



the  
australian writer

The official newsletter of  
The Fellowship of Australian Writers (Vic)  
Issue #348

It was a cold, dreary night and he  
...d closer

**The Competition Issue:  
FAW Literary Awards 2005  
now open to submissions  
Survey of Publishers  
Writing competitions**



## *Fellowship of Australian Writers (Vic) Inc*

### **Invites you to the launch of the Nillumbik Regional Branch of the FAW**

The FAW established in 1928 to promote writing and writers has decided to open its first new Regional Branch in fifty years to conduct Readings, Workshops, Guest Speakers and to support existing writing initiatives in the area. Our First Gathering is aimed to have writers meet other writers in the area and our topic will be:

#### **The Obstacles to Getting Published**

**GUESTS:** Publisher: Robert Kershaw – Publishing Solutions on self-publishing  
Publisher: To Be Advised - Commercial Publishing  
Bookseller: Meera Govil - Etham Bookshop on marketing – getting your book to readers  
Published Author: Philip Rainford - President FAW in Victoria on general advice on **publishing**

**WHERE:** Montsalvat Studio, 7 Hillcrest Avenue, Eltham. Vic. 3095  
**WHEN:** Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2005  
**TIME:** 2pm to 4pm with option to retire to Montsalvat Café for Afternoon Tea.  
**COST:** FREE with light refreshments available.

**Event supported by:** State Executive of FAW and Montsalvat

To help us with catering, it would be helpful if you can let us know if you are thinking of attending, either by ringing Philip on 0413 736 723 or email: [philip.lifeplan@bigpond.com](mailto:philip.lifeplan@bigpond.com)

Self Promotion Opportunity: Writers are encouraged to bring and promote their books at these functions.

## **NEW FAW MEMBERS & UPGRADES**

### **Welcome to new members:**

Anthony Fielding, Barbara Chapman, Bernard Marchingo, Bruce Oakman, Charles Mollison, Chris Reside, City of Boroondara Tammy Ryan, Daniela Signor, David McLaren, David Townsend, Diane Beer, Giselle Dexter, Jan Paull, Jaroslava Havard, Jean Sietzema-Dickson, Jim Kent, Jodi Alissa Bickerton, Judy Goss, Karen Throssell, Laurel Davis, Leanne Winfield, Lesley Borland, Lyn Thiele, Lynette Stevens, Margorie Johnson, Marguerite Charlott, Marianne McCartney, Marie O'Loughlin, Mark Elliott, Maxine Bradshaw, Publishing Solutions, Quendryth Young, Renee Tamblyn, S Cuppari, Shirley Burke, Sonia Gulbis, Symmes Marg

## **The Australian Writer**

Issue # 348

The Australian Writer is the regular publication of the Fellowship of Australian Writers (Vic) Inc. It is mailed to all FAW members six times per year. Correspondence, articles and items of news are invited, and unless otherwise indicated, should be sent to:

Editor, The Australian Writer  
PO Box 8411  
Armadale VIC 3143  
Ph: (03) 9431 2370  
[www.writers.asn.au](http://www.writers.asn.au)  
email: [youna@ozemail.com.au](mailto:youna@ozemail.com.au)

### Submission Guidelines

The following submissions may be placed in The Australian Writer FREE OF CHARGE, as they represent non-profit opportunities for our FAW members:  
Competitions, Markets, Publishing Opportunities, Readings, Performances, Events, Members' Achievements, New Books, Launches, Websites and Member Contributions. Send your typed submission to FAW by the above copy deadlines for inclusion in the appropriate issue of The Australian Writer.

### Copying

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### Advertising Guidelines

The Australian Writer accepts paid advertising for appropriate products, services and events.

Advertising rates (mono):

|                            |       |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Eighth page                | \$45  |
| Quarter page               | \$90  |
| Half page                  | \$180 |
| Full page                  | \$360 |
| Back cover (colour)        | \$500 |
| Inserts** (flat or folded) | \$250 |

\*\*does not include production, 2000 required

All ads must be PREPAID. For an advertising booking form, call (03) 9431 2370.

# A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

**FOLLOWING** from last issue, whereby I presented you with the results from the 2004 FAW Literary Awards, I am now pleased to bring you the announcement of the forthcoming opening of the 2005 FAW Literary Awards.

Writing competitions are an ever-popular avenue for emerging writers to establish themselves as writers of talent and determination, and each year, the number of entries into the FAW Awards (as well as many other competitions) increases. I therefore thought it was timely to bring you an issue of The Australian Writer which would be devoted entirely to the art of writing for competitions.

In this issue you will not only find the details of entry to the FAW Awards, but you will also find a lengthy compilation of writing competitions in Australia AND overseas. We have also compiled some tips from writing judges which may help you tweak your story to perfection and boost your chances of winning a coveted prize.

I would also like to refer you to the message from Philip Rainford on Page 5. There a number of activities taking place in an effort to increase access to FAW activities to as many members as possible. If you are interested in becoming involved as a guest speaker or presenter, please feel free to contact Philip.

Happy writing!

**Youna Angevin-Castro**  
Editor

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### FAW REGIONAL BRANCHES

#### **Bayside Regional**

Meets 8pm, 3rd Wednesday of month at Black Rock Comm. Hall, Cnr Balcombe Rd & College Gve. President: Tony Coyle, 14 Rhonda St., Dingley Village, 3172. Ph. 9551 1329 email: toncoyle@melbpc.org.au

#### **Border Regional (Albury-Wodonga)**

Meets 8pm, 1st & 3rd Wednesday of month at West Albury Neighbourhood Centre, Mulga Pl, Albury. President: Garry Dickinson (060) 401 971

#### **Ballarat Regional**

Meets 7.30pm, 3rd Tuesday of month at Ballarat Community Centre, Cnr Sebastapol & Errard Sts, except dinner meetings (Mar, Jun, Sept, Dec) President: D. Wallace Campbell (03) 5332 3640

#### **Bendigo Regional**

The Bendigo Branch of the Fellowship of Australian Writers has decided not to continue its speaker program and to reduce the number of meetings. Members of the Bendigo Branch will be notified of meeting dates and venues next year. We offer mutual support for writers of all ages. President: Helen Bruinier (03) 5442 3268

#### **Central Gippsland Regional**

Meets 2pm, 4th Sunday of month in Heyfield and Tinamba. Contact: Claire Van Baalen (claire@i-o.net.au), Heyfield Community Centre (03) 5148 2100

#### **Peninsula Regional**

Meets 1.45pm, 2nd Sunday of month at Contact House, 9 Albert St, Mornington. President: Owen Quayle (03) 5975 3351

#### **Warrnambool Regional**

Meets 8pm, 2nd Monday of month at City Library. Acting President: Betty Dennis, 5 Karana Drive, Warrnambool, 3280. (03) 5562 9132

#### **Western District Regional**

Meetings are currently not held, but writers can contact Prue Powell, 189 Kent Rd, Hamilton, 3300. (03) 5571 2123

#### **Darebin Writers Inc.**

Meets for workshopping at 7.30pm, 1st Thursday of each month at 113 Arthur St, Fairfield (opp. Post Office). Visitors welcome. For enquiries, call David Gothard on (03) 9481 0474 or email: drg@melbpc.org.au

#### **Nillumbik Regional**

Regularly offers a range of activities in the Eltham region. All FAW members welcome to attend meetings. For more information, contact Philip Rainford on 0413 736 723 or email: philip.lifeplan@bigpond.com

# WRITING GROUPS

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## **Ballarat Writing Council Inc.**

Offers Peer Review Workshops monthly, skills workshops and occasional Readings by invitation. Conducts the Courier/Southern Cross Writing Competition and Ballarat Students' Writing Competition annually. Bi-monthly newsletter. New members welcome.

