans@bigpond.com

VALE – CARMEL COTTRELL

Carmel joined The Society in the mid 1980's and within three or four months she had volunteered and was officially elected to the position of Secretary. She served in this capacity for years until ill-health forced her withdrawal. During her time as Secretary Carmel carried out many and variable duties (as well as keeping track of her eight children and their extended families.)

In the early days as Secretary Carmel undertook, along with another member, several tours to the country to help regional writers. Until the disbanding of the Federal Body some years ago, she served as an occasional delegate for W.A. at the various biennial conferences held in various states of Australia.

Carmel was instrumental in the foundation of The Society's six monthly retreats and led them with enthusiasm for several years. Such was her leadership, that the retreats produced several completed works, both self and commercially published.

Carmel was always ready to help writers, be they beginners or more established. In recognition of her contribution to The Society and her encouragement to writers, novice and established Carmel was given Life Membership.

Carmel's cheerfulness and love have been sorely missed since her health problems prevented her physical presence.

Join our Creative Writing Classes

Wednesday Creative Writing meets at the **Rod Evans Centre on the corner of Plain and Hay Streets, Perth. (Red Cat stops at door)**

April 8th Sue Clennell
15th Linda Blackshaw
22nd Sue Clennell
29th Linda Blackshaw
May 6th Sue Clennell

Time: 9.45 till 11.45a.m. Members \$10 non-Members \$15

Know

Who

This

Is?



Her
Biography

Is
On
Page 8

e-Newsletters – A New Era

This month's *In Print* has been sent to over half of our members from my desk here in Wannamal. Just a tap on a key and off they went! No printing, no paper, no photocopier, no folding, Sellotape, labels, or stamps. This will greatly help with the monthly despatch of our Newsletter and save time and money.

It will also, hopefully – now so many of you are connected to the ether – stimulate a tsunami of writing for the Member's pages!

Remember though:

If you alter your email address, I will need to know: Frances: daisyblue@westnet.net.au

Please note that your mailed newsletters will be a week later than usual from next month.

Blow Your Horn



Send your accomplishments to:

Anne Dyson at: einnady@yahoo.com

Welcome to new Member: Robin Giraud of Merredin

To Catch a Rat

The rat came home with sacks of chicken manure that we had bought at a chicken farm out in the bush and, for several weeks, even after pursuing it with different means, it eluded us.

First thing, as a source of nourishment, it attacked the lemon tree. In the morning, on walking out in the backyard, we'd find tiny yellow shreds of lemon zest lying about on the ground underneath the lemon tree; the lemon, void of its white rind, lay intact not far off from the shreds. This went on for days, up to when only a few ripe lemons remained on the tree. I wasn't prepared for it to outdo me, so I picked them all for my own use in the kitchen.

Being resourceful, it promptly fed on our beautifully ripe navel oranges. The tree was laden with them, so we let it be. Of these it liked the flesh; but he must not have been very keen on it, for he shifted to the medlar tree (actually a cousin of this tree) only a few days later. The tree is small, but had plenty of ripening fruits. I believe the fussy creature didn't have a sweet tooth because of the fruit it only ate the stone, discarding the flesh, and also the skin of both the fruits and the stones, resulting in a mess on our footpath which the tree hangs over.

For several days it gorged in this manner, but when the tree was depleted of the delicacy, it shifted to prohibited territory – it attacked the bark of the lemon tree!

When trees are completely spoiled of its bark, they die.

The lemon tree is our backyard pride. It is about 40 years old and still fruits profusely. It also provides me, our friends and neighbours, with its fruits right through the year. No, the brute was not allowed to kill it. It was outright war!

Having repeatedly tried to catch it with different sizes traps and tit-bits, and also placed ample poisoned pellets without success, Mario, who is a natural problem-solver, on an evening, secured a large trap on a branch of the beleaguered tree with wire. Relieved, the following morning we retrieved a big dad rat – or was it a rat? I believe that, for a rat, its resourceful ingenuity was quite amazing.

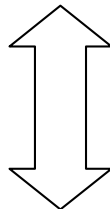
Silvana Preo

Publish your writing here:

Poems – Short fiction – Essays

Thoughts – Chapters of novels

Journal Entries – Jokes



Send to Frances:

daisyblue@westlink.net.au

A Thank You: A Great Thank You to Members who have sent in work for the Newsletter. If you do not see your work this month, it is, nevertheless, in line. (I now have a queue.) Remember, this is **your** Newsletter. Those of you, who have had success, won a prize, been published – let Anne Dyson know about it. Email Anne at: einnady@yahoo.com

TEN DAYS ON KANGAROO ISLAND

Where is it? People asked. Answer: straight down from Adelaide to the Southern Ocean, slightly to the left. Why? It was either there or Patagonia. Kangaroo Island is closer.

