

Coffs Harbour Writers' Group



Established September 1986

Affiliated with the Northern Rivers Writers Centre

PO Box 1953 Coffs Harbour NSW 2454

President: Lorraine Mouafi

Vice-President: Jean Read

Secretary: Rhonda Rand

Treasurer: Janice Terry

Publicity and Social Secretary: Karolyn Gibson

Membership Secretary: Ron Pike

Newsletter Editor: Ron Marke

Website: www.coffsharbourwriters.wordpress.com

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NEWSLETTER

March 2013

Announcements

Meeting and AGM today Thursday 7th March: After the business meeting, the Annual General Meeting will be held to elect a new committee. The following positions must be filled: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Publicity/Social Secretary, Membership Secretary and Editor. Treasurer Janice Terry will not be standing again.

The agenda for the AGM is as follows: Apologies for non-attendance; Minutes of previous AGM; Treasurer's Report and Auditor's Financial Statement for the year 2012; appointment of Scrutineer to conduct election of new Committee and Auditor. No other business can be transacted. The President will declare the meeting closed, after which readings will take place until around 12.30 pm.

Workshop this afternoon from 1.30pm to 3 pm. Leonie Henschke will present the workshop. It is called Advancing Memoir Writing. Cost: members \$5; non-members \$10.

Last Social: This was held in the meeting room in the Coffs Harbour Botanic Gardens on Thursday 21st February. Thirteen members enjoyed the readings, discussions and humour. Refreshments were available from the garden's volunteers.

Next Social: This will be held on Thursday 21st March at 10am to 12noon at Buddha's Cafe in Cockburn Nursery, Hogbin Drive. Toormina. See you there.

Back copies of Newsletter: These are available on request. Just let the editor know which numbered edition you want.

Note: if you prefer to have your newsletter sent online, please let the editor know by emailing or telephoning—6655 9905.

Riddle

If you had three apples and four oranges in one hand and four apples and three oranges in the other hand, what would you have? Very large hands.

How does one cope with relationships in correspondence?

By Ninette van Zyl

You have a style in which to approach family, close friends, friends, acquaintances and business in starting a letter. In writing to a family one can start with—Dear—Sweetheart—Darling—or shithead depending on the situation. Close friends: well one can write, 'My dear' and so on. Now it gets harder. You have picked up an acquaintance with whom you have to correspond through a club. You have progressed from the formal opening to a more friendly, but not affectionately opening. So you start, Dear—Hello there—Greetings (all those have a line through the words crossing them out.) Endings are even worse.

Yours sincerely—yours affectionately—Warm regards—Regards—Cheers—Take care. I am beginning to value the Australian idiom more highly. I think I'll open with 'G'day' and close with 'see ya mate'.

Any suggestions on how to open and close with those who are not family or close friends or business will be most welcome.

Editor's note: I think we should always be informal and avoid silly modes of address like Sweetheart, Darling, etc. Personally I don't see much wrong with the rest of expressions you have referred to.

YOU'RE A WRITER. CLAIM THE TITLE
WRITERS WRITE, SO MAKE TIME FOR IT EVERY DAY.
SET REALISTIC GOALS. EMBRACE THE ECSTASY OF WRITING
READ, READ, READ, READ, READ, READ, READ.
FOLLOW YOUR HEART, NOT THE MARKET
DON'T JUST START STORIES. FINNISH THEM. **DREAM BIG.**
LEARN THE RULES. FOLLOW THE RULES. READ THE RULES.
CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM: SOLICIT, ACCEPT, AND MANAGE
PUT YOUR EGO IN YOUR BACK POCKET AND SIT ON IT.
WRITING IS A JOURNEY, NOT A DESTINATION. ENJOY THE SCENERY
GIVE BACK TO THE WRITING COMMUNITY. **WRITE SCARED.**
REMEMBER YOU ARE THE MASTER OF INSPIRATION, NOT THE SLAVE.
SET YOUR STORIES FREE. SEND THEM INTO THE WORLD
DON'T SLACK ON THE HARD STUFF: OUTLINE RESEARCH REWRITE
BUILD A LIFESTYLE THAT NURTURES AND SUPPORTS YOUR WRITING
LOVE WHAT YOU DO. WRITE WITH JOY.
A WORDSPLOYER'S MANIFESTO

www.kmweiland.com
[Contributed by Rosalie Skinner]

I miss my mother Dora

By Estelle Russell

I miss my mother Dora (Eccles) Willis mainly for her 'Socratarian' (I made this word up because I can) protection of my thoughts of action. My youth was surrounded by inspirational people, some would call them free thinkers. People who, like Socrates, spoke from their hearts questioning ideas of our living.

My young niece, Stephanie, said one day when she was only about five years of age and had been told to be *good* because the Easter Bunny was coming soon and only came to *good* children. Goodness me, we have a lot of people *watching us*—Jesus, Santa Claus, God, and now the Easter Bunny. Is there no place I can be where I can't be watched, and she walked away. She wasn't amused by our laughter.

Of course some people would say, Yes if she was *good* but the word itself is not expressive of any

real purpose of action. Others would say, you forgot to add 'Big Brother' and why don't you want to be *good*, taking the good Verses bad connotation into consideration, which really has nothing to do with what was said, and also she was making a statement, not asking a question. Yet, like myself, the last sentence is one she would be condemned for stating: "Is there no place I can be where I can't be watched." Some would discuss what '*place*' means, others '*to be watched*' and so on.

