

Coffs Harbour Writers' Group Inc.



Established September 1986

Affiliated with the Northern Rivers Writers Centre

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

Committee Members

President:	Lorraine Penn 6653 3256 lmproject@bigpond.com
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Greetings

Another great month with so much on the cultural calendar in Coffs Harbour. The only time you should stay inside is to write! Get out and about and be inspired by our beautiful coast and hinterland. However, also sad times this month as our long running president, Lorraine Penn, has decided to stand down after four years. She has done a sterling job of enhancing our professional development as writers, increasing numbers, securing funding, organising the Anthology, the list goes on...and she has been a great supporter and friend to all the group. She will still be here in the Club but it is time for someone else to take the reins into the next decade and we look forward to nominations on Wednesday at our AGM. And just a little footnote: Fabulous concert next Tuesday 9 August at the Regional Gallery at 6.00 pm with the Sydney Conservatorium of Students playing bold and brassy jazz for only \$15 and students free. Great inspiration for your next short story! *Leonie*

Regards Leonie

What's on in August/September/October?

Wednesday 3 August, 10.00 am – 12.00 pm Monthly Meeting and **Annual General Meeting** of Coffs Harbour Writers' Group Cavanbah Centre, 191 Harbour Drive, Coffs Harbour followed by lunch in the Chill Out Café in the Community Village next door. Email the Social Secretary with apologies for the meeting. Don't forget time for membership renewals and nomination to positions on the committee.

Thursday, 18 August, 10.00 am – 12 noon Coffs Harbour Writers' Group Social Morning. Details to be announced. *Bookings to the Social Secretary.*

Wednesday 7 September, 10.00 am – 12.00 pm Monthly Meeting of Coffs Harbour Writers' Group Cavanbah Centre, 191 Harbour Drive, Coffs Harbour. Guest speaker: Roslyn Cousins (Coffs Council Library, Museum, Gallery and Cultural Services Team Leader) to talk about the Library and existing and new services. Workshop after business meeting: Yvonne Kachel. Telling your story through the naked voice with the assistance of speech and breathing techniques. Followed by lunch in the Chill Out Café in the Community Village next door. *Email the Social Secretary with apologies for the meeting.*

Thursday, 21 September, 10.00 am – 12 noon Coffs Harbour Writers' Group Social Morning. Details to be announced. *Bookings to the Social Secretary.*

Saturday 1 October Coffs Harbour Writers' Group 30 year Anniversary Anthology Book Launch
5.30 pm Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery

Wednesday 5 October, 10.00 am – 12.00 pm Monthly Meeting of Coffs Harbour Writers' Group Cavanbah Centre, 191 Harbour Drive, Coffs Harbour followed by lunch in the Chill Out Café in the Community Village next door. Guest speaker: Shani Walker from TAFE to talk about services offered by TAFE and new directions. *Email the Social Secretary with apologies for the meeting.*

And more...

November: Annette Arthur on the Wild Scottish Isles and Possible workshop on Instagram.

December: Christmas party!!!

President's Report

Annual General Meeting and Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members:

As mentioned previously due to our group now being incorporated as an association we must hold another AGM within six months of the end of financial year.

The 3rd of August has been chosen as a suitable time and it will include the election of up to four office bearers:

- President
- Vice-President
- Treasurer
- Secretary

And ordinary committee members:

- Public Officer – NSW Fair Trading contact person
- Newsletter Editor and Publicity Officer,
- Membership Officer,
- Social Secretary and Workshop Co-ordinator.

Note: A committee member may hold up to two offices. Only financial members of the association can nominate and vote at the AGM

And just a reminder:

Purpose of CHWG as detailed in our Constitution:

1. To promote writing in the Coffs Harbour area by providing members with the opportunity to meeting monthly and share their works in an encouraging and supportive environment.
2. Improve members writing skills through the provision of learning opportunities in the form of seminars, workshops, and study groups, guest speakers
3. Provide a portal of information on writing competitions and publishing opportunities.

Standing Down as President:

Due to other commitments I have decided not to nominate for the position as President, a position I have held for the past four and half years. I believe it is time to move on to allow others to be nominated for the position.