We flew via Adelaide and hired a 4-wheel drive which might have been overkill but we read that most of the roads are gravel. As the crow flies, the island is 155kms in length, so walking or riding a bike wasn't an option.

The first four nights were spent on the eastern, more populated side, the idea being that while we were still hyped up from city living we could charge around and look at most of the island's tourist attractions, which are in that area.

Museums and cemeteries revealed something of the settlement history, and we discovered a lot of talent and creativity in some of the art galleries and craft shops. The Dudley Writers' Group has put together books of stories and poetry about descendents of the settlers and their own experiences. We didn't contact them: too busy gawking at the sights.

Cape Willoughby Lighthouse, at the extreme east of the island, was on our must-see list. We scrambled over a fence to photograph waves crashing against rocks but missed out on the tour because; we found out later, it was a public holiday in South Australia.

We sniffed creams and oils at a lavender farm and a eucalyptus distillery, and learned that only one type of bee - the Ligurian, imported from Italy - is permitted on Kangaroo Island. We saw "the girls" at the sheep dairy trot in, each find her favourite nosh bin in the row, and be attached to the automatic milking machine.

At 5 o'clock one afternoon we joined a tourist group on some rocks to watch a mob of pelicans jostle for position to be hand-fed by a man who gave a very humorous talk about pelican habits generally and these in particular.

We might have been hyped up to start but slowly we came down to Kangaroo Island speed which is so low-key: they don't have even one set of traffic lights. Population of the island is 4000, of which about 1400 live in Kingscote, the main town. The other is Penneshaw where the ferry terminal is situated. These two places plus a couple of others on the Dudley Peninsula are the most populated and the most popular with visitors. Protected from ocean and wind, it's perfect for families and fishermen.

Accommodation ranges from hotels and B&Bs to houses and cabins, even lighthouse keepers' cottages. We stayed in a 2-bedroom cabin in a caravan park about 3ks out of Kingscote.

We drove south from Kingscote, then west along the southern-side road towards Flinders Chase National Park. On the way, we called in to Seal Bay where a colony of sea lions bask and squabble along a long white beach. Our tour guide warned us to stay well back or we could find ourselves the objects of a squabble, and unwilling baskers.

I had booked a log cabin within Hanson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, about 160 kms from Kingscote. There are no shops in that remote region: we had to take enough food for five days.

The Sanctuary, a private property of nearly 4000ha protects a variety of wildlife and birds. Kangaroo Island is free from Chlamydia which, on the mainland, causes blindness in koalas, and a small breeding group chomp through vast quantities of leaves along an avenue of blue-gums.

Our cabin was one of about six, strung along the crest of a high ridge. We parked around the back and only when we walked inside did we see the view. We spent much time gazing at the ever-changing colours and moods of rhythmic waves rolling in from right to left from the southern ocean. One morning they might be indigo, big and determined, by midday they could be gentle and turquoise, and at night we'd often see them rough, ragged, their curling white tops streaking for shore and dumping in fury. Once we saw a couple of surfers out before the waves were breaking, playing and surfing alongside a pod of dolphins.

The cabin contained two large bedrooms, small kitchen and biggish living area. Logs formed the outside walls, gaps not quite sealed in some places, while the inside walls were plastered. Pine furniture and polished crazy slate enhanced the rustic feel.

Each morning we had to drag ourselves away from these comforts and that view, but the rugged side of the island offered scenery we couldn't miss. As we drove, we were shocked at how very dry the countryside was, and evidence of the bush fires which ravished the island in 2007 saddened us. Much of the island is farming country but the farmers are battling to make a living.

One conducts tours of Cape Borda lighthouse at the north-western tip. Very knowledgeable about tides and winds, he entertained us with stories of wrecks and early, sometimes reluctant, settlers. This lighthouse, he told us, is squat and square because it's so high on the cliff it doesn't need to be tall, and square is cheaper to build than circular.

