

# Coffs Harbour Writers' Group

*Established September 1986*

**Affiliated with the Northern Rivers Writers Centre**

## October 2015 Newsletter No 285

PO Box 1953, Coffs Harbour 2450 [www.coffsharbourwriters.com](http://www.coffsharbourwriters.com)



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### Committee Members

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### Greetings

We have a great opportunity to learn more about plotting and planning at our next workshop (after the October meeting). Our very own member and facilitator of the workshop, Rosalie Skinner, is a successful author, editor and, not least of all, portrait painter. And ocean swimmer, of course! She will bring her own practical tips and writing and editing experience to inspire and extend us. That is what is so stimulating in being a member of a writers' group.

We learn from, and are inspired by, each other. It doesn't matter if we are dabblers, scribblers or full-time writers, we all grow. So just to remind people of those objectives of our writers' group:

## OBJECTIVES:

To promote writing in the Coffs Harbour area by providing members with the opportunity to:

- (a) Meet monthly to share their work in an encouraging and supportive environment
  - (b) Receive positive feedback and suggestions about their work
  - (c) Improve their writing skills, through the provision of learning opportunities in the form of occasional seminars, workshops, study groups and guest speakers
  - (d) Be informed by the Group about writing competitions and publishing opportunities within and without the local community
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## What's on in October/November?

**Wednesday 7 October, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm Monthly Meeting Coffs Harbour Writers' Group Coffs Harbour Ex Services Club.**

**Wednesday 7 October, 1.30 pm – 3.30 pm Coffs Harbour Writers' Group Workshop, Plotting and Planning with local author , Rosalie Skinner, Coffs Harbour Ex Services Club.**

**Thursday, 22 October, 10.00 am – 12 noon Coffs Harbour Writers' Group Social Morning, venue to be confirmed.**

**Wednesday 4 November, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm Monthly Meeting Coffs Harbour Writers' Group Coffs Harbour Ex Services Club.**

**Thursday, 19 November, 10.00 am – 12 noon Coffs Harbour Writers' Group Social Morning, picnic, Jetty area.**

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## President's Report

### *October 2015 Communiqué*

Executive Committee meeting: Thursday 24 September 2015

The Committee Members, well some of them, Suzanne Tainsh and Yvonne Kachel are away overseas. Janice Terry and Rosalie Skinner were an apology.

**Present:** Leonie, Roger and Lorraine

Having such a small group we waded through the items on the agenda and would like to communicate the decisions that were made, namely:

**Social coffee mornings** - As our group has grown substantially expecting members homes for the coffee mornings isn't working out and thoughts went into 'bring a plate' (BYO) to share easing the work for the member who hosts a social morning. This would apply if we held the event at the Botanical Gardens meeting room.

We are trialing a 'BYO everything' picnic at The Jetty for the 19<sup>th</sup> November social.

**Christmas Lunch 2<sup>nd</sup> December 11am to 3pm.** I have done a lot of running around trying to find a suitable venue that would accommodate our requirements and have come up with Park Beach Surf Club, where they will supply a Christmas Fare Lunch, includes two course for \$25 per person. This venue has been booked.

For members who do not have transport car-pooling can be arranged.

**Guidelines for our first Wednesday of the month meetings.**

It appears that members would prefer to receive written information about decisions made by the committee, hence this communiqué' document.

Member's readings can be any works they have written, even if it was written some years ago, especially if they want feedback on their works.

It is important that your readings are not offensive in anyway.

**30<sup>th</sup> Year Anthology** – Leonie will supply written information on what is required for your contribution.

**Newsletter distribution** – we need to ensure that our database has accurate member information. This will occur when Suzanne returns from overseas.

In the meantime Leonie will of course have hard copies at each meeting and post newsletters to members who supply self-address envelopes with postage.