It has been a wonderful honour to have been able to assist with the growth of our group, especially the achievements over the past four years, which includes for example; development of our own website where members can contribute works and profiles, newsletters, relevant links etc, Facebook Group, Twitter Account, 2015 Grassroots Writers Weekend, connection with other writers groups in our region, scheduling of guest speakers and workshops, gain incorporation as an association, which will enable our group to apply for suitable grant funding in the future and most importantly plan and develop of 30th year anthology book.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the members of our current committee: Leonie, Roger, Suzanne, Rosalie, Yvonne and Roger for their efforts in ensuring that our group continues to grow and improve the skills and knowledge of the membership.

30th Year Anthology Book

During my absence over the past few weeks, due to my daughter being in hospital, Roger in his capacity at Vice President stepped in together with the other committee members and ensured the anthology book status progressed. It was a delight to see the almost final stages of the print format during a catch-up meeting with Roger and Yvonne on the 25th July.

Coffs Harbour Writers' Group Inc. Annual General Meeting 10.00 am Wednesday 3 August, Cavanbah Centre, Coffs Harbour

Members are to please ensure they have renewed their membership (\$20) for 2016/2017 for the pleasure of contributing to the Group but also because only financial members are eligible to vote. Nomination forms for committee positions will be available at the meeting or contact the Secretary. Support your Club!

**Lambing Flat (Young NSW) Regional
Fellowship of Australian Writers (NSW) Inc**

**Invitation to enter the
2016 Short story and Poetry
Writing Competition**

Closing date 14 October 2016

For more information lambingflatbranchfaw@hotmail.com or Ted 0459707728

Members star!...

Our very own Karolyn Gibson stars in:

Wayne Rogers – Broadway Babes

SATURDAY 20 AUGUST 2.30 PM AND 7.30 PM. AT THE JETTY THEATRE

LET'S ORGANISE A THEATRE PARTY!!!

More details on the Jetty Theatre website.

Returning to The Jetty Theatre after a sell-out performance last year, Wayne Rogers brings you a brand new show 'Broadway Babes' – featuring some of the greatest songs from Broadway & beyond. Including composers such as Andrew Lloyd Webber, Jerry Herman, Stephen Sondheim and Richard Rogers just to name a few.

Let Wayne transport you to a wonderful place. You can *forget all your worries, forget all your cares and go downtown...* just be entertained! Always looking sensational in fabulous, hand-tailored costumes, Wayne is your 'host with the most' and his act is truly inspirational and one of the most sought after shows in Australia and beyond. For the stunning Broadway Babes show, Wayne will be joined by Coffs Harbour's very own 'Gibson Girls' and special guest artist Michael Montgomery.

Wayne achieved national acclaim as a 2011 Australia's Got Talent Grand Finalist. and is an MO Award winner for 'Best Versatile Variety Act' (2014 & 2015).

Members write...

Margaret Penhall-Jones

Blurb from the cover of Margaret Penhall-Jones' novella, a 'coffee break read', to be released on 6 August as an ebook on Amazon.

Blue Fire by Margo Penhall

Chill out with this atmospheric romantic novella. When Ella Reynolds opens her door to an antique collector, the last person she expects to see is charismatic photo-journalist Nate Stone. When Nate sees Ella he realises he has tracked down the woman who holds the key to his family's secret. Will Ella and Nate be able to heal the sadness of a century-old unrequited love affair? Or will they make the same mistakes their ancestors made? This is a short, intense story with a touch of magic and sweetness, like the perfect coffee!

The Haunting of Hill House Shirley Jackson 1959 Penguin Review by Margaret.

Winter enters its final month providing a last chance to enjoy a good ghost story before sun and beach beckon. Shirley Jackson's classic is one of the best.

The iconic opening paragraph, despite being borrowed and parodied by lesser authors (and abridged here) sets the mood for the uncanny experiences which follow:

"No live organism can continue for long to exist sanely under conditions of absolute reality...Hill House, not sane, stood by itself against its hills, holding darkness within... silence lay steadily against the wood and stone of Hill House, and whatever walked there, walked alone."

Spinster Eleanor Vance, finding herself set adrift after her mother's death, enlists in a ghost-hunting experiment and finds more than she bargained for; darkness, secrets, strange experiences and herself.