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Ten Days on Kangaroo Islands/ continued

From the lower car park at Cape Du Coedic, the southern promontory (with traditional circular, tall lighthouse), a boardwalk runs beside a rocky coastline where the ocean swelled, squeezed, and smashed a passage between the Cape and the small island opposite. With rain threatening and wind growing stronger every minute, down along the boardwalk we trudged, sometimes using stairs to reach the next level, before coming upon a colony of New Zealand fur seals which live and breed on water-smoothed rocks.

A little further, the object of this exercise, Admiral's Arch, was created by waves eroding the rock into an arch which looks like the brace for a bridge. Beneath it more seals lolled on smooth rock, out of reach of the roaring waters of a thoroughly disturbed ocean.

Not far away, high above but within range of wild water from this same ocean, stand Remarkable Rocks - huge granite boulders sculpted over millions of years into weird shapes by the forces of wind and water.

Animal encounters included - a pygmy possum, catching large beetles outside our living room window, holding them delicately between its paws and crunching them like nuts; a baby koala, riding on the hip of one of the managers who brought it to visit and inch-long millipedes which plodded and coiled on the floors, and settled full-length into the grouting in the bathroom. Perhaps that's what the mouse I dislodged from the bathmat was after, or the huge hairy spider each of us nearly trod on in the darkness one early morning.

By the last afternoon, we were desperate to see an echidna, the only critter left on our list. As we drove back to the log cabin, we saw a tuft of grass which moved: the longed-for echidna.

Our ferry back to the mainland cruised on tranquil water, the morning sun shining through a halo.

Pat Fletcher



Pure Indulgence

Time to enjoy a rendezvous sanctuary
stunning sunsets of pure indulgence
The spice of life mixed in a bowl of wondrous emotions
A learning experience, second nature on a grand scale
Indulge yourself in sumptuous feelings
Make a difference, learn of love's splendid secrets
Your strength, your vision, adore the moments.
Time to enjoy this place, this time
A lifetime frozen, an iconic memory
Stay forever in my mind.

Mavis Evans

MOM

I remember Mom when she was old
wearing a red swirly dress
so bold!
wouldn't wear grey
wouldn't wear black
wore her long hair rippling down her back

wouldn't join matrons for afternoon tea
insisted on watching ballroom dancing
on our old black and white T V

one day I said
'mom why do you try and dress like me?
you look ridiculous in skirts above the knee
your varicose veins seem
to be climbing a tree
and get your hair cropped it'll make your face look fuller.'

'Now listen to me you.
I'm your mother
I'll wear what I like:

short shorts to go for a hike
stiletto heels that crucify my toes
see a plastic surgeon to straighten my nose
go cruising on a luxury liner
and all my money spend
and like my mom before me
never turn the page and read '
'The End.'

Jane Brown

Janet Woods

With no literary background and only a strong need to, Janet Woods began to write 23 years ago - an activity which was abandoned almost immediately so that she could provide home care for a daughter suffering from a disabling illness, and her first grandchild. With a play work-shopped and a couple of published short stories under her belt, she joined the society about the same time. Janet was hesitant about joining anything "writerly." Having been a stay-at-home mum since the age of 20 (she celebrates her golden wedding in April 09), she felt she'd be out of place in something that sounded so blue-stocking as "The Society of Women Writers." However, she felt at home right away.

A year or so later she joined the Committee, where she survived in one form or another for about 14 years. Her first position was as the tea lady, but she went on to become treasurer for the Federal body and helped to organize the eighth biennial conference in Perth, in September 1992. Shortly afterwards Janet became president of the W.A. branch, and with the late Carmel Cottrell represented W.A. as delegates at the Tasmanian conference.

When Federal was being wound down, she was thankful to have a strong committee around her, with Maude Mitchell as Treasurer and Trudy Graham on board as Newsletter Editor. Between them they sorted out the legal minefield of dismantling the Federal body, rewriting the constitution, and incorporating the W.A. branch as a separate identity.

Later, during her presidency, it was decided that The Society would put out an anthology for the millennium. Carmel and Janet co-compiled and edited the stories, while Trudy did all the typing up to proof stage. At that time we used to meet with representatives of other local writers organizations, and Janet and Carmel represented the branch on the Committee of the Word of Mouth Writers' Festival in Fremantle.

Amazingly, while this was going on, Janet managed to write her novels and short stories. She also managed to fit in judging for various competitions offered by the Romance Writers of Australia, and the Rita competitions for the American Romance Organization, plus various workshops and library talks. To date Janet has over 50 short stories in various women's magazines, both here in Womens' Day and Weekly, and various magazines abroad. Her work has also been included in several anthologies. These include children's short stories for Oxford University Press, Puffinalia Magazine, Pearsons' Educational and Harcourt in the UK. Janet has written novels for Robert Hale UK, Simon & Schuster UK, and is currently under contract to Severn House UK for her 25/26 novels.