Online: [www.vicnet.au/~ballwrit](http://www.vicnet.au/~ballwrit) or phone Jill (03) 5331 3287. Email: [ballwrit@netconnect.com.au](mailto:ballwrit@netconnect.com.au)

## **Balwyn Writers**

Meet on the first Monday of each month from 7.30-9.30 at the Balwyn Library in Whitehorse Road, Balwyn (next to McDonalds). Bring copies of work to be workshopped. \$2.00 and BYO tea or coffee. Contact: Joyce Smith on 9859 1471 during BH or [jomar@netspace.net.au](mailto:jomar@netspace.net.au)

## **Bass Coast Writers Inc**

The Bass Coast Writers Inc is a support group for Gippsland writers of all ages. We meet every Thursday afternoon (except during the month of January) from 1 pm -3pm at Inverloch in the Bunurong Environment Centre. Annual membership \$10. Weekly attendance donation to cover rent of the meeting room, tea and coffee is \$ 3. Part of the timeslot is spent on readings and we also aim to publish one book per year. We also run an annual writing competition for young residents in the Bass Coast Shire and beyond. New members most welcome. For further information ring Jane 5674 8174 or Jellie 5674 3061

**Caulfield Writers' Group**, now in its 19th year, meets alternate Thursday evenings. An opportunity for new or more experienced writers to read and workshop. Members' current work includes short stories, memoir essays, a novel, poetry. Visitors welcome. Phone John on (03) 9889 7922.

**Darebin Writers Inc.** has been in existence since April 1996 and has carried out a variety of activities, including the publication of anthologies and a Writing Festival. The aim of the group is to assist members to improve their writing skills and achieve publication. Workshopping and meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm, 113 Arthur St, Fairfield (opp. Post Office). Visitors welcome. No charge for membership, but \$2 to cover tea, coffee etc. Detailed information available by email at [drg@melbpc.org.au](mailto:drg@melbpc.org.au) or contact Ellemary Whitaker (03) 9484 1722 or David Gothard (03) 9481 0474.

## **Eastern Writers' Group**

This group meets at 2pm on 3rd Sunday of month at 47-49 Kitchener St, Box Hill South. A support group for writers at all levels. Tel/fax (03) 9802 2205.

## **Geelong Writers**

Annual membership \$15. Monthly newsletter, readings at Wintergarden Cafe, peer comments on writers' circle by mail, workshops, networking, etc. Call Wendy Ratawa (03) 5248 6538.

## **Grampian Writers' Group Inc.**

A very friendly group. Meets once a month in either Stawell or Ararat. A short meeting, then readings. Call Rhonda on (03) 5352 1100.

## **Melbourne Poets' Union**

Encourages poets at all levels. Everyone welcome to attend monthly meetings. Membership \$20/\$12. Call Leon Shann on (03) 9386 6259 or write to PO Box 266, 246 Flinders Lane, Melbourne 3000

## **Pen to Paper**

Meets last Sunday of each month at St Arnaud. Contact Maureen on (03) 5497 1243.

**The Sandringham Poetry Group** meets on the 3rd Monday of each month (except January) at the Sandringham Library, Waltham St, Sandringham. It provides an opportunity for poets and poetry lovers to share their work and that of writers they admire. It does not aim to workshop poems, but does encourage new writing. Call Elizabeth Owen on (03) 9598 2622 for further information.

**Southern Writers Group** meets the 1st Saturday of each month (except December & January) in Studio 1, Cube 37, Davey St, Frankston from 1pm-4pm. Published and unpublished writers working in any medium or genre welcome. Contact Julie Richards on (03) 9789 9216.

**Scribblers** is a friendly writing group that meets every 2nd Wednesday from 1pm-3pm at the Altona Green Neighbourhood House. For details phone Jelena on (03) 9369 6979 or Jo on (03) 9369 5272 anytime. All welcome.

## **Springvale Writers' Circle**

Meetings held at 7.30pm every 1st & 3rd Thursday at Springvale Neighbourhood House, 46-50 Queens Ave, Springvale. New members welcome! Call Ingrid after hours on (03) 9547 2030.

## **The Avenue Writers' Collective**

Meets every Friday morning 10am-12noon to workshop and support each other. We meet at The Avenue Neighbourhood House, corner Blackburn Rd & The Avenue, Blackburn. Call Doreen Pascal-Murray on (03) 9877 1152 for further information.

## **Wordweavers**

Meet at Waverley Community Learning Centre, 5 Fleet St, Mount Waverley, on alternate Tuesday mornings. Call Beverley on (03) 9802 7094 or Jenny on (03) 9807 1951.

## **Western Union Writers**

This group meets in and around Wyndham/Werribee in members' homes on the 2nd Friday night of each month, from 7.30pm to very late or very early. New members and new writers in any medium or genre are welcome to meet with a very supportive and friendly, long established group. There may be a workshop or talk, but each month there is an open reading and supper at which much is said. Phone Bronwen on (03) 9749 2510 or Helen on (03) 9749 2935 for your invitation.

**Deirdre Bradley** – had poem “Airport Run” published in the Mozzie. Congratulations for a win on your first submission of work for publication.

**Melbourne Independent historian Andrew Lemon** has been awarded the Degree of Doctor of Letters (D.Litt) by University of Melbourne. He began his professional career as an archivist at the Public Record Office of Victoria but soon turned to freelance writing. Three of his books have won national literary awards from the Fellowship of Australian Writers (Vic) Inc.

The Australian Association of Maritime History announced the winner of the Frank Broeze Memorial Maritime History Book Prize sponsored by the The Australian National Maritime Museum and the Australian Association for Maritime History as “Encountering Terra Australis” by Jean Formasiero, Peter Monteath, John West-Sooby and published by Wakefield Press.

**Janet Howie:** poem in Poetry Monash 70; Commended for Haibun: The River in Summer, and selected as a Haiku finalist in Yellow Moon Seed Pearls Competition, March 2005.

#### **Phil Ilton**

- poem in The Art of Bicycling (anthology of bicycle poems published in New York)
- poems in Marginata, Poetry Monash & The Mozzie
- 2 poems broadcast nationally on the CBAA Radio network

#### **New books**

##### **ROTATION by Janet Howie**

Rotation is a collection of seasonal poetry. The title was inspired by the keynote poem, and the tri-spirals carved inside the Newgrange tomb in Ireland. These appear on the front cover. The spiral symbol, common in all cultures, may relate to birth, life and death, the changing seasons, the orbit of sun, moon and stars: and the notion of labyrinth, inner consciousness, balance and harmony.

In the blurb, poet, Helen Cerne says, ‘In spare but evocative language, the poems explore the cycles of life—both spiritual and sensual. With a special emphasis on the Haiku and the Haibun, the precisely crafted poems are a meaningful journey through our landscape. Reflective and respectful of the sacred rhythms of being, the book shines with the love of place and people.’

Rotation, 86 pages, ISBN 0-646-43514-0, is available at \$12.00 at selected bookshops, or from Janoss Press, 43 Victoria Street, Williamstown. 3016.

**Email: [jmhowie@bigpond.com](mailto:jmhowie@bigpond.com)**

##### **‘Breaking the Psyche’ Editors: Jeanne Solity and Shirley Randles.**

Eleven women tell tales, make waves and hope to change attitudes towards mental illness.

One writer provides insight into coping with schizophrenia. Other writers describe their anguish, frustration and helplessness when a loved family member suffers from mental illness. One woman describes the Health Department’s reluctance to intervene when neglect takes place with her mother’s aged care facility.

Major issues faced by Victoria’s Mental Health Legal service are raised. A list of resources is provided. Carol Crean, patron of ‘Embrace the future’ gives information about the mental health and well being group for the young.

The book suggests ways to improve the Mental Health system by allocating realistic funding and for better education to remove the stigma attached to mental illness.

Penoestra Publications,  
ISBN 09 577 4 85 7  
P.O. Box 1140, Hampton North,  
Victoria, 3187. Ph: 0402 240 496

**Have you recently won a competition?  
Have you recently published a book, story or poem?**

If so, we’d love to hear about it. Please send all entries to:

Youna Angevin-Castro,  
Editor, The Australian Writer  
PO Box 8411,  
Armadale VIC 3143,  
or via email to [youna@ozemail.com.au](mailto:youna@ozemail.com.au)

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT - AUGUST 2005

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## **Molly Blooms Last Session**

A few months ago we said goodbye to 'Readings at Molly Blooms' and to five years of poetry readings under the sponsorship of the FAW in Melbourne. For sometime attendances have been falling off and the event coordinators, Helen Lucas, Steve Smart and Myron Lysenko felt it was no longer sufficiently supported to continue. Over the years Jennifer Harrison, Phil Ilton and John West have devoted their time to its success but all things eventually come to an end. Our sincere thanks to all those involved in the past as we bid a fond farewell

But all is not lost!

