

# 2006 NATIONAL LITERARY AWARDS

conducted by the Fellowship of Australian Writers (Victoria)

## RESULTS

### PART 1: BOOK AWARDS

**FAW MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY PUBLISHING AWARD** – in its thirty-fourth year, an award for a non-fiction book first published in Australia, of sustained quality and distinction with an Australian theme. *Sponsored by* **Melbourne University Publishing**

<b>Winner (\$1000)</b>	<b>Paul Collins</b>	Burn: The Epic Story of Bushfire in Australia	NSW	Allen and Unwin
<b>Highly Commended</b>	<b>Ruth Gooch</b>	Frontier French Island	VIC	Prahran Mechanics Institute Press
	<b>Garrie Hutchinson</b>	Pilgrimage: A Traveller's Guide To Australia's Battlefields	VIC	Black Inc., an Imprint of Schwartz Publishing Pty. Ltd.
	<b>Alice Pung</b>	Unpolished Gem	VIC	Black Inc., an Imprint of Schwartz Publishing Pty. Ltd.

#### **Judges' report: Jean Thornton and Bill Anderson**

There was a large and varied number of entries this year and, in general, the standard of entries was good. Although it was fairly difficult to decide on the final selection, the judges found they were able to agree on the winner and the commendations.

Paul Collin's history of bushfire in Australia was judged the outstanding book entered in this award. "Burn" is not only an important contribution to Australian historiography it is a finely written, engrossing book. Collins tackles an important subject with great energy and sensitivity and the book is insightful and entertaining. This is a splendid history and a major contribution to our understanding of an important aspect of Australian life.

Ruth Gooch's history of French Island is a model local history. It is extremely well researched, the illustrations are excellent and it is written with great warmth. "Pilgrimage", Garrie Hutchinson's guide to Australian battlefields, is the fruit of immense research, it is written with passion and great skill and contains a wealth of fascinating information - this is historical research and writing of a very high order. Alice Pung's memoir "Unpolished Gem" is a delight. In this, her first book, Pung displays remarkable storytelling skills; this is a vastly entertaining, insightful and witty book.

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**FAW CHRISTINA STEAD AWARD** – in its twentieth year, an award for a work of fiction first published in Australia. *Sponsored by* **Merchant of Fairness Bookshop**

<b>Winner (\$500)</b>	<b>Sandy McCutcheon's</b>	Black Widow	VIC	Scribe Publications
<b>Highly Commended:</b>	<b>Kevin Brophy</b>	What men and women do	VIC	Flat Chat Press
	<b>Andrew McGahan</b>	Underground	NSW	Allen & Unwin
	<b>Tara June Winch</b>	Swallow the Air	QLD	Uni Qld Press
<b>Commended</b>	<b>Azhar Abidi</b>	Passarola Rising	VIC	Penguin Group
	<b>Adrian Hyland</b>	Diamond Dove	VIC	Text Publishing
	<b>Peter Yeldham</b>	The Murrumbidgee Kid	VIC	Penguin Group

## Judges' report: Joanne Lee Dow and Philip Rainford

Sandy McCutcheon's novel impacts hauntingly as it evokes the crime against humanity at Beslan: the urgency of the victims' and perpetrators' desire for retaliation, the terrible complexities of the issues of justice, and the centrality of witness.

Kevin Brophy's original short stories search relationships in their elegant and quirky joining of the daily with the unknowable.

Andrew McGahan's political satire disturbingly previews a possible rocky Australian and global future.

Tara Jane Winch's stories of sensuously realised moments in a life interweave to convey the darkness and resilient hope of contemporary Aboriginal lives.

Azhar Abidi's fabling eighteenth-century adventure of a flying ship is pacy, inventive and engaging.

Adrian Hyland's crisp and witty whodunit creates a mixed-race heroine to give unusual insight to the peoples and landscapes of Central Australia.

Peter Yeldham's story of a boy's life in the depression from the Small Murrumbidgee town to Fast Paced Sydney's Theatrical Life is entertaining throughout.

