

# 2007 NATIONAL LITERARY AWARDS

conducted by the Fellowship of Australian Writers (Victoria)

## RESULTS

### PART 1: BOOK AWARDS

**FAW MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY PUBLISHING AWARD** – in its thirty-fifth 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>Joint Winner (\$500)</b>	<b>Darleen Bungey</b>	Arthur Boyd: A Life	NSW	Allen and Unwin
<b>Joint Winner (\$500)</b>	<b>Philip Jones</b>	Ochre and Rust	SA	Wakefield Press
<b>Highly Commended</b>	<b>Richard Freadman</b>	This Crazy Thing a Life Aust. Jewish Autobiography	WA	University of Western Australia Press

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

There was a disappointingly low number of entries this year, but in general the standard of entries was high. Although it was fairly difficult to decide on the final selection, the judges agreed that it was impossible to settle on one winner, given two outstanding books.

*Darleen Bungey's* biography of Arthur Boyd is an outstanding contribution to Australian art history/biography. Compellingly written, insightful and engrossing, it sensitively relates Boyd's life to the progression of his art.

*Philip Jones's* study of Aboriginal artefacts and cultural contact is a well-written, brilliantly structured book, deeply learned and vastly entertaining.

Both of these books display academic and literary distinction of the highest order.

*Richard Freadman's* insightful book is a major contribution to the study of Australian autobiography and to our understanding of the Australian Jewish Holocaust experience.

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

<b>Winner (\$500)</b>	<b>Rodney Hall</b>	Love Without Hope	VIC	Picador
<b>Highly Commended:</b>	<b>Steven Conte</b>	The Zookeeper's War	VIC	Forth Estate
	<b>Meme McDonald</b>	Live Like Water	NSW	Allen & Unwin
<b>Commended</b>	<b>J. M. Coetzee</b>	Diary of a Bad Year	VIC	The Text Publishing Company
	<b>Garry Disher</b>	Chain of Evidence	VIC	The Text Publishing Company
	<b>Shane Maloney</b>	Sucked in	VIC	The Text Publishing Company
	<b>David Metzenthian</b>	Black Water	VIC	Penguin Group

#### Judges' report: Joanne Lee Dow and Kevin Brophy

Of the forty-one novels submitted, many were pleasurable readable. Rodney Hall's first-prize winning 'Love Without Hope' is the tale of a woman abandoned by her husband, battling depression, and locked in an asylum for the insane through the manipulations of those with designs on her land. It is a novel of luminous episodes, handled with wit and elegance, and a commitment to questions of giving the self to love and resistance to pain and darkness.

Steven Conte's 'The Zookeeper's War' is an extraordinary and convincing evocation of diverse lives in the privations of war-time Berlin.

Meme McDonald's 'Live Like Water', set in Alice Springs, is a tough and tender portrayal of love, politics and life across complex racial boundaries.

Thanks for the opportunity to judge the award, and good luck to FAW in 2008. Please get in touch if there is anything in this report that needs altering/changing

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**FAW ANNE ELDER AWARD** – in its thirty first 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>Judith Bishop</b>	Event	NSW
<b>Commended</b>	<b>Elizabeth Campbell</b>	Letters to the Tremulous Hand	VIC
	<b>Sarah French</b>	Songs Orphans Sing	WA
	<b>Hal Judge</b>	Someone Forgot to Tell the Fish	QLD
	<b>Petra White</b>	The Incoming Tide	VIC

**Judges Connie Barber, Phil Ilton**

**Judges Report: Connie Barber**

The range of writing styles, themes and structures, and a wide difference in the age, experience and previous publication record of individual poems made the task of judging demanding. There were poetry novels, autobiographical poetry, political and social satire, strong lyrical work, humour and classical models which presented a variety of ideas, imagery, themes and language use.

The quality of the writing was high. The work of young writers learning to make poetry was interesting and valuable.

The book given the Award and those commended represented contemporary interest in political and autobiographical writing, highly evocative and carefully structured language, philosophical questioning of limitations to the engagement between people and other living things past and present and the interweaving of content and language that achieves a whole book rather than a collection of individual poems.

Entries were disqualified for being second collections, published outside eligibility dates, failing to provide publication date or having entered in 2006 (with a different title).