We are looking to provide support for Regional Groups to establish Molly Blooms type events and others in their area and we are looking to establish a new Regional in the Eltham area. As President I am looking to visit the Regionals between now and end of year to discuss how we can help.

## **Establishment of an Eltham Regional**

The 2005 Victorian State Committee is now largely based in Eltham in the northern suburbs of Melbourne. Eltham High School have been big supporters of the FAW for many years as sponsors of the FAW Jim Hamilton Award, discussions with the Nillumbik Council and Community Groups in the area indicate there is a big gap in the area of Readings and Workshops conducted yet there is a big writing community. It has therefore been proposed that an Eltham Regional Branch be established and the inaugural meeting has been set for 3 September at Montsalvat Studio. The topic to be discussed is "The Obstacles to Getting Published".

For those who find Eltham too far away as a substitute for Molly's we hope we can convince your local Regional to draw on our resources to assist in this but of course their biggest problem will be willing hands to assist.

Proposed format of Eltham Gatherings is to initially rotate between workshops, readings and information sessions providing the option to Regionals to conduct the same event with the same guests in their area.

So we call upon members to support their Regionals, tell them what you want from the FAW and for Regionals to get the resources from the State Executive to conduct these events.

## **Re-waken Interstate Fellowship**

Some members may not be aware that there are interstate FAW groups, some strong, some failing. In recent years we have lost the FAW Canberra and FAW Alice Springs. I recently wrote to all surviving FAW State Executives on record suggesting we again band together as a National Fellowship and interchange resources where practical rather than replicating ourselves in each state.

It was proposed that we share a common website, that we look to producing a common magazine or at least reproduce each other's articles into our various formats. Some states like Victoria and NSW have a magazine while other states have only a newsheet.

I have received positive responses from NSW, WA, TAS and NT and I look forward to working with them to exchange expertise to establish a national support network that preserves state identity and autonomy while spreading the workload nationally.

## **Philip Rainford**

President – FAW (Vic) 2005

Contact details: 98 Scenic Crescent, Eltham. Vic. 3095. Mobile: 0413 736 723

Email: philip.lifeplan@bigpond.com

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# FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS (VIC) INCORPORATED

## 2005 NATIONAL LITERARY AWARDS

Entries open: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2005  
Entries close: 30<sup>th</sup> November 2005

Please direct all queries/correspondence to: [blundell@vicnet.net.au](mailto:blundell@vicnet.net.au)

OR: Awards Coordinator, FAW National Literary Awards, PO Box 973, Eltham. Vic. 3095

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### CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

All entries for 2005 must comply with these conditions, which supersede those of previous years. Entries which breach these conditions, or the specific conditions for each category, will be disqualified.

1. All entrants must be bona fide residents of Australia and its territories.
2. Entries and payments must be received by 30/11/05. Entry fees will not be refunded under any circumstances.
3. Entries in the Manuscript Awards (Part 2) and Young Writers' Awards (Part 3) must be TYPED WITH 1.5 SPACING BETWEEN LINES (with the exception of poetry, which should be single-spaced) and should not have been published, or won a first prize in another competition, prior to being entered in the 2005 National Literary Awards. They should also not have received a publishing offer or contract.
4. Entries in the Manuscript Awards (Part 2) and Young Writers' Awards (Part 3) must only carry the authors name on the cover sheet and entry form.
5. ENTRIES WILL NOT BE RETURNED. Manuscript entries & entry forms will be destroyed after judging.
6. No GST is payable on entry fees. If you require a tax invoice, please request this prior to 30/11/05.
7. Entries in the National Literary Awards may be entered in other literary competitions simultaneously – however, if a submitted entry achieves a FIRST PRIZE in another competition prior to 30/11/05, you must advise the Awards Coordinator immediately so that the entry may be withdrawn from the Awards.
8. If an entry submitted to the Manuscript Awards (Part 2) or Young Writers' Awards (Part 3) is ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION prior to 30/11/05, you must advise the Awards Coordinator immediately.
9. All winners and placegetters will be notified in writing by 28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2006. Results will be announced in March 2006 and will be published in FAW's magazine The Australian Writer. Results will be posted automatically to winners and placegetters. Should you wish to receive a copy of the results when they are printed, please enclose a SSAE marked "For Results" with your entry.
10. All decisions will be final. An award will not be conferred if there are insufficient entries in a particular category, or if none of the entries are deemed by the judges to be of sufficient standard.
11. Winners and placegetters will be announced at a Presentation Ceremony to be held in Melbourne in March 2006. Details of the date and venue will be announced in a future issue of The Australian Writer.

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## BOOK AWARDS

Book entries may be submitted by publishers OR authors. Self-published books are eligible for entry.

### FAW MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY PUBLISHING AWARD

Entry Fee \$15.00

Sponsored by Melbourne University Press

First Prize: \$1000

An award for a NON-FICTION work, including biography and autobiography, of sustained quality and distinction with an Australian theme, first published after 30/11/03, and not previously published overseas. Two copies of the book are required and will not be returned. Books published by Melbourne University Press ARE eligible for entry, as the judges for this Award are independent of MUP.

### FAW CHRISTINA STEAD AWARD

Entry Fee \$15.00

Sponsored by Merchant of Fairness Bookshop

First Prize: \$500

An award for a work of FICTION with an Australian theme first published after 30/11/03, and not previously published overseas. Two copies of the book are required and will not be returned.

### FAW ANNE ELDER AWARD

Entry Fee \$15.00

Sponsored by Cathie Elder and the FAW as trustees for the Anne Elder Trust

First Prize: \$1000

An award for a FIRST BOOK OF POETRY first published after 30/11/03, and not previously published overseas, containing contributions from between 1 and 4 poets. The book must be the first published book-length collection of poetry by the author/s, and must contain at least 20 pages of text. Three copies of the book are required and will not be returned.

## MANUSCRIPT AWARDS

Discounted Entry Fee for FAW Members for Manuscript Awards- \$6.00

### FAW MALVERN NEWS SHEET AWARD

Entry Fee \$10.00

Sponsored by Malvern News Sheet:

First Prize: \$500

An award for an anthology of short prose and/or poetry which has been compiled, written and edited by a group of community writers who meet regularly to share and workshop their writing. Contributions by writers from outside the group may not be included, and anthologies by writers who meet in a tertiary education setting are ineligible. The maximum length of the anthology should be 30,000 words. Each piece of writing in the anthology should not exceed 3,000 words. Entries must include title page, contents page, and approximate word length of the anthology. Each group may submit only one entry. One copy is required and will not be returned. Entries will be judged solely on the quality of their writing, not on their presentation – however, for ease of reading by the judge they should be neatly presented and firmly bound in some way. If your anthology has already been compiled into a semi-professional format (eg. with illustrations, photos, binding, etc.), this is also acceptable. Anthologies which have been self-published after 30/11/03 are also eligible for entry.

### FAW JENNIFER BURBIDGE SHORT STORY AWARD

Entry Fee \$10.00

Sponsored by Mary Burbidge

First Prize: \$250

An award for a short story of up to 3,000 words. This award honours Jenny Burbidge, who suffered severe developmental difficulties and died soon after her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, and whose story is told in Forever Baby. Royalties from the book fund the sponsorship of this award. Stories may deal with any aspect of the lives of those who suffer some form of physical or mental disability and/or its impact on their families in an Australian situation. One copy of each story is required; more than one entry per author may be submitted.

### FAW MARY GRANT BRUCE SHORT STORY AWARD FOR CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Entry Fee \$10.00

Sponsored by Wellington Shire Council

First Prize: \$600

Second Prize: \$300

Writers living within the defined municipal boundaries of Gippsland are eligible for a separate award of \$200. To honour the contribution made by Mary Grant Bruce to children's literature and to encourage the writing of quality children's short stories. Stories must be aimed at readers aged 10-15 years and be 5,000 words max. One copy of each story is required. More than one entry per author may be submitted, but only one prize will be awarded to an individual author.