Hear what I mean? No, I don't think so, but in one sentence life can be made perfectly persecuted by others and I speak using many sentences of thinking of life and purpose and intention. Stephanie's so-called spirited 'naughty action' to maybe happen or not was not acceptable to her, yes at five she was learning responsibility of her actions and not liking her understanding of it.

Although I know my mother is with me in spirit, and I'll always tune into her vibrations when life gets tough, her wisdom and one bit of advice she gave me as a child remains remembered.

People may like you or dislike you but don't expect, accept or assume people understand you.

Socrates: One of his friends has asked the oracle at Delphi who was the wisest man in Athens. To the astonishment of all, the priestess had mentioned this idler, Socrates. "'The oracle', he said, chose me as the wisest Athenian because I am the only one who knows that he doesn't know anything." — Reader's Digest Great Lives Great Deeds, page 31. *He Taught us To Think* by Max Eastman.

OF MIND AND HEART

To question is to make us wise
But only if our mind, our eyes,
Are open, fertile as the womb.
To nurture thought and not assume;
That our beliefs are sacrosanct.
Wisdom needs not be ranked.

While knowledge is a basic need,
It's not the power that makes us bleed.
If all our thoughts were told in speech,
Then lips need not seek each to each;
To make contact and sweetly know.
There're other powers by which we grow.

The spirit that sets our life aglow,
Is not in that which we know.
But rather that, which we might learn,
Shared with love that makes us yearn,
To say. "That I must grow because I live
And life in me is what you give."

— Pikey.

Quote

An author ought to write for the youth of his own generation,
the critics of the next, and the schoolmasters of ever afterwards. — F. Scott Fitzgerald

Writing Competitions

Henry Lawson Festival — 6-10 June 2013. Verse and Short Story Competitions.

Total Prize Money \$2850, plus Statuettes. For details, go to verse@henrylawsonfestival.com.au or ring Mary Moffitt (02) 6343 1575

Section 1 — Verse (limited to 48 lines). Statuette to be presented for best overall verse.

Class 1 — Traditional Verse Australian theme. First Prize: \$450.00. Second Prize: \$200.00.

Class 2 — Humorous Verse Australian theme. First Prize: \$250.00. Second Prize: \$100.00.

Class 3 — Free Verse any theme. First Prize: \$300.00. Second Prize: \$150.00.

Class 4 — High School student (must be under 18 by closing date) – any theme. First Prize: \$150.00. Second Prize: \$50.00.

Class 5 — Primary School Student – Australian theme. First Prize: \$50.00. Second Prize: \$25.00. Plus Medallion for 1st, 2nd and Highly Recommended winners.

Adult: \$10.00 per Entry. School Student: \$2.00 per Entry. **Payment:** Cheque or Money Order payable to "Grenfell Henry Lawson Festival". Send to: Verse and Short Story coordinator, PO Box 77, Grenfell NSW 2810. Entry forms: henrylawsonfestival.com.au

PLEASE NOTE: ALL ENTRIES CLOSE 28 MARCH 2013. (Entries to be post marked by this date)

TO ALLOW FOR ADEQUATE JUDGING TIME, ENTRIES POSTMARKED AFTER THE CLOSING DATE CANNOT BE ACCEPTED.

The Australian-Irish Heritage Association

The Perth based Australian Irish Heritage Association is an inclusive organisation, which encourages and promotes an awareness of Australia's Irish heritage. The Association is proud to present the following: **The Joyce Parkes Women's Writers Prize. First Prize: \$500.** Topic: **'In Defence of Women'**. Details: 1,000 to 2,000 words—prose, fact or fiction. The competition is open to *all* Australian women. Closing date: 30th April 2013. Entrance fee: \$10. Full details: Visit the AIHA Website: www.irishheritage.net

The Montreal International Poetry Prize

One \$20,000 prize for a single poem

10 accomplished poets select entries from around the world. 50 finalists included in historic global poetry anthology. One judge selects the prize-winner. Details: Early Entry Deadline: March 31. Final Entry Deadline: May 15. Early Entry Fee: \$15 / \$20. Final Entry Fee: \$20 / \$25. Additional Entry Fee: \$10 / \$15. **How to Enter** — Online entries only. For full text of the rules, check out our website: montrealprize.com The Montreal Prize is a non-profit organisation registered in Canada and committed to building cross poetry readership. The judge will be Don Paterson.

ACCLAIMED FRENCH WRITER STEPHANE HESSEL DIES AGED 95

Stephane Frederic Hessel immigrated to Paris with his parents in 1924, aged 7. He received his baccalaureate when 15 years old, admitted in 1938 to the Ecole Normale Supérieure, became naturalised in 1939 and mobilised into the French Army. He was a diplomat, ambassador, writer, and concentration camp survivor, French Resistance fighter, whose work inspired protest movements worldwide. He was involved with the drafting and editing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and championed the rights of the downtrodden. His 2010 essay *Time for Outrage* (Indignez-vous), sold more than 4.5 million copies in 35 countries. Summary by Danielle Babb.