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**FAW ANNE ELDER AWARD** – in its thirtieth year, an award for a first book of poetry first published in Australia.

Sponsored by the **Anne Elder Trust**, managed by Catherine Elder and FAW.

<b>Winner \$1000</b>	<b>Libby Hart</b>	Fresh News from the Artic	VIC
<b>Highly Commended:</b>	<b>Luke Beesley</b>	Lemon Shark	QLD
	<b>Francesca Haig</b>	Bodies of Water	VIC
	<b>Paul Magee</b>	Cube root of book	ACT
<b>Commended</b>	<b>Jennifer Chrystie</b>	Polishing the Silver	ACT
	<b>Nathan Shepherdson</b>	Sweeping the Light Back Into the Mirror	QLD
	<b>Simon West</b>	First Names	VIC

## Judge's report: Lorraine McGuigan and Earl Livings

The standard of entries was quite high, which made the choice of winners a challenging yet enjoyable process. There was also that excitement in seeing what emerging poets were attempting in poetics and subject matter. There was a broad range, from the confessional to the imaginative, from traditional verse forms to postmodern/avant garde processes. However, some observations may benefit those preparing their first collections. Firstly, a book should contain a poet's best work. It is better to have a good, small collection than a bigger one with weaker pieces that are there because of theme or because the poet liked them too much. As William Faulkner said, 'Kill your darlings'. Secondly, poets should avoid trying to lift poems through the use of literary references or exotic settings, or have process words overwhelming impact words, thus merely producing an account of events.

The late writer John McGahern said, 'A poem is a dead thing unless it comes to life in the reader's mind'. Fresh imagery and imaginative use of language will engage the reader, but seemingly contrived obscurity is tedious. Beware, too, of endings; too many times a poem's natural ending was a line earlier, or even a stanza before. By contrast, some short poems cried out for development, to give them body, resonance. Also, watch that first line, which is the hook for the reader; make them amusing, seductive, surreal, anything but flat.

Our experience as judges has been rewarding and illuminating. We thank all poets and publishers for their efforts.

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## PART 2: MANUSCRIPT AWARDS

**FAW MALVERN NEWS SHEET COMMUNITY WRITERS' AWARD** – in its tenth year, for an anthology by a community writers' group. *Sponsored by* **Malvern News Sheet**

<b>Winner (\$500)</b>	<b>Glam</b>	Seasoned with Honey	TAS
<b>Equal second prize</b>	<b>Montmorency Writer's Group</b>	Turtle Eggs	VIC
	<b>Bayside Poetry Group</b>	This Life	VIC
<b>Highly Commended</b>	<b>The Williamstown Writers</b>	Half Open Doors	VIC
	<b>Southern Scribes</b>	Sea Sirens	WA
	<b>Wednesday Women Writers</b>	Journeys	VIC
<b>Commended</b>	<b>Tuesday Writers</b>	Falls the Shadow	VIC
	<b>Drumcandra Writers</b>	Beyond the Picket Fence	VIC
	<b>The Hut Creative Writing Group</b>	Writing from the Hut	VIC

### **Judge's report: Helen Cerne**

Twenty-one anthologies from writing groups all over Australia entered the FAW community award for 2006. Comprising engaging stories, memorable narratives and inspiring poetry, they ranged from competent to very professional in form and content. Overall, the standard of writing and presentation was impressive and very competitive which made the judging a challenging task. There were five, good poetic anthologies, four interesting prose entries two of which were non-fictional accounts of local history and twelve effective submissions comprising both prose and poetry. The shortlisted entries were fresh, insightful about human experience or observation and often unpredictable in form and content. Overall, it was pleasing to see so many 'community' writing groups producing inclusive collections which were well edited, well crafted and displaying a high standard of writing.