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## PART 2: MANUSCRIPT AWARDS

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

<b>Winner (\$500)</b>	<b>The Cartridge Family</b>	A Curiously Reduced Universe	VIC
<b>Commended</b>	<b>The Williamstown Writers</b>	Fences	VIC
	<b>Western Women Writers</b>	Secrets and Lies	VIC
	<b>Nadina Poets</b>	Unpacked and Other Poems	VIC

**Judge's report: Phil Ilton**

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**FAW DI CRANSTON AWARD** – in its twentieth year, for a play, screenplay or TV Script.

Sponsored by **Di Cranston**

<b>Winner \$250</b>	<b>Pasquale Palmieri</b>	Albatross	VIC
<b>Highly Commended:</b>	<b>Melissa Bubnic</b>	Shedding	VIC
	<b>Megan Pearson</b>	To Rid the Disease	VIC
	<b>Suzi Sterel</b>	One Day	VIC
<b>Commended</b>	<b>Meg McNena</b>	Far Country	VIC
	<b>Darcy Lee Tindale</b>	The 101 Myths of the Death of Bernie Smith	NSW
	<b>Robert Campbell</b>	War of the Xiomecks	NSW

### Judge's report: Peter Krausz

Overall, it was another good year of submissions for this award, with entries ranging from plays, to radio scripts, to film screenplays. It was also interesting to observe writers playing with established genres and styles, with varying success, while others attempting innovative and challenging approaches. The winning entry this year was a densely written and confronting play which dealt with a number of key issues. It also demonstrated the power of research, redrafting and fine tuning to achieve a cohesive final script. A number of entries this year did not demonstrate that skill, and indeed, some of the scripts should have been redrafted a few times to get them to a higher level. I continue to encourage writers to draft and redraft screenplays as there is still a dearth of quality writing for film; and I also encourage exploration of more individual topics and styles, rather than attempting to replicate established genre approaches. Unless genre is dealt with in a compelling way, the script just becomes another rehash of what has gone before. I am also surprised at the somewhat conservative approach some writers take to their plays/scripts, assuming that audiences would be happy to see clones of prior, recognized stories and scripts. Finding your own voice, and breaking out of clichéd restraints, would benefit many writers considerably. However, the winning entry, and the highly commended and commended plays/scripts, demonstrated a more distinctive voice and an attempt to present quality writing that is both individual and compelling. Congratulations to everyone who submitted an entry for this year's awards, and I certainly encourage writers to broaden their approach, go through a drafting process and submit an entry for next year's awards, particularly screenplays.

Peter Krausz

Chair of the Australian Film Critics Association; film critic and film journalist.

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**WHITE LIGHT FEATURE FILM SCRIPT AWARD** – in its third year, for a play, screenplay or TV script written by a writer aged 25 or under. *Sponsored by* **White Light Productions**  
There were insufficient entries to judge this year.

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**FAW JENNIFER BURBIDGE SHORT STORY AWARD** – in its eighth 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>Tyswan Slater</b>	Justin's Prison	NSW
<b>Highly Commended</b>	<b>Graeme Simsion</b>	The Kara Project: Phase 1	VIC
	<b>Ailsa Paterson</b>	Gossamer Wings	SA

### Judge's report: Mary Burbidge

Stories were of variable quality and interest. Aspects of aging, dependence, loss, recovery from mental illness, physical and intellectual disabilities and emotional distress were explored from different points of view, with some very imaginative story lines.

Some writers made little attempt to shape an account of a life experience into a coherent, engaging story. Some did not revise, correct or edit their stories sufficiently, causing irritation for the reader. However, most stories were well worth the read and provided sensitive insights into families and individuals tackling the special challenges life has thrown at them.

The winning story, *Justin's Prison*, presents a heart wrenching image of how life could be for a young man able to think, feel, fall in love and make decisions, but totally unable to control his physical body or to express himself.

*The Klara Project: Phase 1* very cleverly portrays the daily relationship challenges of a man living with Asperger's Syndrome.

*Gossamer Wings* presents the thoughts and feelings of all the members of the family of a youngster with Down Syndrome.