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### **FAW JOHN SHAW NEILSON POETRY AWARD**

Entry Fee \$10.00

Sponsored by Collected Works Bookshop

First Prize: \$600

Second Prize: \$150

An award for a poem of between 14-60 lines including epigraphs. A suite of poems linked thematically may be entered as one entry provided the line limit is adhered to. Poems should be typed in single-spacing. One copy of each poem (or suite) is required; more than one entry per author may be submitted.

### **FAW JIM HAMILTON AWARD**

Entry Fee \$10.00

Sponsored by Eltham High School

First Prize: \$1000

This award honours the contribution made by Jim Hamilton OAM and his family to Australian writers and writing. For an unpublished novel on any theme or genre with a minimum length of 30,000 words. Entries must be aimed at adult or teenage readers. One copy is required and will not be returned. Entries should be neatly presented and fastened securely in one corner with a large 'bulldog' clip - if very bulky, simply fasten with as many bulldog clips as necessary. Please do not spiral-bind entries or send them in plastic or cardboard wallets. More than one entry per author may be submitted.

### **FAW ANGELO B. NATOLI SHORT STORY AWARD**

Entry Fee \$10.00

Sponsored by A. B. Natoli Pty Ltd

First Prize: \$800

In honour of the late Angelo B. Natoli, who for many years served as the Honorary Solicitor to FAW (Victoria) Incorporated. An award for a short story on any theme to a maximum of 3,000 words. One copy of each story is required; more than one entry per author may be submitted.

## **SCRIPT WRITING AWARDS**

### **FAW DI CRANSTON AWARD**

Entry fee: \$5

Sponsored by Di Cranston

First Prize: \$250

For entrants of any age. An award for a stage play, radio play, television script or screenplay on any topic of no more than 120 pages in script format. One copy is required and will not be returned. Entries should be neatly presented and fastened securely in one corner with a large 'bulldog' clip.

### **FAW ELYSIUM SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY SCRIPT AWARD**

Entry fee: \$5

Sponsored by Elysium Group Pty Ltd

First Prize: \$250

For entrants of any age. An award for a stage play, radio play, television script or screenplay of no more than 120 pages in script format with a science fiction or fantasy theme. One copy is required and will not be returned. Entries should be neatly presented and fastened securely in one corner with a large 'bulldog' clip.

Note: Winning and Commended Scripts will also be reviewed by a Film Producer for possible production. No guarantees are provided but all entrants must be willing to provide first performance rights.

## **YOUNG WRITERS' AWARDS**

Discounted Entry Free for FAW Members for Manuscript Awards- \$3.00

\*PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR NAME DOES NOT APPEAR ON ANY PAGE OF YOUR ENTRY.

ALSO NOTE THAT ELABORATE PRESENTATIONS, PHOTOS AND OTHER EMBELLISHMENTS ONLY ACT AS DISTRACTIONS AND SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN ENTRIES.

### **FAW YOUNG POET OF THE YEAR AWARD (10-14 YEARS)**

Entry fee \$5.00

Sponsored by Aileen Kelly

First Prize: \$200

Second Prize: \$50

For a poem on any theme, no word limit. One copy of each poem is required. Poem should be typed in single-spacing.

More than one entry per author may be submitted, but only one prize will be issued per individual author.

### **FAW ALAN MARSHALL SHORT STORY AWARD (10-14 YEARS)**

Entry fee \$5.00

Sponsored by Penguin Books Australia

First Prize: \$200

Second Prize: \$50

For a short story on any theme, max 3000 words. One copy of each story is required. Stories should be typed in double-spacing. More than one entry per author may be submitted, but only one prize will be issued per individual author.

### **FAW COLIN THIELE POETRY AWARD**

(15-20 YEARS)

Entry fee \$5.00

Sponsored by Michael Dugan

First Prize: \$200

Second Prize: \$100

For a poem on any theme, no word limit. One copy of each poem is required. Poem should be typed in single-spacing. More than one entry per author may be submitted, but only one prize will be issued per individual author.

### **FAW JOHN MORRISON SHORT STORY AWARD**

(15-20 YEARS)

Entry fee \$5.00

Sponsored by Paul Jennings

First Prize: \$200

Second Prize: \$100

For a short story on any theme, max 3000 words. One copy of each story is required. Stories should be typed in double-spacing. More than one entry per author may be submitted, but only one prize will be issued per individual author.

### **FAW MAVIS THORPE CLARKE AWARD**

#### **(Individual Entry)**

Entry fee \$5.00

Sponsored by Graeme and Robyn Base

First Prize: \$350

For a collection of writing by a student, of any age, who is attending an Australian secondary school. The collection may contain up to 10 pieces. All forms of writing – poetry, short stories, non-fiction, etc. – may be included, and your collection should have a title. Entries must be securely bound, and only one entry per author may be submitted.

### **FAW MAVIS THORPE CLARKE AWARD PART 2**

#### **(Group Entry)**

Entry fee \$5.00

Sponsored by Graeme and Robyn Base

First Prize: \$200

For a collection of writing by a GROUP of students, of any age, attending the same Australian secondary school. Up to 15 pieces of writing may be submitted, with authors' names on a separate page. All forms of writing – poetry, short stories, non-fiction, etc. – may be included. Entries must be securely bound and have a separate title page, and a table of contents which does not show names. Pieces in the collection must have been written in 2004-2005. Previously entered anthologies are ineligible. Schools may submit more than one group entry at \$10 each. Only one copy of your collection is required.

Are you a  
writer/journalist  
looking for  
opportunities to get  
your work  
published?

*The Australian Writer* is  
seeking submissions of articles  
on the craft of writing.

Submissions must be 1000  
words or less, and must be  
submitted electronically to:  
The Editor, *The Australian Writer*  
at youna@ozemail.com.au.

To find out more,  
visit [www.writers.asn.au](http://www.writers.asn.au)  
for submission guidelines.

(Unfortunately we are unable to make payments  
for publication, but you will get a byline! We do  
not publish works of fiction or poetry at this  
stage, and cannot accept hand-written  
submissions.)

# HANDY HINTS FOR ENTERING WRITING COMPETITIONS

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**If ever you have considered entering a writing competition - whether it be a fiction, short story, poetry or essay award, there are some golden rules to improve your chances of impressing the judges and your chances of winning the prize. These comments are taken from remarks made by judges of the FAW National Literary Awards over the years and form a consistent pattern of why the majority of manuscripts submitted fail to be short listed.**

1. Firstly read the conditions of entry several times and ensure you understand what is being asked. You don't want your entry disqualified for non-compliance.
2. Presentation can be important, dog-eared pages, poor layout, sloppy binding, handwritten amendments etc can be a deciding factor when a hard choice between finalists has to be made.
3. Presentation only needs to be neat not necessarily bound, unless rules say so, and you do not need to add pictures, drawings etc. Literary awards are judged on their literary merit not the artwork.
4. They say there are no new stories only new ways of telling them, ask yourself what is different about your story, what makes it stand out from the crowd? If you can't find something chances are neither will the judge.
5. Judges in unpublished manuscripts look for commercial viability, literary merit and a new angle. Would you buy this story or is it simply something you want to write about? If no one else wants to read it your message is lost so ask why would anyone want to read this? Then ensure you strengthen that reason so the reader gets it.
6. Don't waffle, be economic in your wording, seek out clumsy sentences, unnecessary repetition, superfluous words, inconsistencies of tense and overindulgence of pronouns. Best way is to read it out aloud and see how it flows off the tongue.
7. Don't dump huge pieces of information on to the reader; they simply divert the reader from the main story. Subtly feed that data to the reader through dialogue or through smaller dumps.
8. Proof read your story several times, at least two of these readings should be several weeks after you've written it. Have others read it and give you honest feedback. Take it to a workshop where an exchange of constructive criticism in a safe environment is offered. Never be afraid of criticism, without it you can never grow as a writer.
9. A great idea can be lost by a story or poem that starts well then peters out. If you cannot capture the reader's interest up front and retain it to the end your work will not succeed.
10. Editing: First drafts have no place in a contest, you are wasting your time and postage and a judges time in discarding it. If you have done the above thoroughly then you will craft your work into something worthwhile after six or seven drafts. Any less and you are fooling yourself.