As Eleanor starts her journey, she bumps into an old woman, a server who has gathered up the left-over sandwiches from a luncheon. The old woman scolds Eleanor for sending her pilfered-sandwich-dinner into the gutter. Perhaps this woman warns Eleanor of her possible future. In 1950's USA, a woman neither married nor with a career can only look forward to being despised and pitiable. Eleanor chooses. She sends the woman away in a taxi and sets off on her own, different, journey.

If you're the type who finds walking, decomposing corpses frightening, then this novel is not for you. Jackson eschews "schlock horror". She stays firmly with the type of horror identified by author Stephen King as the psychological and visceral response of "terror". In this case, the terror of the socially isolated and vulnerable Eleanor sliding inexorably into the insanity of Hill House.

This modern gothic ghost-story offers striations of meaning which seem to vaporise when followed too closely. There is no point tying the story down, because the novel stands in its own right; gripping, sinister and disturbing, like Hill House itself.

Indelible, dream-like images ensnare the reader, taking us with Eleanor on her on her road trip. We understand why she wants her "cup of stars", become apprehensive when she stops in the "hillbilly" town and are fearful by the time she reaches her destination. That is Hill House, whose very walls ooze the cryptic message: *Help Eleanor Come Home*.

Two movies have been made from this novel. Decades apart, with wildly different budgets, both fail. This is one journey you have to take by enmeshing your mind, through Jackson's meticulously crafted text, with the mind of the lonely, naïve, courageous, crazy Eleanor. Expect chills down your spine the whole way. *Margaret Penhall-Jones © 2016*

Competitions and ‘broadcast’ opportunities *(from Margaret Penhall-Jones)*

12 August : Trudy Graham-Julie Lewis Literary Award for Prose For unpublished prose up to 2000 words. Open to all writers [Information here](#)

15 August: the Betty Olle Poetry Award for written bush poetry, 2016. [Information here](#)

18 – 21 August: Romance Writers of Australia Conference “Ain’t Love Grand” Stamford Grand Hotel, Glenelg, Adelaide. [Information here](#) **“University of Love” Popular Romance Studies.** Flinders University. Stamford Plaza Hotel, North Terrace, Adelaide [Information here](#)

24 August: Lane Cove Literary Awards Open to all Australian writers. Categories: Short story, Travel Story, Poetry. [Information here](#)

31 August: Alice Sinclair Memorial writing Competition 2016 Lake Macquarie Branch Aust Writers
An invitation for writers to submit their work, poetry (50 lines) and short stories (2500 words). [Information here](#)

31 August: Gold Coast Writers Non-Fiction Award For non-fiction books. Send a proposal and writing sample. Winner will have their proposal assessed by Deputy Managing Editor, Penguin-Random House Australia [Information here](#)

31 August: Margot Manchester Memorial Short Story Award 2016 (Society of Women Writers Tasmania). Open to all short story writers. Entries between 1200 and 1500 words. [Information here](#)

31 August : Sydney Writers Room Short Story Competition Open to all Australian residents. Short stories up to 2000 words. [Information here](#)

1 September Olga Masters Short Story Award Short story about any aspect of rural Australian family life, 2000 to 5000 words. [Information here](#)

1 September Adrien Abbot Prize Open to Australian Residents. Poetry on the theme of “memory”, 25 lines or 250 words [Information here](#)

2 September The Gwen Harwood Poetry Prize Single poem no longer than 80 lines. Open to Australian residents. [Information here](#)

7 September Toolangi CJ Dennis Society Poetry Competition Open to authors in Australia and New Zealand. Several categories for adult and child entries. [Information here](#)

30 September: Walter Stone Award 2016 for Life Writing

The award is for life writing defined as a work of biography, autobiography, memoir, monograph and bibliography. Maximum length: 25,000 words, first prize: \$1500. [Information here](#)

1 October: National One-Act Playwriting Competition

This competition encourages playwrights, novice, emerging or established to submit their scripts. First prize: \$8000. [Information here](#)

That’s all for now. Don’t forget, contributions please. Your own stories, book or film reviews, writing exercises...whatever takes your fancy. Newsletters are distributed by email and hardcopies available at the monthly meeting. Please ensure your email addresses are current. And feedback please. Comments on stories, events in the newsletter, letters to the editor. Let’s get some discussion happening. If another group in which you are involved has an event coming up and it would be of interest to writers, share it here! Anything arts and cultural. Leonie