**Helpful improvements to the website** – this is an ongoing

**Incorporating our group** – this has been deferred until November meeting

*Regards Lorraine*

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## **Members write...**

### **From the travel diary of Yvonne Kachel who is having an adventure!**

Here I am in Belfast, staying in a bed and breakfast. Because I am here for three days, they put me in a back room with my own entrance and a very hard door to lock. At 2.30 this morning, I heard a commotion and woke to see the shadow of a man in my room. I didn't scream, I roared like a tiger, put the light on and jumped out of bed to do battle. Near the door was a young man stock still, with his hands in the air. I yelled at him to get out of my room, and he kept saying this is the back door to the hotel. I think he was more frightened than me, as it was obvious he had been imbibing! I kept yelling and he apologised in a very thick northern Irish accent and then stumbled from the room. I slammed the door behind him, locked it properly and shoved a chair up against the door. It was only then that I realised that I was standing in a singlet and nickers! Let's face it, when you are travelling with only 13 kilos, nighties or pyjamas go out the door. When I told the landlord what had happened, we both had a bit of a giggle about the poor lad standing there with his hands up. We think he probably thought I was the Ulster police. We identified him as one of the guests who had a room on the other side of the house. Just shows what a wee bit of drink will do! Needless to say my door is securely locked tonight so that's my adventure today.

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I wonder what will happen tomorrow?

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## **A fabulous publishing opportunity! Contribute to your 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Anthology!**

All members of the Coffs Harbour Writers' Group are invited to contribute to the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Anthology book which will be published in September 2016 (the Anniversary date). The plan is for a book of about 100 pages with entries from all our members. Each entry would comprise a work with a word limit of about 750 words and a short biography and photograph of the contributor (these will be done by a photographer so we have a common 'look'). The word limit is to ensure that all members have a chance to have their words published. We now have a large group so space is limited! These words can be in the form of several poems or a short story.

It is also planned to have a common theme. As we live on the Australian coast it is suggested that contributors include the word 'beach' in their written work. It is a common practice in competitions and anthologies (collected works) to have a word which must appear. We also plan to have a beautiful picture (or painting) of the Coffs Coast on the cover so it will be an important souvenir of our area.

An editorial committee (including an outside editor) will be formed to consider the entries and provide feedback for any corrections or amendments and organise publication.

### **The requirements for submission are:**

**Deadline:** 31 March 2016

**Word length:** Total not greater than 750 words

**Type of work:** Poems, short stories and essays will all be acceptable but the work must be complete in itself and not require any introductory explanation. One chapter from a larger work is appropriate but only if it stands on its own without preamble.

**Requirement:** To provide a common theme, the word 'beach' must appear at least once in the work.

**Time period:** There is no requirement for the work to have been written recently but you should be attempting to have the very best piece of work published to represent your skill. The work should not have been published anywhere previously.

**Copyright:** Each author retains the copyright on his or her work but the Coffs Harbour Writers' Group has copyright of the complete book in its published form.

**Document:** Works should be prepared in a Word document and emailed to [improject@bigpond.com](mailto:improject@bigpond.com) as an attachment. Work must be submitted electronically but you should also keep a hard copy of your work.

**Formatting your Manuscript:** All manuscripts should be in a Word document in 12-point Times New Roman type, with at least 25 cm margins, and sequentially numbered pages. Fiction and nonfiction should be double-spaced. Poetry should be single-spaced. The author's name, address, telephone

number, and email address should be typed at the top of the first page. Add your biography of no more than 100 words to the document.

**Illustrations:** It is envisaged that the only illustrations in the book will be of the authors but if you feel your work must include an illustration to make it 'whole' submit it for consideration.

**This is an exciting opportunity to have your words in print to celebrated 30 years of the Coffs Harbour Writers' Group.**

**Note:** The word *anthology* refers to a book or other collection of selected writings by a group of authors, usually in the same literary form or on the same subject, or even the same period.

**Happy writing!!**

**Coffs Harbour Writers' Group Committee**

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## **Critiquing Group**

Don't forget we have an evening Critiquing Group (giving and receiving feedback on your writing projects) meeting on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 7 pm at the Coffs Harbour Hotel. More information from convenor, Robyn Veugen, at [robyn.veugen@gmail.com](mailto:robyn.veugen@gmail.com).

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## **Travels with Lisa Reily and Ion Corcos**

### **Ion's August Newsletter - On Writing**

In late October, Lisa and I will be going to England for a couple of writing events. Lisa initially booked to attend the [London Screenwriters' Festival](#). As such, I looked around for other things for us to do while in England, including anything poetry, and I discovered the [Aldeburgh Poetry Festival](#). Our initial week away has now become three weeks!

The *Aldeburgh Poetry Festival* runs for three days and includes poetry readings, workshops and discussions. This will be my first poetry festival. We are especially keen to attend as Helen Mort, my poetry lecturer in Loutro, will be presenting there. We look forward to catching up with her.

