

Coffs Harbour Writers' Group



Established September 1986

Affiliated with the Northern Rivers Writers Centre

November 2015 Newsletter No 286

PO Box 1953, Coffs Harbour 2450 www.coffsharbourwriters.com



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Committee Members

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Greetings

Christmas time draws near, a time for families and merriment for some, and feelings of loss for others. However, the overwhelming message of this season is to reach out and invite others to share food and drink and chat with you: into your own home or asking if you can join someone else for a meal or coffee. For writers it is a time of introspection (perhaps a little more than usual) with ideas for stories and poems. Put those words down, expressing thoughts is great therapy! That perfect sentence or rhyme can give a great sense of accomplishment, maybe even more than the perfect Christmas pudding! We wish a merry Christmas to everyone and a safe and happy holiday season. See you at the Christmas party and then back in meeting mode on the first Wednesday of February at 10 am in our new meeting place for 2016, Cavanbah Hall. *Regards Leonie*

What's on in November/December?

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 pm – 12 noon Coffs Harbour Writers' Group Social Morning, picnic at the Jetty, details to be confirmed.

Wednesday 2 December, Coffs Harbour Writers' Group Christmas Party, Park Beach Surf Club. Bookings to be made with Social Secretary, Janice.

Our October workshop on Plotting and Planning

Thank you to Rosalie Skinner who ran a fabulous *Plotting and Planning* workshop after our October meeting. Prompted by such random items as keys and broken legs we all managed to create exciting, unique, page-turning stories! Of course! You inspired us, Rosalie!

President's Report

It is anticipated that our efforts last month to keep the communication flowing with the introduction of the Communiqué document has enabled all members to understand what the elected committee members are doing in the endeavor to improve our writers' group.

Pros & Cons of Incorporating

Melanie Jenkins from MJ Accountants will be our special guest speaker on 4 November. She will be discussing the 'pros and cons' of incorporating our group.

Thanks to CeX Club

Over the past five years or more our group has had the pleasure of holding our monthly meetings at the CeX Club under the Club Grants applications. It is unfortunate that this ideal location has come to an end and we had to find a new home for monthly meetings.

A letter of appreciation has been posted to the Board of the CeX Club thanking the staff who have assisted us in making sure every need has been met to enable our group undergo its activities, including holding bi monthly workshops over the years.

New Home for our Monthly Meetings

As from Wednesday 3 February, time 10 am to 12 noon we will be holding our meetings at the Cavanbah Centre's main hall in Harbour Drive. **Note: we have gone back to 10 am start**

End of Year Christmas Lunch

This year's Christmas Lunch event will be held at the Park Beach Surf Club, southern end of the enclosed verandah on Wednesday 2 December 11 am to 3 pm. The lunch will be

Christmas fare and members contribution will be 50% of the price \$25 per head for two courses, members' price \$12.50, non-members' \$25.

Members and guests are required to bring along a wrapped gift to the value of \$10 - \$15 for the Santa Bag. This is a nice gesture and a good way to get into the spirit of Christmas.
Cheers Lorraine.

Members write...

Travels with Lisa Reily and Ion Corcos

Ion Corcos on Publishing

In August, I had two poems accepted for publication in the journal [Fox Adoption Magazine](#). They will be informing me soon about the publication date.

On Writing

I have been having fun looking at all things poetry for when Lisa and I visit London in October. I am excited about visiting [The Poetry Café](#), which has regular readings and workshops. It even has Sufi-inspired evenings with spiritual poetry, music and meditation! I have also planned to go to a large second-hand bookshop. As a lot of my reading is online and on a tablet, I am looking forward to being overwhelmed with books!

We have selected our sessions for the [Aldeburgh Poetry Festival](#). The sessions include a reading with [Helen Mort](#), my poetry tutor from my Loutro course, as well as a talk with the Scottish poet John Burnside. We will also attend a few free sessions, which includes a workshop on how to find inspiration for your poetry.