# WRITING COMPETITIONS - AUSTRALIAN

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**31 August 2005**

## **2005 Summerland Awards**

Entries are invited for the Fellowship of Australian Writers Summerland's inaugural competition. The short story section has an open theme, with a maximum of 2,500 words. The poetry section is for traditional rhyming or free verse to a maximum of 80 lines, open theme. First prize of \$500.00 and second prize of \$200.00 is awarded in both sections. In addition, the Summerland Trophy will be presented to the best overall entry. Entry fee is \$6.00 or \$25.00 for five entries and no entry form is required. Normal competition conditions apply and for more information, please call 02 6624 1933 or email faws@dragonwick.com. Please send entries with cheque or money order (made payable to FAW Summerland) to: Summerland Awards, PO Box 4210, Goonellabah NSW 2480.

**16 September 2005**

## **Eastern Regional Libraries**

### **National Storywriting Competition**

Stories should not exceed 3000 words. All entries to be the original, previously unpublished work of signatories. A Registration Fee must accompany each entry form \$5 (inc. GST) for Open entries, \$2 (inc. GST) for Teenage & Junior entries. Prizes: Adult 1st \$1500, Knox Award \$500 (for residents in Knox, Maroondah and Yarra Ranges), Teenage 1st \$350 13-18 years, Junior 1st \$250 9-12 years

For more information, contact Lorraine Seeger or Jill McCalum Ph: 03 9298 8444, or visit [www.erl.vic.gov.au](http://www.erl.vic.gov.au)

**30 September 2005**

## **Eastern Writers' Group Biggest Little Short Story Competition**

Entry Fee \$5. Open Theme. Stories to 500 words. 1st Prize: \$200, 2nd Prize: \$100, 3rd Prize: \$50 For Entry Form and Conditions visit our website: <http://ozemail.com.au/~rmvdalv>.

**30 October 2005**

**Search for A Sonnet** competition held by Yellow Moon seeking sonnets on contemporary issues but structured traditionally in two strands: A - Shakespearean, B - Petrarchan. Winning entries will be published in the December edition of Yellow Moon. Contact Yellow Moon at PO Box 37, Pearl Beach, NSW. 2256 Entries close 30th October 2005.

**31 October 2005**

## **Poetica Christi Press 2005 Poetry Competition**

Theme: My brother, My sister, My country. 1st prize \$200, 2 commended awards of \$50 each, Entry fees \$5 or 3 for \$12. For entry form, send SSAE to The Competition Co-ordinator, P.O.Box 7, Box Hill BC. 3128

**30 November 2005**

## **FAW Literary Awards**

For more information on how to enter, turn to pages 6-10 of this magazine.

## **FAW MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY PUBLISHING AWARD**

Entry Fee \$15.00, First Prize: \$1000

## **FAW CHRISTINA STEAD AWARD**

Entry Fee \$15.00, First Prize: \$500

## **FAW ANNE ELDER AWARD**

Entry Fee \$15.00, First Prize: \$1000

## **FAW MALVERN NEWS SHEET AWARD**

Entry Fee \$10.00, First Prize: \$500

## **FAW JENNIFER BURBIDGE SHORT STORY AWARD**

Entry Fee \$10.00, First Prize: \$250

## **FAW MARY GRANT BRUCE SHORT STORY AWARD FOR CHILDREN'S LITERATURE**

Entry Fee \$10.00, First Prize: \$600, Second Prize: \$300

## **FAW JOHN SHAW NEILSON POETRY AWARD**

Entry Fee \$10.00, First Prize: \$600, Second Prize: \$150

## **FAW JIM HAMILTON AWARD**

Entry Fee \$10.00, First Prize: \$1000

## **FAW ANGELO B. NATOLI SHORT STORY AWARD**

Entry Fee \$10.00, First Prize: \$800

## **FAW DI CRANSTON AWARD**

Entry fee: \$5, First Prize: \$250

## **FAW ELYSIUM SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY SCRIPT AWARD**

Entry fee: \$5, First Prize: \$250

## **FAW YOUNG POET OF THE YEAR AWARD (10-14 YEARS)**

Entry fee \$5.00, First Prize: \$200, Second Prize: \$50

## **FAW ALAN MARSHALL SHORT STORY AWARD (10-14 YEARS)**

Entry fee \$5.00, First Prize: \$200, Second Prize: \$50

## **FAW COLIN THIELE POETRY AWARD (15-20 YEARS)**

Entry fee \$5.00, First Prize: \$200, Second Prize: \$100

## **FAW JOHN MORRISON SHORT STORY AWARD (15-20 YEARS)**

Entry fee \$5.00, First Prize: \$200, Second Prize: \$100

## **FAW MAVIS THORPE CLARKE AWARD (Individual Entry)**

Entry fee \$5.00, First Prize: \$350

## **FAW MAVIS THORPE CLARKE AWARD PART 2 (Group Entry)**

Entry fee \$5.00, First Prize: \$200

# WRITING COMPETITIONS - INTERNATIONAL

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## 1 September

### One in Ten Screenplay Competition

USA, open to all. Submissions: 90-125 pages. Screenplays must not have been previously optioned, produced, or purchased. Theme: Screenplays must contain at least one gay or lesbian primary character.

Entry fee: US\$40 per script

Prizes: 1st US\$1,000 + submission to

major film studio & literary agent

For more information: [www.screenplay-contests.com](http://www.screenplay-contests.com)

## 15 September

### New Criterion Poetry Prize

USA, open to all. Submissions: Poetry collection, 60 pages maximum.

Open theme.

Entry fee: US\$25 per MS

Prizes: 1st US\$3,000 + publication

For more information: [www.newcriterion.com/constant/poetrycontest.htm](http://www.newcriterion.com/constant/poetrycontest.htm)

## 15 September

### Paumanok Poetry Award

USA, open to all. Submissions: 3-5 poems [no more than 10 pages total].

Open theme.

Entry fee: US\$25 per entry

Prizes: 1st US\$1,000 + expenses to read in the poetry series at SUNY Farmingdale, 2 @ \$500 + expenses for reading

For more information: [www.farmingdale.edu/CampusPages/ArtsSciences/AcademicDepartments/EnglishHumanities/paward.html](http://www.farmingdale.edu/CampusPages/ArtsSciences/AcademicDepartments/EnglishHumanities/paward.html)

## 30 September

### Painted Bride Quarterly's Poetry & Fiction Contests

USA, open to all. Submissions: Poetry & short fiction. Fiction: 5,000 words maximum; poetry: 3 poems maximum. Submissions should include a short biography. Open theme.

Entry fee: Fiction: US\$10 per story; Poetry: US\$5 per submission, maximum 3 poems

Prizes: 1st US\$1,000 + publication in PBQ in each category

For more information: <http://pbq.rutgers.edu> [click on "Contests"]

## 30 September

### American Screenwriting Competition

USA, open to all. Submissions: Original screenplay 70-140 pages + short synopsis. Open theme.

Entry fee: 1 script \$60; \$30 for each additional screenplay, when entered at the

same time

Prizes: 1st US\$12,000 cash + ancillary

prizes; 2nd \$5,000;

3rd \$3,000; 4th \$1,200 + numerous other

prizes.

For more information: [www.flatshoe.com](http://www.flatshoe.com)

## 30 September

### May Swenson Poetry Award

USA, open to all.

Submissions: Collections must be original poetry in English, 50-100 pages. Open theme

Entry fee: US\$25 per MS [inc. copy of winning book]

Prizes: 1st US\$1,000 + publication + royalties

For more information: [www.usu.edu/~usupress/poetcomp.htm](http://www.usu.edu/~usupress/poetcomp.htm)

## 30 September

### Chautauqua Literary Journal

USA, open to all. Submissions: Poetry, short fiction/creative nonfiction. Up to 6 unpublished poems totaling 500 lines maximum or unpublished story/essay of 7,000 words maximum. Open theme

Entry fee: US\$15 per entry

Prizes: 2 prizes of US\$1,500 + publication

For more information: Chautauqua Literary Journal Annual Contests, PO Box 2039, York Beach, ME 03910 USA.