Otherwise, I have been editing poems all month. I have also been sending out poems for publication. Lisa and I have implemented a morning routine for working, especially to balance out the hot Greek weather. This includes having a siesta and lying by the pool in the late afternoons! Our routine has meant we have had a very productive month of writing.

### **On Travelling**

Lisa and I spent the first half of July in a wonderful village, Gerani, four kilometres east of Rethymnon (in Crete). The village was beautiful and quiet and we had a lot of time to write, enjoy the surroundings, and relax.

We loved being in a more rural area. At the back of our apartment, our neighbour had a vegetable patch, which included corn, tomatoes and spring onions. They also had a variety of trees - walnut, carob and pomegranate. We enjoyed the antics of their geese and goslings, numerous chickens, roosters and a pig.

On the short winding road to the village of Gerani, we walked past olive groves, as well as pine and eucalyptus trees. We saw sage, oregano, thyme, and mountain tea growing wild on the side of the road. On one occasion, as we arrived in the village, there was Greek dancing in the school playground.

As it was very hot during our stay, we didn't go out until sunset on most days. Most villagers came out then and hung out in coffee shops, while the children played in the narrow streets and the school yard. On the walk back down to our hotel at night, there was a small stone chapel and a cemetery with many small oil lamps burning by the graves.

After Gerani, we went to Elounda for a week - around three hours west by bus. Elounda is another beautiful Greek coastal area. A few minutes on a boat and you are at Spinalonga, the island where lepers lived in isolation from 1903 till 1957. We were especially interested in visiting the island, as we had seen the Greek television series about Spinalonga, and read Victoria Hislop's book, *The Island*, on which it is based. Spinalonga also has a long history of occupation, which included the Venetians who built a fortress there.

While in Elounda, we caught up with a Greek film director, Manolis, Lisa had previously only communicated with through the internet. After a coffee and chat, he took us to his nearby paternal village, Fourni, where he ordered a great variety of Cretan specialties. We especially loved the small traditional pies, filled with warm *mizithra* cheese and topped with honey. We caught up with Manolis again a few days later, in Heraklion, where we feasted again in another restaurant with a view over the sparkling lights of the city.

We have now left Crete and have been in Kefalos, Kos, for a week now. It is very hot during the day, but we get wonderful mountain breezes at night. (As well as not so wonderful mosquitoes!) Overall, we have found it relaxing and peaceful here. In a few days, we will be making our way to Turkey!

Till next month, live authentically and write with integrity.

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## **From Jean Reid who is also on the move...**

*Calling all murder mystery buffs! Jean Reid has a full set – 22 in all – of Agatha Christie novels for just \$30. They are all hardcover with some dustcovers slightly discoloured but that just adds to the atmosphere. Obviously straight from the manor house library...the scene of the murder! See Jean at the meeting or contact through the committee.*

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## **Writing and Competition Deadlines** *(From Margaret Penhall-Jones)*

### **30 September: Port Stephens Examiner Literary Awards**

The Port Stephens Examiner Literary Award is now taking entries. Short stories on any theme of up to 2,000 words will be accepted. Cash prizes awarded for first, second and third place, as well as for highly commended entries. For more information visit

<http://www.portstephensexaminer.com.au/story/2388798/entries-open-to-examiner-literature-awards/>

### **31 October: Fall Fiction Contest**

The Master Review is now taking entries for its Fall Fiction Contest. Fiction pieces of up to 7,000 words are accepted with Jeff Vandermeer as the judge, he and his wife, Ann, will be reading the top fifteen stories, and they will be writing personal feedback to the top three winners. The winner also receives \$2000 and publication on the Master Review website. <https://mastersreview.com/fall-fiction-contest-vandermeer-2000-publication/>

### **30 October: Varuna Publisher Introduction Program**

Varuna's unique Publisher Introduction Program (PIP) is now open for entries. PIP is one of Australia's most dynamic literary partnerships, opening important doors for exceptional new writers in a creative, collaborative process that aims to deliver finely honed manuscripts to leading publishers. Each year, the program gives 12 selected writers of novels, short stories and literary non-fiction the chance to nurture their manuscripts to publication stage.