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**FAW MARY GRANT BRUCE SHORT STORY AWARD FOR CHILDREN'S LITERATURE** – in its twenty-seventh 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>Samuel Carmody</b>	Vincent	WA
<b>Second Prize (\$300)</b>	<b>Caroline Christie</b>	Ava	SA
<b>Highly Commended</b>	<b>Trish Kennedy</b>	Ally	NSW
	<b>Anna Quinlan</b>	Bushfire Summer	ACT
	<b>Aleesah Darlison</b>	Unicorn Riders Book 1: Yassi's Courage	NSW

<b>Commended</b>	<b>Paula Wilson</b>	The Red Swaggie	VIC
	<b>Anna Quinlan</b>	Missing Mum	ACT
	<b>Kate Shelley</b>	Second Helping	NSW

**Judge's report: Margaret Campbell**

There is a decided challenge in capturing a young reader and maintaining their interest for the duration of a story. Short-listed were those created by writers who drew me into their created 'story world' with believable characters, authentic dialogue, attention to detail and skillful use of language, writers who are aware that young readers are just as discerning and deserving of quality writing as adults.

It was a delight and a 'literary experience' to read the winning entries.

Most of the entries were for older readers and, while many stories meandered through explanations in the first paragraphs and could have done with some serious editing, others came to a quick or unsatisfying end. The range of genres was disappointing, the same ideas often repeated. My advice to writers who choose to write for this age group is to speak with young people, listen to young people, visit bookshops and libraries and to read what is currently being published.

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

<b>Winner (\$600)</b>	<b>Marjorie Ward</b>	The Last Picnic	VIC
<b>Second Prize (\$150)</b>	<b>Leah Kaminsky</b>	My Father Crosses Acland Street, 1987	VIC
<b>Highly Commended</b>	<b>E A Gleeson</b>	Raw Beauty	VIC
	<b>John DeLaine</b>	Comdemned	SA
	<b>Anthony Watson</b>	Requiem	VIC
<b>Commended</b>	<b>Edith Speers</b>	Labyrinth	TAS
	<b>Irene Wilkie</b>	Behind the Sun	NSW
	<b>Benny Walter</b>	The Sea is Emptying	TAS

**Judge's report: Garth Madson**

The general quality of the entries was high. Many of the best poems were, however longer than they needed to be. The endings were sometimes weak. Some were merely epigraphs, a commentary on the poem rather than a conclusion. Other poems were marred by a tendency to overplay their metaphors, squeezing rather than teasing them. The two winning poems dealt with the themes of old age and decay. 'The Last Picnic' is set in a tea room by the sea. The gentility of the opening images contrasts with the brutality of the final stanza. It took me several readings to trace how the poet travelled from one to the other through a succession of perspectives on death – the cosmic, the divine, the economic and the ecological. While this poem paints a tragic picture of death, 'My Father crosses Acland Street in 1987' is a celebration of life, of stubborn endurance in the tradition of narrative painting by artists from Caravaggio to Norman Rockwell, this poem depicts the crucial moment of drama. The scene of these two people crossing the road is so vivid in my mind, so fulfilling in its characterisation, and so well crafted in its choice of images. Yet it leaves me, as so many good poems do with a thousand questions. Also worthy of mentions were 'Sound Waves to Silence, ' Blood Moon,' 'Mother Goes Dancing – 1952' and 'Melt'

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**FAW JIM HAMILTON AWARD** – in its fourteenth year, for an unpublished novel.

*Sponsored by* **Eltham High School**

<b>Winner (\$1000)</b>	<b>Simon Higgins</b>	The Seventh Samurai	NSW
<b>Highly Commended</b>	<b>Clancy Tucker</b>	Gunnedah Hero	VIC
	<b>A,L, Bell</b>	Diamond Eyes	QLD

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

First of all, congratulations to all the entrants in the FAW Jim Hamilton Award; though not as many submissions as last year, the overall level was quite high and made the judges job that much more difficult. There was a variety of

styles and writing topics presented this year varying from young adult to mature, historical fiction, contemporary through to science fiction and everything in between.