## 1 October

### Zoetrope All-Story

#### Short Fiction Contest

USA, open to all. Submissions: Short fiction, 5,000 words maximum. Open theme. Clearly mark 'Short Fiction Contest' on both the story & the envelope.

Entry fee: US\$15 check per entry

PRIZES: 1st US\$1,000; 2nd \$500; 3rd \$250

For more information: [www.all-story.com](http://www.all-story.com)

## 15 October

### Editors' Prize in Fiction & Essay,

#### Missouri Review Larry Levis Editors' Prize in Poetry

USA, open to all. Submissions: Short fiction, nonfiction/essay, poetry. 25 pages maximum [fiction/nonfiction], 10 pages maximum, any number of poems [poetry]. Each story or essay constitutes one entry. Open theme. Entries may be submitted online.

Entry fee: \$15 per story/essay/up to 10 pages poetry [inc. sub] [Each story or essay constitutes one entry]

Prizes: 1st US\$2,000 [each genre] + publication [finalists \$100 minimum in each

category]

For more information: ph. +1 573-882-

3474, [www.missourireview.org](http://www.missourireview.org)

## 31 October

### Inkwell magazine Short Fiction Contest/Poetry Competition

USA, open to all. Submissions: Short fiction, poetry. 5,000 words maximum [short fiction]; Up to 5 unpublished poems, 40 line limit per poem. Open theme.

Entry fee: US\$15 per story; US\$10 for 1st poem, US\$5 each thereafter

Prizes: Grand prize US\$1,500 [short fiction]; grand prize

\$1,000 [poetry] + publication

For more information: ph. +1 914-323-

7239; <http://www.inkwelljournal.org/contests.htm>

## 31 October

### Fade In Screenwriting Awards

USA, open to all. Submissions: Screenplay-Categories: Comedy; Action/Adventure; Thriller; Drama; Film Noir; Family.

Original feature screenplay [c. 90-130 pages] or

original short [c. 30-45 pages]. Submis-

sions may not be under option at the time of entry nor at the time the material is chosen as a finalist or Grand Prize winner.

Entry fee: US\$40 per script

Prizes: Grand Prize iMac Computer +

expense-paid trip to meet top literary agents & studio executives for 3 days; 1st [each category] US\$750, script analysis by WGA-credited writer, Waterman fountain pen, 1-year Fade In subscription.

Ancillary prizes for lower places. Winners will appear in Fade In, Variety &/or Hollywood Reporter.

For more information: ph. +1 800-646-

3896; <http://www.fadeinonline.com/Contests/AwardChoose.html>

## 30 November

### Search for the Crème de la Crime Novel Competition

UK, open to all. Submissions: Novel, 10,000-70,000 words. Open theme.

Entry fee: £10/US\$20 per novel extract

Prizes: 1st £2,500 [c. US\$3,900]

For more information: [www.real-writers.com/competition.htm](http://www.real-writers.com/competition.htm)

# SURVEY OF PUBLISHERS

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## **Black Dog Books**

15 Gertrude St, Fitzroy MDC VIC 3068 Tel (03) 9419 9406 Fax (03) 9419 1214

**YES**, they are considering unsolicited submissions of children's books. Writers should send first three chapters + synopsis + CV + SSAE. Send submissions to: The Publisher. Check website for further submission details [www.bdb.com.au](http://www.bdb.com.au)

## **Five Mile Press**

PO Box 177, Ferntree Gully VIC 3156 Tel (0) 9413 8374 Fax (03) 9416 9877.

**YES**, they are considering unsolicited submissions of general non-fiction – Australia, cookery, sport, craft, Australian lifestyle and gardening - and children's books. We are happy to consider all material submitted, but please note we do not normally publish juvenile or adult novels, poetry or junior fiction titles.

Writers guidelines available on web at [www.fivemile.com.au](http://www.fivemile.com.au) For non-fiction submission, writers should post a sample chapter + synopsis + contents page. For children's submissions, writers should send cover letter + complete MS + any illustrations (if available). Submission should be sent to: Commissioning Editor

## **New Frontier Publishing**

6 Merle St, Epping NSW 2121 Tel (02) 9876 1050 Fax (02) 9876 4106.

**YES**, they are willing to consider unsolicited manuscript submissions of children's picture books and junior novels. We do recommend you look through our website [www.newfrontier.com.au](http://www.newfrontier.com.au) and look at our books to determine if your manuscript fits with our publishing philosophy. Writers should send a cover letter + hardcopy MS + relevant illustrations (no originals please!) + SSAE. Send submissions to: The Submissions Editor

## **Penguin Books**

250 Camberwell Road, Camberwell 3124 Tel (03) 9811 2400 Fax (03) 9811 2620

**YES**, unsolicited submissions manuscripts for Aussie Chomps, are currently being accepted. Aussie Chomps reflects the concerns of the ten to thirteen age group as they move towards adolescence and the challenges of the final years of primary school/starting high school. We're open to a wide range of stories and genres, whether it be adventure, mystery, humour, fantasy, science fiction or romance.

## **Text Publishing**

Swann House, 22 William Street Melbourne 3000 Tel (03) 8610 4500 Fax (03) 9629 8621 Email. [books@textpublishing.com.au](mailto:books@textpublishing.com.au)

**YES**, they are willing to consider unsolicited manuscripts of adult fiction & non-fiction. They are not accepting poetry or playscripts at this point in time. Writers should send a synopsis + sample chapters + SSAE to: Manuscript Submissions

## **Wakefield Press**

Box 2266, Kent Town SA 8071 Tel (08) 8362 8800 Fax (08) 8362 7592

**YES** they are happy to accept unsolicited submissions of true stories, literature, gastronomy and culture. At present they do not accept submissions of poetry or children's books.. Send whole manuscript and SSAE to: The Publisher.

### **How to sell your MS to a publisher:**

The FAW Survey of Publishers is conducted every two months. The findings of the survey were accurate at the time of printing - however, they only represent the publishers who responded to the survey.

If you are serious about marketing your own MS, you should supplement the information in these pages with your own 'sleuthwork'. Here are some steps you may like to take:

1. Make a list of publishers you think might be interested in reading your MS.
2. Call the publisher of your choice and find out the name of the editor who handles your type of MS.
3. Call the editor (or send a good letter) and 'sell' your idea. Ask if they are interested in reading your MS - if they are, it is best to send:
  - a synopsis (1-2 pages) describing your MS plot, its market, and why it should be published;
  - a CV outlining who you are and your writing credits, if any;
  - the first 3 chapters of your MS; and
  - a SSAE large enough for the return of your submission.

With non-fiction, it is best to send an outline of your idea before you go ahead and write it. So instead of the first 3 chapters, send an intended outline of each chapter in your book.

Whatever you send, give the publisher 2-3 months to read it before you contact them! You may submit your manuscript to several publishers at once provided you notify all when one makes you an offer.

Above all, believe in your MS and be persistent!

# FAST TRACK EMAIL TUTORIALS BY JEN McVEITY

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They're the top experts in their field, they have decades of industry knowledge and in an hour they could probably save you years of trial and errors and mistakes. Unfortunately they don't have time to run face-to-face tutorials.

Or do they...?

Imagine being able to pick the brains of Garry Disher, Margaret Clark, Sophie Masson, Hazel Edwards, Jen McVeity, Libby Gleeson and even the president of National Speakers Australia.

The FAW, (in conjunction with Fast Track Tutorials), has begged, bribed and broken down a LOT of doors to get these experts to share their industry knowledge with you. How? In a brand new venture, the FAW is launching a series of electronic tutorials. You get top techniques from the professionals, all delivered right to your email address.

This is a great opportunity to fast track your skills. Each tutorial has eight lessons, delivered a week apart, all crammed with information and activities to really hone your skills. They are delivered by auto responder, so be warned there is no manuscript assessment or Q&A component - we couldn't pin our experts down THAT long! But by cutting out the interactive component of the tutorials we have been able to bring you the top expert's amazing experience, all condensed, distilled and edited into just eight hours of your time.

Here's just a few of the Fast Track offerings...