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**FAW DI CRANSTON AWARD** – in its nineteenth year, for a play, screenplay or TV Script. *Sponsored by* **Di Cranston**

<b>Winner \$250</b>	<b>Robert Rabiah</b>	Jericho	VIC
<b>Highly Commended:</b>	<b>Nathan Curnow</b>	Mystery in a Blimp	VIC
	<b>Robert Davies</b>	Full Late in the Season	NSW
	<b>Ann Francis Lall</b>	How to Love Wombats	VIC
<b>Commended</b>	<b>Stanley J Richards</b>	Yagan Wardargatuk	WA
	<b>George Bavinton</b>	One Man's Vision	QLD
	<b>Jane Malone</b>	The Rumour	NSW

### **Judge's report: Peter Krausz**

It was very gratifying to see the increase in the number of entries for this award this year, especially the increase in the number of screenplays, as well as an overall increase in the quality of entries, making judgements quite difficult. Where writers took risks and wrote on contentious subject matters, or used language in challenging and appropriate ways, the outcomes were duly rewarded. The range of subjects explored by writers, as well as the forms used: stage play, radio play, and screenplay; demonstrated the willingness by writers to use different approaches to communicate themes. It is still disappointing however to see some writers take a safe approach to an idea that is either quite old-fashioned in style, or fails to properly explore the wide-ranging aspects of the issue. Genre pieces are fine, but it is value-adding to that in a fresh, challenging way, that will lead to better rewards. I encourage writers to keep thinking outside the square and come up with challenging, exciting scripts that communicate complex ideas or themes in a way that engages and challenges the reader/audience. In particular I continue to urge writers of screenplays to use the drafting process to refine ideas and improve the quality of the scripts. Overall though, a strong year for writers in this category, and I hope to see that expanding in subsequent years.

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**WHITE LIGHT FEATURE FILM SCRIPT AWARD** – in its second year, for a play, screenplay or TV script written by a writer. *Sponsored by* **White Light Productions**

<b>WINNER: (\$250)</b>	<b>Robert Davies</b>	Full Late in the Season	NSW
<b>Highly Commended:</b>	<b>Serhat Caradee</b>	Cedar Boys	NSW
	<b>Michael Griffith</b>	Release	VIC
	<b>Frances Overheu</b>	Refuge	WA
<b>Commended</b>	<b>Luke Preston</b>	The Big Dead End	VIC
	<b>Donna Williams</b>	The Tower	VIC

### **Judge's report: Angelo Salamanca**

The response to the White Light Productions thriller screenplay award was substantial with 22 entries. Some scripts adhered to the genre more than others. Those that didn't would best be described as drama with very few moments of heightened suspense and lacking in essential thriller elements. There was a good mix of the cinematic and tele-movie material. One screenplay, though strong and bold in the themes tackled, was essentially a theatre piece. I essentially looked for compelling material of the thriller genre which afforded strong imagery, gripping big print, well-written dialogue, and non hackneyed story-lines. The themes writers tackled were diverse: political; existential; contemporary and futuristic dystopian societies; racial, sexual and gender issues; depiction of drug addiction and peddling; hysteria over imagined terrorism threats - to name but a few. On a more basic level of criticism, some writers neglecting to present their screenplays in the industry standard format. Prospective producers/assessors would probably not bother reading such scripts if they landed on their desks. I would urge everyone unsure of the correct formatting to simply request a copy of "suggested script layout" from such bodies as the Australian Film Commission. Notwithstanding some manifestly under-developed scripts, the writing overall was of a high standard. I believe the winner and those commended stand a good chance attracting producers to have their work realised.

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**FAW JENNIFER BURBIDGE SHORT STORY AWARD** – in its seventh year, in honour of Jennifer Burbidge, for a story dealing with any aspect of the lives of those who suffer from some form of mental disability and/or its impact on their families. *Sponsored by* **Mary Burbidge**

<b>Winner (\$250)</b>	<b>Janet Shaw</b>	Sophie's Rose	WA
<b>Highly Commended</b>	<b>Joan Kerr</b>	Louise, Louie, Lou	VIC
	<b>Jennifer Lehmann</b>	A Certain Dignity	VIC

### **Judge's report: Mary Burbidge**

There were more of entries this year, with stories covering a diversity of disabilities and looking at many aspects of how disability might impact on people's lives. Many writers had used their imaginations to create stories about how it feels for the person with the disability, sometimes with bizarre or black outcomes. Stories from the perspective of those caring for a person with a disability seem to be based on experience and are often touching and empathetic. A second reading of all stories proved worthwhile, with some seeming stronger and better developed when I knew where they were heading, but the same story stood out as my winner. Several well-written and engaging, if rather grim, stories were hard to choose between for commendation.