Janet has several contest wins and places, and she has won the Bronze Quill, short story award twice: her third book, Daughter of Darkness won the 2002 Romantic Book of The Year Award in 2002 (mainstream section). She was awarded honorary life membership of The Society of Women Writers W.A. in September 2001.

Achievements

Kathy Abrahams: Poem, *Ice Rink*
Published in January/February issue of
Valley Micropress NZ

Jacqui Stewart: Poem *Tradition*
Published December Issue of **The Mozzie**

Janet Woods: Short Story, *Living Next Door to Harris*. Published in **Little Gems Anthology** 2009

Events

New Venue and message from:

The Perth Poetry Club which will be kicking off on Saturday, **March 28, from 2-4pm**, and every Saturday thereafter, at

The Court hotel and restaurant, 50 Beaufort Street, Perth.

Entry is free but donations will be encouraged. We want to be able to pay our guest poets, and there may be some expenses. Guest poet TBA, plus lots of 3-minute open mike slots and some time to chat. Come and share some poems, and while you're there, enjoy the full bar and restaurant service of **The Court** to the extent allowed by your wallet and your mood - plus lots of 3-minute open mike slots and some time to chat. Under-18s are allowed in the venue until 8pm but they must be with their parent or guardian.

Cottonmouth: Rosemount Hotel, North Perth 2nd Thursday –

Loka: 3rd Thursday, 7.30pm 197 Brisbane St, Perth

La Tropicana Cafe, 4th Thursday

Opportunities

Call for Expressions of Interest

Expressions of interest are being sought from artists and writers who would like to be considered for residencies as part of SymbioticA's art and ecology project: *Adaptation*. Based at Lake Clifton, Mandurah, and at SymbioticA in the School of Anatomy and Human Biology at The University of Western Australia, *Adaptation* offers a microcosmic peak into the broader issues of ecology and life itself. *Adaptation* is timed to coincide with the

150th anniversary of the publication of Darwin's "The Origin of Species". Expressions of interest are sought from practitioners from all art forms. Writers are encouraged to respond to this opportunity. For more information go to website writingWA

The Macquarie Group Foundation Longlines Program 2009

For the last year of the LongLines Program, Varuna brings you a sizzling range of opportunities. Deadline is April 30 (with the exception of The Australian Poetry Centre LongLines Workshop, which is June 30). For details of all Longlines opportunities go to website writingWA

Free Writing Workshops

Want to enter the 2009 Literature Prize: **Now & Then**, but lack the confidence to write? Why not enrol in one of the writing workshops to be held in the Cottesloe-Peppermint Grove-Mosman Park Library at 1 Leake St Peppermint Grove? Writing for Beginners with Margaret Cole (2-part workshop) on Monday 23rd and Monday 30th March 2009, 10am - 12pm and/or the Poetry workshop with Roland Leach, Thursday 26th March 2009, 6.15 – 7.45pm. To enrol please email library@thegrovelibrary.com or phone 9385 3233.

Growing Old Disgracefully

A new writing group at PCWC, commencing Sunday, March 1, 10am-12 noon then first and third Sunday of each month. At Peter Cowan Writers Centre, Building 20, ECU Joondalup. Cost: \$7 for PCWC members; \$12 for non-members. Each session we will complete a short writing exercise, discuss both good and bad prose, and have the opportunity to share our writing with others. Our long term goal is to publish our stories, poetry, letters and essays. So come along and have fun while we tell our story of growing old disgracefully in Western Australia. Definition of growing old disgracefully: "disentangling yourself from the identity and opinions of others and being who you want to be." Contact: Coby Pearson, Ph: 9301 2282, cowan05@bigpond.com.

The Australian Society of Authors (ASA) is managing the Australia Council's Emerging Writers Grants in 2009, under a program whose formal title is "The Australia Council's Writers/Illustrators' Initiative managed by the

Australian Society of Authors". The ASA will assess applications and **pay grants totalling \$175,000. Individual grants** will be for **\$5,000, \$10,000 or \$15,000**. Application forms and more information will be available on the ASA website, under Services, in April. The program will be widely advertised in May. **Applications will open on 1 June and close on 30 June**. Results will be advised in October. Eligibility and selection criteria are available now on the ASA website.