'The Seventh Samurai', a historical fiction fantasy. 'The Seventh Samurai' encompassed all the features that make a novel enjoyable; a good story, believable and researched and most importantly very good character development which drew you in to 'care' about the characters. To finish reading the novel and to find it is the first of a trilogy whets your appetite in appreciation for the next novel. (A good sign)

We hope that these novels, as well as many other novels judged, will find their way into readers hands and minds in the near future.

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**FAW ANGELO B. NATOLI SHORT STORY AWARD** – in its eighth 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.**

<b>Winners (\$600)</b>	<b>Jacqueline Winn</b>	Maddie's Choice	NSW
<b>Second Prize (\$400)</b>	<b>Ellie Marney</b>	Unulations	VIC
<b>Highly Commended:</b>	<b>Sharon Kernot</b>	Murder in the Underground Road	SA
	<b>Julie Milland</b>	The Gravity of Breakfast	VIC
<b>Commended:</b>	<b>Felicity Castagna</b>	Home	NSW
	<b>Judith McLean</b>	Rituals	VIC
	<b>Claire Aman</b>	Mrs Dogwether's Bird Moment	NSW

**Judge's report: Louise Le Nay**

The Number of entries was lower than in the last few years. However the winning entries were of a high standard. They were both moving and insightful.

There were a number of stories that took a child's Point of View as narrative. This is a compelling convention, but difficult to achieve. The encroachment of adult insight and sensibility needs to be strictly monitored; it dilutes the power of the narrative.

The overuse of adjectives and adverbs is always a mistake. I think they're an important part of our language and can be both powerful and glorious (read Under Milkwood), but resorting to common and clichéd adverbial and adjectival phrases will never succeed in transporting a reader beyond the mundane, and will always prevent real emotional connection with a narrative.

While there are many great short story writers to explore, I would like to personally recommend Katherine Mansfield and Alice Munro, as examples of the Probably Perfect.

My congratulations to the winners and commended, and thanks, as always, 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 thirty first year. *Sponsored by **Aileen Kelly***

<b>Winner (\$100)</b>	<b>Benjamin Clark</b>	12 O'clock Horror Movie	VIC
	<b>Holly Sievers</b>	Lost Soul	VIC
<b>Highly Commended:</b>	<b>Benjamin Clark</b>	Feeling Blue	VIC
	<b>Benjamin Clark</b>	Stealing a TV	VIC
	<b>Holly Seivers</b>	Her Tree of Thoughts	VIC

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

It was hard to choose the winners again this year—so well done to everyone who entered.

Many of your poems this year were about the environment and it's really exciting to find out that your generation is probably going to take better care of our planet than previous generations have.

For those of you who didn't finish in the awards, many of you showed potential in writing but were working in the wrong mode. You filled your poems with words like 'don't' and 'stop' which work much better in instructional work such as cook books or car maintenance manuals rather than in creative writing.

So if you can write a little more story and a little less of the commands, I'm sure you can write something even better for next year.

The winners this year again showed original thought and some lovely poetic lines.

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

<b>Winner (\$100)</b>	<b>Sophia Nugent-Seigal</b>	A.B. Miriam Thyme IX: Heaven, Hell, Purgatory	QLD
<b>Highly Commended</b>	<b>Amy Maguire</b>	Storybook of the Future	QLD
	<b>Erin McCullagh</b>	Lost Serenade	NSW
<b>Commended:</b>	<b>Jack Burnham</b>	Elegy	QLD
	<b>Eoin McMahon</b>	Divided Australia	NSW
	<b>Erin McCullagh</b>	Downtown Boys	NSW

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

It was pleasing to see that many more of you were looking at more established writers' work and letting it influence your own writing. You are also reading more poetry and hence the work this year showed a greater understanding of poetic writing. So well done and keep on writing.

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**MICHAEL DUGAN SHORT STORY AWARD PART A** (for writers aged 8 – 12 years)

—formerly the FAW Alan Marshal Award in its fourteenth year. *Sponsored by **Penguin Books Australia***

<b>Winner (\$150)</b>	<b>Holly Sievers</b>	Gregory Lane	VIC
<b>Highly Commended:</b>	<b>Phoebe Leung</b>	The Dried Bubble Gum Machine	VIC
<b>Commended:</b>	<b>Aaron Wilson</b>	Hide and Seek	NSW
	<b>Aaron Wilson</b>	A Rat's Tail	NSW
	<b>Sarah Burnell</b>	Trials	VIC

**Judge's report: Shirley Hassen**

I have read the entries with great care and it was, as usual with difficulty that I had to choose between so many well written stories. I have chosen the stories with mixed feelings. The chosen stories credited with deserving their places.