The winning story, Sophie's Rose, presents the anguish of a pregnant woman facing the news that her child has a chromosomal abnormality. In making the decision she must now make, a serendipitous encounter has a powerful impact and the choice she makes, with all its consequences, turns on a rose petal. This is a delicately written story with strong emotions and social relevance.

A Certain Dignity has a deftness and lightness in depicting the intertwined lives of three siblings, each with their own demons, as a brother and sister attend the funeral of their protective elder brother.

Louise, Louie, Lou is a gentle exploration of the mindset of a man caring for his wife as she is changed by dementia.

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**FAW MARY GRANT BRUCE SHORT STORY AWARD FOR CHILDREN'S LITERATURE** – in its twenty-sixth year, for a manuscript written for readers aged 10 – 15 years.

**Sponsored by Wellington Shire Council**

**The Gippsland Regional Award has not been given this year due to lack of entries**

<b>Winner (\$600)</b>	<b>Catherine Bateson</b>	The stray Dogs Café	VIC
<b>Second Prize (\$300)</b>	<b>Barry Coroline</b>	Jimmy Opal	QLD
<b>Highly Commended</b>	<b>Simone Busch</b>	Andi Quigley	QLD
	<b>Janeen Samuel</b>	Four on the Fence	VIC
<b>Commended</b>	<b>Dianne Bates</b>	Yours in Desperation	VIC
	<b>Margaret Watts</b>	Lucky Break	NSW

### **Judge's report: Margaret Campbell**

Most striking about the entries for this year's competition was the choice of genres and the age group at which the stories were aimed. Most surprising was the distinct drop in the number of fantasy, and also stories for the lower end of the 10-15 age group. The majority of entries were suitable for 13-15 year old readers.

While many stories were attention grabbing in the beginning, they became predictable or failed to reach a resolution. Presentation is all important, as is grammar and punctuation; the reliance on computer spelling checks and sloppy grammar and punctuation marred some original ideas.

For young readers the themes of separation, grief, death and war are as relevant as humour, mystery and romance, and they are particularly relevant to young people today. These were some of the themes explored in the outstanding entries, stories which were engaging, holding my attention until the end. The writers applied their skills to create believable characters and places; they used appropriate language and constructed strong narratives with satisfying conclusions.

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**FAW JOHN SHAW NEILSON POETRY AWARD** – in its thirty-sixth year, for a poem or suite of poems.*Sponsored by* **Collected Works Bookshop**

<b>Winner (\$600)</b>	<b>Rob Wallis</b>	Centres of Silence	VIC
<b>Second Prize (\$150)</b>	<b>Anne Shenfield</b>	Raised signs	VIC
<b>Highly Commended</b>	<b>Rosanna Licari</b>	Variations in Travel	QLD
	<b>John West</b>	I Don't Care Any More	VIC
<b>Commended</b>	<b>Sue Pearson</b>	If You Go Down to the Woods Today	QLD
	<b>Susan Kruss</b>	Chronic	VIC
	<b>Sandra Hill</b>	The Edge of Art (Blue Mop)	VIC
	<b>E.A Gleeson</b>	The Hair Appointment	VIC

**Judge's report: Garth Madson**

This was a difficult competition to judge because of the number of poems of quality. Towards the end it was an excruciating process whittling down the short list, casting off poems at the same time as appreciating them all the more. Good poems are enhanced by re-reading and this was certainly true of the final 30 entries on the short-list. These poems, all completely individual, showed a cohesion of subject, imagery and the rhythm of the language. No word was superfluous. The metaphors were apt and original. The winning poem, 'Centres of Silence', illustrated all of this. A political poem, it did not preach, but each of its short, sometimes one-word lines, cut like razor wire. The use of the first person plural indicted writer and reader along with detention centre guards and government officials as well as reinforcing an 'us and them' dynamic. The poem pushed us towards its conclusion but it was never predictable. Second prize went to 'Raised Signs'. A poem that kicked the reader in the stomach, it merged metaphors of graphic fonts and foreign cities with the death of a sister. The poet embraced the nuances of grief - the sense of loss, the anger, the guilt, the banalities we bring to death and life.