Competitions:

Calling all speculative fiction writers

2009 Katharine Susannah Prichard Speculative Fiction Awards: Writers of all ages are invited to apply. Cash prizes are awarded, and winners are invited to read at the **Awards Ceremony on Sunday 16 August 2009**. **Each story in the Open category needs to be accompanied by a \$7.50 fee.**

Stories must be **between 1500 and 3500** words, with all forms of speculative fiction welcomed.

Entries close on 29 May. Further information can be found on the Katharine Susannah Prichard Foundation [website](#)

FAW Tasmania Inc 2009 Nairda Lyne Award for a short story of no more than 1000 words **suitable for children aged 8-12 years**. Open to all writers resident in Australia. **Prize is \$100** and winner's name is engraved on a plaque in State Library's Launceston Branch. There is an additional **prize of a \$50** voucher from Hobart Bookshop for the best Tasmanian entry. Stories must be **original, unpublished and must not have won a monetary prize in any other competition**. Entries must be typed, double-spaced on one side of A4 paper, with pages numbered and stapled in top left-hand corner. Title only on manuscript. Entrant's name and contact details and title/s of work are to appear on a separate sheet. Entries are numbered and submitted anonymously to the judge. Please keep a copy of your work as entries will not be returned.

Entry fee of \$5 per story. Please make cheques or postal orders payable to FAW Tasmania Inc.

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Entries close on March 31, 2009. Work must be postmarked by this date to be eligible for judging. Results will be announced at the FAW-Tasmania May 2009 meeting prizewinning entry may be read. Prizewinners not present will be notified by mail. Send entries to: **Nairda Lyne Award, FAW Tas Inc., PO Box 234, North Hobart TAS 7002**

Positive Words - Short Story and Poetry Competition 23 April, 2009:

Open **Short Story** up to **2000** words. Open **Poetry** up to **48 lines**. Entry fee: **\$3.30** per entry. Cheques, money orders or the equivalent in unused stamps (55 cent or \$1.10 preferred) will be accepted as payment. Please make cheques payable to S. L. James or Rainbow Press. **First Prize \$100, Second Prize - twelve months subscription to Positive Words.** Author's name must not appear on the manuscript. All entries should be accompanied by an entry form or cover sheet available from sandralynn7@msn.com Entries should be marked 'Competition' and sent to: Sandra James, PO Box 798 Heathcote, Victoria.

Bundaberg Poets' Society Inc. - Bush Lantern Award 29th May, 2009: The competition is for bush verse and each poem must have good rhyme and rhythm and an Australian theme ~ maximum 100 lines. Entry fee \$6 per poem or \$15 for three (3) poems. **1st Prize \$200, 2nd Prize \$100, 3rd Prize \$75. Entry form required.** Contact: Jayson Russell 0411 360 922 email blanata@bigpond.net.au

Vignette Press Short Story Competition 29 May,

Short story to **3,000** words, open theme. Must be original, unpublished work that has not won either a first or second prize in another competition. Vignette's Short Story Competition has been conducted since 1996. Judged by high-profile writers **First prize \$500** and publication in **Mini Shots**. **Second prize \$200. Entry Fee: \$6.60 Entry Form Required.**

Address: PO BOX 296, Coburg VIC 3058.
Contact: Lisa Dempster **Ph:** (03) 90185446 **Fax:** (03)86102058 **Email** info@vignettepress.com.au
Website: <http://www.vignettepress.com.au>

Western Australian Premier's Book Award 29 May,

C/- State Library of Western Australia, Perth Cultural Centre, PERTH WA 6000. Street Address: 25 Francis Street, Perth WA 6000
 Contact: Doug George Phone: (08) 94273150
 Fax: (08) 94273152 Email: doug.george@slwa.wa.gov.au
<http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/pba.html>

An award for a book-length work of literary fiction written by an author in Asia or Australia, or a work primarily set in Australia or an Asian country. Please see website for further details.

Prize: \$110,000 - Entry Form Required - **Entry Fee:** Not applicable

FAW Tasmania Shakespearean Sonnet Award, 31 May: First Prize **\$200**, Second Prize **\$100**, Third Prize **\$50**. **Entry fee** of \$5 per poem. Website www.fawtas.kingston.org.au

AUSTRALIAN HORROR WRITING ASSOCIATION Flash & Short Story Competition is interested in receiving the following:

Horror stories, tales that frighten, yarns that unsettle us in our comfortable homes. All themes in this genre will be accepted, from the well-used (zombies, vampires, ghosts etc) to the highly original, so long as the story is professional and well written. No previously published entries will be accepted – all tales must be an original work by the author. Stories can be as violent or as bloody as the storyline dictates, but those containing gratuitous sex or violence will not be considered.