<http://www.varuna.com.au/varuna/index.php/programs/residential-programs/pathways-publication/item/177-varuna-publisher-program-2014>

### **Call for Submissions: Positive Words Magazine**

Positive Words Magazine is seeking submissions of Melbourne Cup related poetry and stories for the November issue of their monthly magazine but work on any theme is also welcome. For further information please visit <https://positivewordsmagazine.wordpress.com/>

### **6 November: Destination Sydney**

Writers are invited to submit poems on the subject of 'The Spirit of Sydney' exploring its foreshores, bushland, harbour and urban landscape in what will be a unique event celebrating the spoken word. Twenty poems will be chosen by event curator, Les Wicks, for live-reading by the authors, who will each receive \$50. This project is supported by Manly Sustainability Program at Manly council. Submissions and inquiries [tomeusepress@hotmail.com](mailto:tomeusepress@hotmail.com)

### **15 November: Overland Neilma Sidney Short Story Prize**

Overland is seeking submissions of short fiction of up to 3000 words - themed around the notion of 'travel'. This competition is open to all Australian and New Zealand writers at any stage of their writing career. With a first prize of \$4000, this competition will be judged by Alice Pung, Maxine Beneba Clarke and Overland deputy editor Stephanie Convery. Further details:

<http://www.swf.org.au/my-story/about/>

### **29 November: Build Your Own Blog New Writer Scholarship**

Apply for the Build Your Own Blog New Writer Scholarship and you could earn \$4,000 to help advance your writing career. Submit your work online. For more information visit:

<http://www.buildyourownblog.net/scholarship/>

### **25 November: Jankovic Literary Awards**

**Theme: Social Justice**

**Sections: (1) Poetry (2) Short Story**

**First Prize for each section: A\$600.00** and a Radio 3CR Vintage Sound-bite Cartridge Trophy

**Submissions close:** 25th November 2015

**Award Winners announced:** March 2016

**Who was Rhonda Jankovic?**

Rhonda Jankovic, a survivor of an abused childhood, developed a passion for life and learning. Leaving school at the age of 14, she subsequently studied and achieved entry to La Trobe University where she reached postgraduate level in historical research. A published and award-winning poet, Rhonda was also, as producer and host of two Radio 3CR programs - 'Spoken Word' (poetry) and 'SUWA' (highlighting the plight of homeless people), a staunch advocate of emerging poets and justice for those disadvantaged in society. She died of cancer in 2012 at the age of 49.

[www.rhondajankovicliterarysociety.org](http://www.rhondajankovicliterarysociety.org)

### 18 December: 2015 Hal Porter Short Story Competition

This competition began 22 years ago. Australian writers are invited to enter a short story, written in any style for the first prize of \$1000. Manuscripts must be original works, in English, and must not have been previously accepted for publication, which includes websites. Any style of story is acceptable. No entry form is necessary. Shortlisted writers will receive UQP publications. For further details, <http://eastgippslandartgallery.org.au/calendar/community-events-and-activities/words-work-wonders>

### 31 December: Birdcatcher Books Australian Short Fiction Award

The Birdcatcher Books Australian Short Fiction Award is now accepting entries. Cash prizes awarded for first and second place and the top 50 entries to be published in an anthology published by Birdcatcher Books. For full details, <http://birdcatcherbooks.com/competitions/>

### 29 February: The Norman McVicker Award 2016

Mudgee Valley Writers has launched the inaugural Norman McVicker Award - a short story and poetry competition for young people 22 years of age and under. With cash prizes for first, second and third places in each category. More details at <https://mudgeevalleywriters.wordpress.com/>

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*Margaret Penhall-Jones has also advised us of a group activity she will be conducting, independent of the Writers' Group, but all are invited to register directly with her.*

### **Memoir Writing Craft Group**

*This group is for beginning and aspiring writers who want to explore Memoir and are looking for like-minded writers. The group combines information about crafting your memoir, exercises in gathering and filtering memories and presentation media with the opportunity to critique your work in a supportive group.*

**Meetings:** at The Mud Hut, Training Room #6 at Duke Street, Coffs Harbour every second Thursday at 10.30 am for two hours. **First meeting:** Thursday 15 October, 2015 at 10.30am. There is no cost to attend. As numbers are limited please advise your attendance prior to the day. Contact Margaret Penhall-Jones at [penhalljones@gmail.com](mailto:penhalljones@gmail.com)

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*That's all for now. Don't forget, contributions please. Your own stories, book or film reviews, writing exercises...whatever takes your fancy. Leonie*