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**FAW JIM HAMILTON AWARD** – in its thirteenth year, for an unpublished novel.*Sponsored by* **Eltham High School**

<b>Winner (\$1000)</b>	<b>Jarad Henry</b>	Spider Web	VIC
<b>Highly Commended</b>	<b>Clancy Tucker</b>	KY!	VIC

**Judges' report: Randle Armstrong Donna Murphy**

Spiders Web is a sometimes confronting but well scripted murder mystery set in St Kilda and is a page turning read. It is a well researched novel with a realistic and believable storyline that at times explores areas of human behaviour that is unsettling and all too real in current times. The author is descriptive, creating the environment for the reader, without being overly wordy and diluting the action of the story. The novel maintains a steady pace and like the best of this genre, the author evolves a cast of characters that the reader wants to follow; to find out what happens to them

KY Was well written and encompasses many issues relevant in today's society including racism, bullying, Australian values, team building through a common goal and illness; a worthy read for all young Australians

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**FAW ANGELO B. NATOLI SHORT STORY AWARD** – in its seventh year, honouring the late Angelo B. Natoli, who served for many years as FAW’s Honorary Solicitor. For a short story of up to 3,000 words. *Sponsored by **A. B. Natoli Pty.***

Winners (\$600)	<b>James Hughes</b>	The Dogs of Korea	VIC
Second Prize (\$400)	<b>Karen Foxlee</b>	Small Fortunes	QLD
Highly Commended:	<b>Stephanie Buckle</b>	The Facts of Life	ACT
	<b>Suzanne McCourt</b>	Cleaning out the Shed	VIC
	<b>Pierz Newtonjohn</b>	Where Parrots Alight	VIC
Commended:	<b>Pierz Newtonjohn</b>	Mary and Jane	VIC
	<b>Julie Waight</b>	Renegade Tear	VIC
	<b>Penny Gibson</b>	The Vine Year	VIC

**Judge’s report: Louise Le Nay**

The range of style and subject in this year’s entries was delightful. The final twenty were difficult to separate in quality and have led to a higher than normal number of commended stories.

All awarded entries are characterized by skill and polish, inventiveness (in style as well as in narrative), and truth. Both the Winning and Second Place entries – which are both stories of publishable standard – tell tales of emotional complexity without resorting to florid sentiment. They demonstrate great insight into the human spirit..

It’s important to be aware that travelogues and family reminiscences are not necessarily short stories. It is a narrative which results in an insight (complete or incomplete) that moves us from the realm of anecdote, reminiscence and travel diary and into the realm of “story”.

My congratulations to the winners and thanks to the FAW for the privilege and pleasure of reading the entries.

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**PART 3: YOUNG WRITERS’ AWARDS**

**FAW YOUNG POET OF THE YEAR AWARD Part A** (for writers aged 8 – 12 years) - in its thirteenth year. *Sponsored by **Aileen Kelly***

Winner (\$100)	<b>Bethany Peterson</b>	A Series of Unfortunate Events	VIC
Highly Commended:	<b>Makeely Blanford</b>	Drought	QLD
	<b>Taylah Baggs</b>	Snow's Kiss	QLD
	<b>Benjamin Clark</b>	Money	VIC
Commended:	<b>Brielle Blanford</b>	Dragon's Breath	QLD
	<b>Alexander Kelloway</b>	The Beach	VIC
	<b>Charlotte Glance</b>	A Book	WA

**Judge’s report: Carla de Goede**

This was a hard competition to judge because all the entries were of a high standard. So well done everyone — you should all be very proud of yourselves.