The other entries were written well and their authors should keep on writing.

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

<b>Winner (\$200)</b>	<b>Lincoln Hooley</b>	The Taking of Sugarloaf Hill	NSW
<b>Highly Commended</b>	<b>Lincoln Hooley</b>	Bringing Home the Bacon	NSW
	<b>Lincoln Hooley</b>	Good Reef	NSW
	<b>Abigail Cini</b>	The Price of Perfection	VIC
<b>Commended</b>	<b>Jack Burnham</b>	Everybody's Life is a Hero's Journey: An Autobiography	QLD
	<b>Lauren Hawkins</b>	Mysterious Stranger	VIC
	<b>Amy Maguire</b>	Love at First Fight	QLD

**Judge's report: Shirley Hassen**

I have read the entries carefully and as with other years I have found the judging a difficult one and would like to have given all the stories a place, but sadly there has to be a stopping point. The stories were all written well. Congratulations to the winners  
The others authors, I say 'Keep Writing.'

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

<b>Winner (\$200)</b>	<b>Sarah Bell</b>	From People Live like Birds	VIC
<b>Second Prize (\$100)</b>	<b>Sarah Bell</b>	Two Cages	VIC

**Judge's report: Grant Caldwell**

While there is evident in the entries an indication of more contemporary form and language than in previous years - many of the poems display a maturity of language and execution - there seems, however, to be a uniform lack of sufficient substance or challenge in the poems, or else they are too derivative as well as being somewhat shallow. The winning entry stood out as a clear exception in all these areas.

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

<b>Winner (\$200)</b>	<b>Zoya Patel</b>	The Inevitable	NSW
<b>Second Prize (\$100)</b>	<b>Anna Elliston</b>	Tapestry	TAS
<b>Highly Commended</b>	<b>Kate Wilcox</b>	Harry Sydney, Private Detective	NSW
	<b>Kate Wilcox</b>	Of Elephants	NSW
	<b>Stephanie Wong</b>	Un-Folding Plots and Story Lines	WA
	<b>Lara Fitzgerald Beissbarth</b>	Sister	VIC
<b>Commended</b>	<b>Julia Maurus</b>	George Street	VIC

**Judge's report: Fred Curtis**

The overall quality of the entries was excellent, but the use of weak and/or inappropriate adjectives and adverbs marred otherwise carefully crafted stories. If in doubt, leave them out. Likewise, readers (and judges) are put off by poor presentation.

In competitions it is better to stick with the tried and true: indented paragraphs except at the beginning of sections two returns rather than asterisks to denote a change of subject, use of a 12 point serif font like Times or Palatino throughout, sticking with the same font in bold for headings, Double spacing.

'The Inevitable' is a short story that uses the present tense married to the first person to create a tension (a state of impending and unavoidable doom) from beginning to end, despite its give-away title. It is a clear winner that is slightly marred by a scattered layout.

'Tapestry' with its multiple streams of consciousness and word play bordering on meta-fiction, compels the reader to consider the words on the page and comes a close second.

'Harry Sydney, Private Detective.' Shades of Dennis Potter's 'The Singing Detective' are evident in this surrealistic narrative, written on two levels, but not quite retaining the reader's (essential) suspension of disbelief.

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### **FAW MAVIS THORPE CLARK AWARD PART 1:** – in its twenty-third year.

Sponsored by **Graeme & Robyn Base**

For an anthology by an individual student

<b>Winner (\$350)</b>	<b>Kate Wilcox</b>	Where I Belong: Growing up and Looking Out	NSW
<b>Highly Commended</b>	<b>Kellie Voss</b>	Oliver the Destroyer	VIC
	<b>Honor Coleman</b>	Mortal Correlations	TAS
<b>Commended</b>	<b>Lincoln Hooley</b>	Ten Little Scorpions	NSW
	<b>Alison Martyn</b>	Impetus for My Opinion	TAS

#### **Judge's report: Jenny Harrison**

This was a fantastic year of submissions. It was almost impossible to whittle down the group to a short list of any brevity. The writing was clever, amusing, intelligent and well composed with few typos. Watch out world for this ink-fingered, screen-savvy little tsunami of talent coming through. Congratulations, especially, to those who did not make the short list for the awards – you were all biting at the bait. Congratulations, also, to the teachers I suspect are lurking there in the background of many of these manuscripts.