## **Fiction Writing Basics (Garry Disher)**

With over 25 books to his name, Garry Disher has mastered an incredible range of genres. Primary teachers battle tears as they read the *Bamboo Flute*, (children's novel) then there are his rich literary works (e.g. *The Sunken Road*), and Disher is also the creator of the hard-hitting read-in-one-sitting Wyatt detective novels. Who better to give an overview of the basics of writing fiction? Here are just a few insider tips:-

{ Use dialogue to give a sense of naturalness to a scene and reveal character.

{ A brief sketch of a setting, with the appropriate details included, will often be more effective than a long description.

{ To capture emotion, write from the heart - a heart with the objectivity of ice in it.

## **Fantastic Fantasy (Sophie Masson)**

'Spells, potions and powers: magic and how it works.'

How can you resist that title? Or try this one:- 'Orcs, fairies and dragons: supernatural creatures and how to make them feel real.' These are just two of the lessons in Sophie Masson's fantasy tutorial.

'Fantasy is like any other kind of fiction—you need a good story, good characters, and good writing,' says Masson. Her freshness of style comes from original research, you should see her library of ancient dictionaries and myths. 'Don't rewrite *Lord of the Rings*!' she urges. 'Instead, go back to the primary sources: those world myths, epics, sagas, legends, fairytales and medieval romances that are the backbone of good fantasy writing.' Sophie Masson knows a bit about the magic of writing as well - she has over 35 books published in six countries around the world.

## **Public Speaking (Helen Macdonald, president of National Speakers)**

Being able to speak to audiences is a vital part of an author's job - research shows it can double sales! So how do you win an audience - AND get them to buy books?

{ Take any questions three quarters of the way through a speech, and save one story or reading for your ending to create a powerful climax.

{ To overcome nerves, breathe deeply and hum to loosen up the vocal chords.

Helen Macdonald is the President of National Speakers Australia. She wasn't a 'natural' speaker, but now put her in front of an audience and she radiates intelligence, confidence and humour to hundreds of people. Macdonald shares the skills and insights to give you the same confidence - fast!

## **Pitching to Publishers**

Writing the book is only half the job. Getting it published has broken more hearts than Tom Cruise. Last year, Jen McVeity was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to showcase over 40 Australian authors to USA publishers. She's learnt:-

{ Cover letters need 'selling points' about the book. Editors may love the story, but they have to convince the marketing people it will sell well.

{ A synopsis has to sizzle. Use bits of dialogue and quotes from the books to give an idea of tone.

{ Don't put your character alone on the first page, you need action and dialogue to make that first page sell.

Jen McVeity has hung out in cars, bars and spas with all the top publishers and editors in the USA and Australia. And she tells all!

## **PR for Authors (Hazel Edwards)**

Generally it takes three media mentions before most people will buy your book. Did you know:-

{ Your bio needs to be in the third person. Don't gush. Be informative. Have different lengths available e.g. 100 words/250 words/one page CV.

{ Scan your cover and author photo, so it is instantly available for e-mailing as an attachment.

{ Much of 'publicity' is old fashioned good manners, where you get back to people, follow up on requests and thank them afterwards. Being organized with copies of the book, bio or cards and being 'on time' is the second part.

'Marketing yourself as an author is not a matter of ego, it's a necessity for the book to be reviewed, discussed and bought,' says Hazel Edwards. She's just getting on a plane as you read this. Safe to say that as with her speaking engagements, TV deals and the re-release of her classic *Hippopotamus on the Roof* series, Hazel Edwards is on planes a lot!

**So...which experts will you choose to fast track you???**

**When: October 1st 2005.**

**Where: [www.writers.asn.au](http://www.writers.asn.au)**

**Cost: Just \$66 per tutorial.**

# THE TOURIST DUMMY'S GUIDE TO USING INTERNET CAFES: TRAVEL HINTS FOR USING THE INTERNET WHEN IN TRANSIT

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by Hazel Edwards

This time the instructions were in Czech and the keyboard Z printed as a Y. That's a problem when you have a name with Z in it and your password also contains that letter. Finding the elusive @ was also a challenge as it was hidden as the third function on a key.

In the past six weeks, I've operated in Polish, German, French, Hungarian, Czech, English, Austrian and Microsoft icon instructions and I'm not the world's greatest nor faster cyber learner despite having a web site for years (maintained by my friendly geek) But I'm a self-employed author and needed to maintain contact with my business in Australia.

Accessing Internet cafes in Central and Eastern Europe and Asia is a challenge for non-geek travellers, especially if you're operating in an unfamiliar language. In a well used Prague cyber café, some letters were worn off the black keyboard in the dark room. An additional challenge to type blind and on a different keyboard.

1. First find the shop signs (or the flickering screens inside) indicating an Internet Café. Phone sales shops which do not supply e-mail also display the word Internet, so check. If in trouble, ask for 'Le Internet?' or 'Cyber café?' Alternatively, ask a 14 year old male or a backpacker. The best bet is near Backpacker hostels, tourist attractions, currency exchanges or train stations. Airport kiosks are often out of order or closed to late flights. Even the Gare du Montparnasse in Paris does not have its own cyber café. The multi-lingual information booth directs you to a cyber café in a nearby street. Frankfurt Hauptbahnhof has a stand-up Internet kiosk on the actual platform, but don't send any romantic e-mails as the rest of the queue tends to read over your shoulder, checking how many minutes you have left on the meter.

2. Hot mail can be sent from anywhere, but accessing Australian servers is more of a linguistic challenge. Not all keyboards are the same. You may need to change the instructions into English, by hitting an optional language key. (Admittedly hard to decipher that instruction in another language, but follow the flags) Watch how others operate. Or choose a computer where the last user was in your language.

3. Get friends to e-mail you first. Then hit the reply button to give their e-dress instantly. On unfamiliar keyboards often the @ sign or the . which is essential for the www. site is missing or hidden. On highly chargeable minutes it's frustrating to waste time, trying to work the keyboard for elusive symbols like ~ or type the edress rather than send messages.

4. Often you can't 'keep' copies of what you've sent nor re-read. Sometimes a yes/no option will appear with an incomprehensible question, and the computer is stopped until

you answer, and if you choose the wrong option, the whole message disappears.

5. Idiocyncratic Internet'minders' provide 'colour'. In seaside St Malo, I walked the beach for an hour until the resident 'Geek' whose dog lived in-house opened the 'doggy' smelling Internet facility. I had misread 'Open' and 'Close' in French and they operate on the 24hour clock, plus he'd overslept. But once I spoke to his dog, the geek was most helpful with attempting to print out a pdf file, in colour. Junk mail becomes very expensive for a traveller. Get someone at home to access your account and delete all spam and remove attachments. Otherwise the downloadable time is astronomical and you may not have enough money to pay in that currency.

6. Costs? Some places insist you pay first in half hour slots. Others charge on minutes used. Rates are on the wall or ask them to write the amount in figures as it's easier to work out than words if you don't know the language. Apart from having the right currency, you must estimate how long you'll need to use it (you may not know how many messages are there until you look) In six weeks, I spent the equivalent of \$100 Australian in various currencies to keep my home business functioning. The most expensive access was Warsaw and Vienna while the cheapest was Berlin because my budget hotel provided ten minutes free access for guests, and no-one else had found the facility.

7. Some hotels have e-mail access in their business centres but these tend to operate only 9-5pm weekdays and are VERY expensive. Our Warsaw hotel e-mail access cost the equivalent of \$8A for ten minutes and the 'help' was surly and minimal in comparison with the black rimmed spectacled 'geeks' who generally played computer game inbetween customers in basement or backstreet Internet shops in Budapest, Paris and Krakow and who enjoyed solving computer problems. My most unusual site was in a Fight Café in Saverne, filled with masculine games, and the attendants were most courteous.

8. The most comfortable? A cake and coffee shop in Strasbourg which provided virtual reality on the screen but real, heavy cream laden cakes to look at, alongside. By the time I'd paid for the Internet I didn't have enough local currency for a cake or a coffee. Ironically this was the same café I'd used two years earlier and had been completely frustrated at being unable to get through to Australia. Maybe their computers have improved? Or maybe I've become less of an Internet dummy?

9 Once you've mastered the challenges of Internet cafes, then there are additional challenges of the mobile phone codes to ring or receive from Australia, or the phone cards. E-mail is cheaper than phoning and with massive time differences, loved ones prefer not to be pulled out of bed to talk in the middle of

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the night because the caller miscalculated, and added instead of subtracting eight hours.