A Series of Unfortunate Events, This poem made me laugh out loud. Loved the structure of one line starting with ‘Fortunately’ and the next with ‘Unfortunately’ which forced the poem to progress logically from one incident to the next and yet still allowed the writer to stretch their imagination and take us on a journey. A great exercise for everyone to try.

Drought This piece has lovely rhythm and evokes vivid pictures. Also really impressed by the way you get the feel of fire with the ‘crackling and snapping’ underfoot even though ‘there is not a flame in sight’.

Snow’s Kiss Love the sound effects in this piece and the contrast between snow and happiness.

Money Another funny, imaginative piece.

Dragon’s Breath Like the ‘watery lasso’ being used to catch the fire.

The Beach I like the feeling of being alone even though the person is in a crowd and also the way the beach is brought alive.

**FAW YOUNG POET OF THE YEAR AWARD Part B** (for writers aged 13 – 16 years) - in its thirteenth year. *Sponsored by **Aileen Kelly***

<b>Winner (\$150)</b>	<b>Rebecca Davis</b>	Cook's Version of Corinthians 13:1-3	VIC
<b>Highly Commended</b>	<b>Helen Kempton</b>	I Remember Bob	VIC
	<b>Helen Kempton</b>	Her Voice	VIC
<b>Commended:</b>	<b>Maree Loughnan</b>	Need to Walk Away	QLD
	<b>Naomi Claire Wilkinson</b>	Hero & champ	VIC

**Judge's report: Carla de Goede**

The 1st place in this section again went to the poem that showed the most originality. While the certificate winners had a strong emotional core to their work. They made me believe the events were true even if they weren't.

Cook's Version of Corinthians Chapter 13: Verses 1–3 The writer has worked from part of the bible and allowed the rhythm of the original work to spark a completely new work. This type of exercise is one of the best ways to put yourself in a poetic space and many adult writers use this type of exercise frequently.

To everyone who entered these awards, thank you for allowing me to read your work. I enjoyed all the pieces and hope that those of you who are still eligible to enter next year will do so.

Just a quick tip for next year (particularly for those who finished a little lower down on the list), don't rush your work. Take a little more time with a spell checker and perhaps a little more rewriting and I'm sure you can write an even better poem than the one you entered this year. And who knows, it might even be your turn to win a prize next time.

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**MICHAEL DUGAN SHORT STORY AWARD PART A** (for writers aged 8 – 12 years) –*formally the FAW Alan Marshal Award* in its thirteenth year. *Sponsored by **Penguin Books Australia***

<b>Winner (\$100)</b>	<b>Holly Sievers</b>	Bobby comes to life	VIC
<b>Highly Commended:</b>	<b>Paton Lacey</b>	The Deep Dark Forest	WA
	<b>Holly Seivers</b>	Nature	VIC
<b>Commended:</b>	<b>Emily Dourlay</b>	Flying High	VIC
	<b>Romy Stephens</b>	Painted by Stars	VIC
	<b>Retno Ayu Widyanti</b>	Blood of the Spirit	VIC

**MICHAEL DUGAN SHORT STORY AWARD PART B** (for writers aged 13 – 16 years) *formally the FAW Alan Marshal Award* – in its thirteenth year. *Sponsored by **Penguin Books Australia***

<b>Winner (\$150)</b>	<b>Victoria Chung</b>	A Mascot, A Commentator And Many Things Rolled In between	VIC
<b>Highly Commended</b>	<b>Lauren Hawkins</b>	An Angel Named Jillian	VIC
	<b>Daniel Paperny</b>	Oswell that ends well	NSW
	<b>Jack Burnham</b>	Who am I?	QLD
<b>Commended</b>	<b>Zoy Patel</b>	Andy	NSW
	<b>Abigail Cini</b>	In a Heart Beat	VIC
	<b>Erica Chan</b>	That Thing with Feathers	VIC
	<b>Daniel Paperny</b>	Gallipoli	NSW

**Judge's report: Shirley Hassen**

I found these entries to be well presented and written. There was small margin to choose between them. I chose the winners and place-getters on their merits and my inner feelings while reading them