It's difficult to compare collections of poetry, short stories, longer fiction, mixed genre manuscripts and academic essays, as they appeal to such different aspects of the mind and emotions. The winning entry sliced its way to the top with intelligence, poise and sophistication. More academic than many of the other entrants, History and the Forces of Nature proves the strength of the essay genre. My sense is of a magnificent author who is, above all, a reader

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### **FAW MAVIS THORPE CLARK AWARD PART 2**— in its twenty-third year.

Sponsored by **Graeme & Robyn Base**

For an anthology by a group of secondary school students

<b>Winner (\$200)</b>	<b>Warrandyte High School</b>	Silence of the Heart	VIC
<b>Commended</b>	<b>New England Girls School</b>	'Thoughtatious'	NSW

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

The passion for creative expression and the joy in sharing stories were very evident in this year's schools' submission for this award. Although there were not many group entries, those submitted showed a variety of forms, style and content with competent character descriptions and vivid budding voices. Stories and poems linked by theme were effective in stimulating narrative or lyrical expression but the overuse of common, structured beginnings did sometimes detract from individual or imaginative responses to produce more predictable or formulaic work.

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## PART 4: FAW CHRISTOPHER BRENNAN AWARD

The thirty-third 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**

**Winner: John Kinsella**

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## PART 5: BARBARA RAMSDEN AWARD

Returning for the twenty fourth 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 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* **Society of Editors & FAW VIC**

The recipient is chosen by judges from the Society of Editors and the FAW  
*Janet Mackenzie, Jackie Yowell, Renée Otma and Philip Rainford*

### **Barbara Ramsden Award 2008**

**Winners:**

**Editor: Meredith Rose**

**Writers: Donald Horne Myfanwy Horne**

The Barbara Ramsden Award for 2008 goes to Meredith Rose for her work on *Dying: A Memoir* (Viking), by Donald Horne and Myfanwy Horne.

*Dying* is memorable book, expressed with candour and courage, edited, assembled and presented with care and discernment. On the 'emotional journey' of this last collaboration with her husband, Myfanwy Horne praises editor Meredith Rose as 'meticulous and imaginative', and having 'a cool yet sympathetic eye'.

In addition to the Award, the editors of two other impressive entries are commended: Nicola Young — for her work on *The ContentMakers* (Penguin) by Margaret Simons, an engaging and well-structured contemporary account of Australia's media — and Eva Mills, for her work on *love like water* (Allen & Unwin), a novel by Meme McDonald that shows an exceptional ear for voice. The authors of both titles expressed warm appreciation for their editors' contributions to the development of these works.

Of the eleven entries for the award, four stood out as clearly having enjoyed the attention and expertise of a professional editor. The rest indicate a need to promote more widely, to the publishing industry and the general community, the value of engaging a professional editor in the development of any quality publication.

The requirement for a statement from the author or publisher to accompany an entry is a constructive innovation to the Barbara Ramsden Award in this second year since its revival. These statements acknowledged the role of editing and the warm appreciation of their editors' involvement in the development of the books.

There were only eleven entrants to be judged this year, representing an industry that publishes some 8000 titles a year. Given that this award is currently the only one offered for editors and editing, and that professional editing skills are now well elucidated in the Australian Standards for Editing Practice (2002) ([www.iped-editors.org](http://www.iped-editors.org)), we hope to see more publishers nominating their editors for the award in future.

*Janet Mackenzie, Jackie Yowell and Renée Otmar*

*Society of Editors (Victoria) Inc.*

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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, 2007 President***

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**2007 NATIONAL LITERARY AWARDS**

**The 2008 National Literary Awards**

**will open on 1<sup>st</sup> September and close on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2008.**

**From August 2008 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***

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