There are two categories for submission:

FLASH FICTION

Stories up to **1000** words in length. The winning author will receive paid publication in **Midnight Echo**; The Magazine of the AHWA and an engraved plaque.

SHORT STORY

Stories with **1001 to 8000** words. The winning author will receive paid publication in **Midnight Echo**; The Magazine of the AHWA and an engraved plaque.

ENTRY DETAILS/continued

Writers may submit to one or both categories, but entry is limited to 1 story per author per category. No simultaneous submissions. Any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us. **Entry Fee:** AHWA Members have free entry. Non-AHWA Members: **\$5** for flash fiction, **\$10** for short story entries. Secure payments can be made via Paypal using our Palpal id ahwa@australianhorror.com

Alternative payment options are available; please contact us at competitions@australianhorror.com and we will provide appropriate details.

Electronic submissions (attached in WORD or RTF format) should be emailed to competitions@australianhorror.com. Please put "Competition entry" in the subject line, and include author name, contact details and story word length in the body of the email.

Mail submissions will ONLY be accepted as a last resort (we would prefer email submissions to save the trees); please contact us before sending anything through.

Competition closes 31st May 2009.

THE THREE COUNCILS' COMPETITION

Now and Then: the life, the land, and the people of Cottesloe, Peppermint Grove, and Mosman Park:

Write a poem or a short story about a person, a place, an event or an activity in the past or the present and win one of three major prizes of **\$500!!** Total prize money available **\$2,600**.

Now in its fifth year the award has become an important annual event and provides an opportunity for people of all ages to write creatively about their community and contribute to the recorded history of the area.

A new student category has been added to the Local History Award. Sponsored by the National Trust (WA) the award is designed to reward quality historical content. All entries are automatically considered in the Local History Award.

Entry forms are available from the Library or can be downloaded from the Cottesloe Library website.

Closing Date: May 29th

Central Coast Writers 2009 Spring Writing Comp.

Poetry and Short Story winners will each receive **\$500**. Their winning work will be published in the **Spring 2009 Homestead Review**, produced by Hartnell College. All contest entries will be considered for publication in **Hartnell College's Spring 2009 Homestead Review**. Contest Rules **Eligibility:** Open to all work not previously published. Simultaneous submissions allowed, but you must notify us if your work is accepted elsewhere. **Entry Fee:** Short stories: **\$15 per entry**. Poetry: **\$5 per entry**. Multiple Entries: You may enter as many times as you wish. Maximum Length: **Short story: 4000 words. Poetry: no restriction.**

Submit to: CCW Contest, c/o Michael Thomas, P.O. Box 51805, Pacific Grove, CA 93950. Make your check payable to Central Coast Writers. Please note: entries will not be returned. Format: Typed, white 8½ x11 paper, unstapled, single-sided, numbered pages, with title only (not your name) on upper left corner of all pages. Short stories must be double-spaced. Poetry should be formatted as you want it to appear. Include a single cover sheet for short stories and a single cover sheet for poetry. The cover sheet(s) must include the title(s)

of your entry, your name, address, email address, phone number, and word count for short stories.

Notification: Winners will be notified by March 31, 2009 and announced in **Scribbles**, the Central Coast Writers branch monthly newsletter.

Finalist judges will be Homestead Review editors Maria Garcia Teutsch and Dr. Jessica Breheny, published authors in their respective genres of poetry and fiction.

Poems for on-line publication may be submitted to leswicks@hotmail.com **Closing date:** April 15th, 09 **Les Wicks is currently writer in residence** at Tom Collins House, FOAWWA. For examples of the standard of poetry required, and more information on conditions, Google **Australian Poetry Collaboration**

PLEASE NOTE:

While the SWW do their best to confirm that all competition and opportunity details contained here are correct, it takes no responsibility for inaccurate information. The onus is on individual writers to confirm submission guidelines before submitting

The Society of Women Writers, WA, Inc meets every 3rd Tuesday of the month from 12 noon to 2 pm at Citiplace Community Centre at Perth Railway Station Concourse, opposite the top of the Platform 9 escalator.

To find out more please visit www.swwofwa.com, email swwofwa@gmail.com or phone **0415 840 031**

Reg. No. A1008154AM

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