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**FAW COLIN THIELE POETRY AWARD** (for writers aged 15 – 20 years) – in its twenty-third year. *Sponsored by* **Be Published**

<b>Winner (\$100)</b>	<b>Julia Maurus</b>	Looking Outside	VIC
<b>Second Prize (\$100)</b>	<b>Julia Maurus</b>	Disintegration	VIC
<b>Commended</b>	<b>Georgina Douglas</b>	Streams of Gold	TAS

**Judge's report: Grant Caldwell**

The quality of the prize-winning entries made them stand out among the otherwise generally disappointing submissions. Reading many of the entries one wonders how much contemporary verse these young poets are exposed to, how much they actually read. The winning entries stand out for their emotional depth, their restraint and achieved tension, all of which hold the reader beyond the final images

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**FAW JOHN MORRISON SHORT STORY AWARD** (for writers aged 15 – 20 years) – in its thirteenth year. *Sponsored by* **Paul Jennings**

<b>Winner (\$150)</b>	<b>Anna Elliston</b>	Fall	TAS
<b>Second Prize (\$100)</b>	<b>Julia Mauris</b>	Razzle Dazzle	VIC

**Judge's report: Fred Curtis**

The best advice that one can offer the writer of short stories is to 'Get on with it' Every word must count. This is closely followed by 'doing' rather than 'telling' exposition is a malady, often cured by the use of dialogue. The winning entries show on the one hand the effectiveness of (poetic) metaphor and symbolism, on the other, the relating of action via dialogue. Both winning stories grab the reader's attention by fascinating opening paragraphs and indeed first sentences guaranteed to arouse page-turning curiosity. Reader interest is maintained throughout the narrative and culminates in delightful ending with a twist in the final sentence. The salient fault is lack of editing, meaning in this case the ruthless elimination of repetition and long-windedness. Much of the work shows a dependence on adjectives where strong nouns would suffice. Added to which is the frequent use of inappropriate words, distracting adverbs and the like. Generally, grammar, including spelling passes muster, but sentence construction is too often awkward and/or leads to confusion. All entries possess an interesting plot, those that failed the test did so largely on the grounds listed above. I urge the writers to workshop their stories via their local writers' group, the regional branches of FAW for example.

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**FAW MAVIS THORPE CLARK AWARD** – in its twenty-second year.

Sponsored by **Graeme & Robyn Base**

**PART 1: For an anthology by an individual student**

<b>Joint Winner/s</b> (\$350)	<b>Anna Elliston</b>	Ink- lings	TAS
	<b>Sophia Nugent-Siegal</b>	Death and Re birth	QLD
<b>Second Prize</b>	<b>Amy Reid</b>	isolated truths.	TAS
<b>Highly Commended</b>	<b>Bridget Hilliard</b>	Observed in Transit	TAS
<b>Commended</b>	<b>Bronwyn Wrigley</b>	Paraphernalia	VIC

**Judge's report: Shirley Randles**

The entries were of an inconsistent quality. Some were well plotted, but too much information and unnecessary words slowed the impact in both poetry and prose. Other work faded with weak endings. At times colloquial language was used inappropriately. Strict editing would have improved the quality of these submissions.

I could not differentiate between the high quality of two entries. Both were compelling reading and I am therefore naming

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**FAW MAVIS THORPE CLARK AWARD** – in its twenty-second year.

Sponsored by **Graeme & Robyn Base**

**PART 2 : For an anthology by a group of secondary school students**

<b>Winner (\$200)</b>	<b>Warrandyte High School</b>	A Long and Arduous Quest	VIC
<b>Commended</b>	<b>Fahan School</b>	Transience	TAS

**Judge's report: Jennifer Harrison**

As a collection of short stories, A Long and Arduous Quest had a surprising degree of sophistication. The writing was unadorned, yet chiselled, and there was an unusual consistency in tone and diction, both within each story and within the anthology as whole. The stories were pearl-like in their exactness and I found the reading of them highly pleasurable and rewarding. Transience was a more diverse collection, containing both short stories and poetry. The poetry explored the visual aspects of text in unusual ways, and offered an energetic mix of traditional and innovative forms. The short-stories were intelligent and resolved. This collection was beautifully presented.