10. My cyber-phobic husband's favourite was the Munich Internet café because he could have a beer and look at the rugby memorabilia on the wall while I wrestled with German instructions. Later my husband posted a message in a bottle

home to our son in Darwin. It arrived by sea-mail, courtesy of Australia Post four weeks later.

There must be a message in that!

*Hazel Edwards' web site is [www.hazeledwards.com](http://www.hazeledwards.com)*



# WHAT'S ON

**Nillumbik Regional Meeting: Getting Published** with guests from Penguin Books, Publishing Solutions, Eltham Bookshop and Indra Publishing. Providing guidance to writings looking to get published on 3rd September at Montsalvat from 2pm – 4pm with refreshments after. Published Writers are encouraged to bring their works for sale and share their experiences.

Special appearance by Jennifer Claire Australian writer and performer. Her work "Tolstoy's Wife" was performed Street Theatre in New York.

**Invitation to meet Elizabeth Marshall:** who will read and discuss her wartime memoir "An Accidental Brush With History" by Mick Woiwood who will introduce the evening. Thursday 25th August 2005 at Eltham Bookshop 7 – 8.30pm for the price of a gold coin. Bookings phone: 9439 8700.

**Shakespeare – A celebration of his songs, sonnets and rock 'n' roll.** Directed by Richard Piper : Friday - Sunday 26th – 28th August 2005 at 6pm at Montsalvat. Enquiries Ph: 9439 7712

**Bookclub970** – Does reading make you want to talk? Does literature set your thoughts racing? Then join Bookclub970 and come to Eltham Bookshop and participate in a forum for lively discussion.

Enquiries Ph: 9439 8700

- on September 7th from 7.30 – 9pm book set for meeting "Emergency Sex" by Postlewait, Cain & Thomson available from Eltham bookshop's Bookclub970

- on October 5th from 7.30 – 9pm book set for meeting "Shadows of the Pomegranate Tree" by Tariq Ali available from Eltham bookshop's Bookclub970

**Chatterbooks Kids Booksclub** – Children's Week Celebrations – offers forum for kids aged 8-13 to talk about their favourite books, meet authors, learn about writing and have truckloads of fun. Eltham Town Square Sunday 28th August 2005 from 2pm – 4pm.

**Tolstoy's Wife** a play by Jennifer Claire Australian writer and performer. Her work "Tolstoy's Wife" was performed Street Theatre in New York and is to be performed at Montsalvat in early September. Enquiries Ph: 9439 7712

**Joe Cinque's Consolidation & Tasting Life Twice** – listen to two brilliant authors, Helen Garner and Romana Koval talk about their recent books, the art of interviewing and research at Montsalvat September 12th from 7-8.30pm Entry \$10 Enquiries Ph: 9439 8700

**Courthouse Readings:** Poetry Readings at Eltham Courthouse 728 Main Road, Eltham (Melways 21 J7) sponsored by Nillumbik Shire Council every third Thursday of the month at 7.30pm for 8pm start. Refreshment available for \$3. Enquiries Ph: Helen 9439 9732 or Katrina 9433 3126.

**Nillumbik FAW Regional** will be conducting monthly workshops, readings and guest speakers for further details visit [www.writers.asn.au](http://www.writers.asn.au) or phone 0413 736 723.

**Any writing group, training organisation or anyone conducting events relevant to writing, publishing or literary learning are welcome to advertise their event in our magazine for FREE in our "What's On" section. Groups operating outside the Nillumbik area will also be promoted even if conducted outside the metropolitan area or interstate. We have members interstate and living in the country who are supported by Regional and Interstate FAWs.**

**Ads and inserts are also encouraged but carry a cost.**

## ABOUT FAW (VIC) INC

FAW was established in 1928 and has branches across Australia. With over 2000 members, the Victorian branch is the biggest and operates without government funding. The daily activities are carried out by a voluntary committee of writers.

### **FAW members receive:**

- 6 issues of The Australian Writer per year
- Advice on contracts and other matters
- Concession admission to 'Molly Blooms' Readings
- Details of the National Literary Awards

### **Who to contact at FAW**

Listed below are FAW Executive Committee members and their responsibilities. You may write to any of them C/- FAW, PO Box 8411, Armadale VIC 3143 (Please enclose a SSAE if you require a reply. You may also phone on (03) 9431 2370.

Philip Rainford, President

Michael Dugan, Vice President. Advice on contracts and professional matters

Gail Blundell, Treasurer

Alana Kelsall, Minutes Secretary

Clare Mendes, Awards Coordinator

Youna Angevin-Castro, Editor, The Australian Writer

Greg Young, Website Coordinator

Jessica Sperlich, Publicity Officer

Andre Kessoudakis, Publicity Officer

Lyn Hatherly, Subscriptions Officer

**Life members:** Geoffrey Blainey, AO, AC. Don Charwood, AM. Maria Lewitt. Eileen amilton, Clare Mendes, Adrian Peniston Bird, Ken Simpson. Hon. Solicitor: Paul Natoli, LL.B., 24 Cotham Rd, Kew VIC 3101. Hon. Auditor: Ian N. Hillard, FCA, Chartered Accountant, 377 Little Lonsdale St, Melbourne.

FAW is linked with the Copyright Council, Arts Training Victoria, the Friends of Dromkeen, the Arts Industry Council and the Victorian Writers' Centre. We publish opportunities in The Australian Writer as appear to be in accord with writers' rights, but such accord cannot be guaranteed. To inform of as many opportunities as possible, not all details may be given or known. If unsatisfactory aspects are thought to exist, please tell us. Paid advertisements in The Australian Writer do not imply FAW endorsement of the services offered.

**FAW Reg No. A0029379B**

**ABN: 20 923 417 049**

# APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Whether you're an aspiring writer wishing to get published or an established one, membership to the Fellowship of Australian Writers (Vic) is an excellent way to make the most of your writing skills. FAW (Vic) members come from all age groups, all backgrounds and all states of Australia.

## Whatever your writing interests, membership to FAW (Vic) is a valuable, low cost way to:

- Improve your writing ability
- Hear about the latest competitions
- Learn what publishers want, and how to sell your work
- Receive valuable advice from professional writers
- Increase your knowledge of the writing industry

## What do members receive?

- Six issues of *The Australian Writer* per year
- Concession admission to our monthly 'Molly Blooms' readings
- Free advice in areas such as contracts, copyright, etc
- The opportunity to enter our National Literary Awards

### Are you applying to join as a Member or Associate Member?

A Member is a published writer of at least one book (any communication medium) or an editor whose work constitutes a reputable contribution to letters.

Full-time journalists, playwrights whose work/s have been performed, writers involved in sustained writing of a professional, commercial or literary nature - articles, poetry, freelance journalism, short stories, song lyrics, etc. - are also eligible for Membership.

Members have the right to vote at FAW's AGM and other times of election. If you are applying for Membership, please submit a brief list of writing credits with this application.

An Associate Member is any other person, not necessarily a published writer, who is interested in writing. Associate Members are not eligible to vote on motions at AGMs, but in every other way receive the same rights and benefits as Members.

I wish to join the Fellowship of Australian Writers:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (P/CODE): \_\_\_\_\_

TEL: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

My chief writing interests are: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Subscription Rates

Regular \$39\*

Student/Pensioner \$28\*

Institutions \$78

\* Note: for new members there is a once-only joining fee of \$5

Students subscribing at the concession rate must have full-time status. All concession subscribers should please show a student's number / health care card number etc. (aged pensioners and seniors excepted)

Please find enclosed a cheque for \$.....  
(cheques to be made out to 'FAW (Vic) Inc')

OR

I wish to pay \$..... by credit card  
Bankcard / Mastercard / Visa (please circle)

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Expiry date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Member or Associate Member?

(To determine if you are a member or associate member, refer to box at left).

## I wish to join FAW as a:

Member

Associate Member

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The Fellowship of Australian Writers (Vic)

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PO Box 8411, Armadale VIC 3143

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Tel. (03) 9431 2370

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[www.writers.asn.au](http://www.writers.asn.au)

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