On Travelling

After our stay in Kefalos, Kos, we stayed overnight in Kos Town, where many refugees are now living. They live in tents beside the port near the old town. Many of them are fleeing Syria, but they are not aspiring to stay in Greece and want to go to other parts of Europe.

As Greece is basically bankrupt and ill-equipped to deal with the situation, the refugees are living in very poor conditions. There is an inadequate supply of food for them. Just recently, I read that a former cruise ship has been brought in to house them. It is very sad.

From Kos Town, we took a ferry to Bodrum, Turkey. Bodrum is a nice place, but very busy at this time of year. Lisa and I really enjoyed our first hit of Turkish food – lentil soup, a pide (Turkish pizza), and a salad topped with pomegranate dressing.

The next day, we took a three hour bus trip to Marmaris. The drive was beautiful, through mountains full of green - unlike the dry summer landscape that can often be seen in Greece. Through our travels, Lisa and I have realised that though we love being near the sea, we also need trees around us. There is a certain peace we feel when we are surrounded by them.

As for the town of Marmaris, we spent our first week very disillusioned. While the beach is attractive and the surrounding mountains are stunning, the town of Marmaris is basically set up for the British. Most prices are quoted in pounds (not Turkish lira); there is a lot of British food available, but not many Turkish options; and it is generally more expensive than other areas of Turkey that we have visited. On our arrival, we even had a shop owner approach us to say, "We make food here just like home!" She assumed we were British.

We love Turkey and have travelled extensively here in the past three years, but we are not getting a taste of the real Turkey here. Only after an extensive walk through the heatwave streets, did we find a few places here and there with authentic Turkish food, generous hospitality, and the culture of Turkey.

Our original plan was to stay in Marmaris for almost three months, so that we could write and prepare for our courses and travel in the UK in late October. We didn't want to move around much, as we have travelled quite a bit in the last two months. It has been particularly tiring with the summer heat and tourist noise. Still, we have decided that we will stick it out in Marmaris, having found a pleasant routine. Yes, even on this adventure routine is good!

Till next month, live authentically and write with integrity.

A Final Note

This will be Ion's last travel entry for the CHWG Newsletter for now. If you would like to continue reading about Lisa and Ion's travels, Ion's online newsletter is at www.ioncorcos.wordpress.com/newsletter. You can also sign up and have the newsletter sent directly to your email.

Write a poem inspired by a Still Life painting at the Regional Gallery!

You (and children you know) are invited to select any work during the Eutick Memorial Still Life Award exhibition, opening on 7 November, at the Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery and write a poetic response to that work. Submit your poem with age category to the Gallery reception or sue.mcentyre@chcc.nsw.gov.au by Friday 20 November for judging. Winners will be announced at a Poetry Recital and Presentation evening on Wednesday 25 November from 5.30 pm to 6.30 pm at Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery. Prizes will be awarded on the evening for best recital and poem.

Age categories: a) 5 – 12 Years b) 13 – 18 years c) 19 years and over.

Also indicate if you give copyright permission for your poem to be made available at the reception desk for visitors to read in the Gallery's in-house publication and sent to the artist.

Submit your poem by Friday 20 November 2015

Winners' Reception and Poetry Recital Wednesday 25 November 5.30 pm- 6.30 pm

Margaret Penhall-Jones' Memoir Writing 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. 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

Free workshop at the Coffs Coast Writers' Centre

**WRITE
A GREAT
NEWSLETTER**

**FREE
COMMUNITY
WORKSHOP**

with Kylie Castor SAT 28 NOV 2-4 PM

Need to write a newsletter?
Not sure where to start?
Already writing one but not getting the response you had hoped for?
Join Kylie Castor from the Bellingen Readers & Writers Festival and
The Triple Sifted Word Refinery for this FREE 2 hour workshop.
Learn the key elements of a successful newsletter that will
ATTRACT, ENGAGE + RETAIN your readers
and have them eagerly awaiting the next issue!
BOOK NOW frogdownstairs@gmail.com

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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.

Writing and Competition Deadlines (From Margaret Penhall-Jones)

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

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/>

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