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**PART 4: FAW CHRISTOPHER BRENNAN AWARD**

The thirty-second year of an award to honour an Australian poet who has written work of sustained quality and distinction. FAW supplies a special cast bronze plaque designed by Michael Meszaros. The recipient each year is chosen by judges on behalf of FAW *Sponsored by* **Sally Dugan**

Judges: Phil Ilton, Sheryl Clark, Kristen Henry

**Winner: Geoff Page**

**PART 5: BARBARA RAMSDEN AWARD**

Returning for the twenty third Year with a 14 year absence A major literary award for a book of quality writing in any field of literature. The FAW supplies two specially cast bronze plaques designed by renowned sculptor and medallionist, Andor Meszaros, which is presented to the author and the publisher's editor to recognise the combined effort of both parties to achieve the final result. The design is of the Origin of Art, showing the creator at work, and a figure representing the forces that ensure its effective communication.

*Sponsored by* **The Society of Editors and FAW**

Judges Jean Thornton, Bill Anderson, Joanne Lee Dow & Philip Rainford

for Pilgrimage: A Travellers Guide to Australia's Battlefield's Published by Black Inc

**Winners: Garrie Hutchinson and Stephanie Holt**

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***From the President of the Fellowship of Australian Writers (Victoria)***

The Fellowship of Australian Writers has great pleasure in announcing the results of its 2006 National Literary Awards. I would like to sincerely thank all entrants, sponsors and judges for their interest and support this year, and I congratulate those who have received awards.

*Philip Rainford, 2006 President*

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**2007 NATIONAL LITERARY AWARDS**

The 2007 National Literary Awards

will open on 1<sup>st</sup> September and close on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2007.

From August 2007 you will be able to download an entry form

from the FAW website: [www.writers.asn.au](http://www.writers.asn.au)

or you can obtain one by sending a SSAE to: **FAW, PO Box 973, Eltham Vic. 3095**

Entry forms are also included in the August/September issue of *The Australian Writer*, the regular publication of the Fellowship of Australian Writers (Victoria) Inc.

**ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS (FAW)**

*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. Its daily activities are carried out by a voluntary committee who are dedicated to nurturing, supporting and providing opportunities for writers at all stages of their careers.*

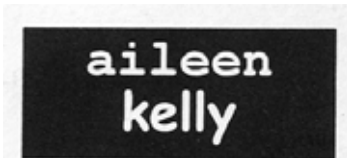
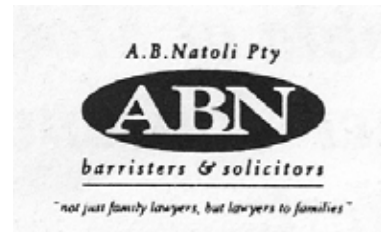
*FAW members receive 4 issues of **The Australian Writer** per year, advice on contracts, publishing and other matters, the chance to participate in the Poetry at the Peacock readings, Readings at Fed Square and ongoing information about the National Literary Awards. If you would like information about FAW membership, please call (03) 9431 5573 visit [www.writers.asn.au](http://www.writers.asn.au) or write to: **FAW, PO Box 973, Eltham Vic. 3095***

FAW appreciates the support of the sponsors of the 2006 National Literary Awards



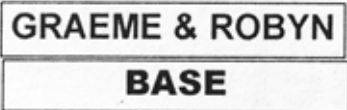
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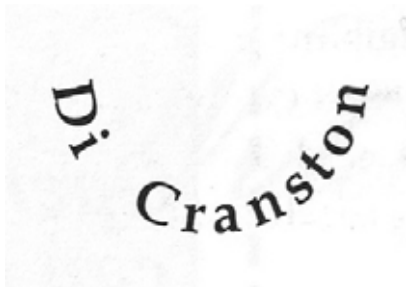


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