

Coffs Harbour Writers' Group



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:	Roger Harris rogerch@tpg.com.au
Vice-President (VP):	Yvonne Kachel Yvonne.kachel@bigpond.com
Assistant to VP:	Annette Arthur annettearthur53@gmail.com
Secretary:	Yvonne Kachel Yvonne.kachel@bigpond.com
Treasurer:	Suzanne Tainsh polyart42@gmail.com
Assistant to Treasurer:	Rhonda Rand rhonda2450@hotmail.com
Membership Secretary:	Estelle Russell earusse21@gmail.com
Social Secretary/	Yvonne Kachel Yvonne.kachel@bigpond.com and
Newsletter Editor and Publicity:	Leonie Henschke leonie@henschke.net.au

Greetings

A warm welcome to Roger Harris as he takes on the mantle of the President of our Writers' Group, ably assisted by an expanded committee to allow for those frequent holidays and wanderings that we all like to experience. A larger committee with assistants (in addition to the formal positions required by our Incorporation) will enable us to look after new members better, concentrate on honing our creative skills and keep the focus very much on writing, our core objective. Our very active member, author Margaret Penhall-Jones has also been busy setting up the Critiquing Group meeting on a Saturday afternoon which will add another very important facility for our established and aspiring writers.

We thank our Past President, Lorraine Penn, for a superb contribution to the continuing life of this long running group. She has established a solid legal framework, a book of collected works of our

writers and has us firmly recognised in the Writing calendar of the mid north coast. A wonderful achievement! So now thank you to Lorraine and welcome to the new committee and let's look forward to an active year ahead with more stories written, read and published or broadcast. Worthwhile goals for all of us!

Regards Leonie

What's on in September/October?

10.00 am - 12.30 pm Wednesday 7 September Cavanbah Centre. Coffs's Harbour Writers' Group Monthly meeting followed by lunch (see below).

12.30 pm – 1.30 pm Writers' Group Lunch Wednesday 7 September in Chill Out café, Community Village (next to Cavanbah Centre).

1.30 pm – 3.30 pm Art of Story Telling Skills Workshop with Yvonne Kachel after the September meeting and lunch. Cavanbah Centre.

How to Present Your Story and the Art of Story Telling to Capture your Audience. This workshop will include breathing exercises to loosen up presentation nerves, joint story telling exercises using emotions and music to capture the passion of your story, and interactive presentations. Cost: \$7.50 Members \$15 Non-Members. Invite your friends. Bookings by phone or text to 0412668315.

10.00 am – 12.30 pm Thursday 22 September Social Morning Tea, Shearwater Restaurant, Promenade Shopping Village, Harbour Drive (the block before the Jetty Theatre).

5.30 pm – 7.30 pm. Saturday 1 October Launch of Coffs Harbour Writers' Group Anthology of writers' stories. Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery (next to Library)

And more...

5 November meeting: Annette Arthur on a visit to the Wild Scottish Isles and afternoon workshop on Travel Writing with Leonie Henschke.

December: Christmas party!!!

President's Report from Roger Harris

Thank you for your confidence in electing me to President, (I think).

First let me thank Lorraine Penn, for her fantastic efforts over recent years, the growth of the group, the Writers Grass Roots Writers' Weekend, and now the Anthology, none of this happened by accident, it's been a result of Lorraine's' tireless drive and effort.

I'm not going to repeat the office bearers and committee members here, as it's on the front page above. However, unless you've seen me leave the beach wearing a sarong, you'll notice I don't generally wear a skirt, which ought to be a clue there has been a change. Whilst we have familiar faces on the committee, I'd like to welcome Annette Arthur and thank her for joining the Writers' Group and our committee, also Rhonda Rand and Estelle Russell for taking up their positions.

As those of you who were at our last meeting will be aware, we are trialing a 'Homework initiative, please make sure the dog doesn't eat it. [A short piece starting with 'There was a knock at the door.'] This will increase the amount of reading at the meetings, so sticking to schedules will become more important, as we also hope to introduce writing exercises during the meeting.

A reminder that our own readings need to be a maximum 750 words, 'War and Peace' is out. All word processing software has a word count function, so it's easy to check. Even if it's about politics, religion, or global warming, further discussion needs to at least be limited. Please keep this in mind for, as we know, cutting people short can cause offence.

The objective is to facilitate more writing, we will learn as we go what time permits, and members' preferences.

Please bring your readings to the next meeting as Suzanne will be taking pre payments for the Anthology book, \$20.00, members, and \$25.00 non-members.

See you there, Roger

Members' success!

Margaret Penhall-Jones

Congratulations to Margaret Penhall-Jones on the release of her novella, a "coffee break read", 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!

Members Review...

Margaret Penhall-Jones reviews *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion

Text Publishing, 2013

Shake off the winter blues with this quirky, funny, feel-good love story.

Don Tillman, a 39-year-old, tall, intelligent, unmarried La Trobe university lecturer applies the organisation, concentration, logic and rational detachment of his Asperger's syndrome to his next project: "The Wife Project". Clearly, to find a wife, he needs a carefully-constructed "Questionnaire" to eliminate unsuitable candidates; the unpunctual, the smokers, etc. The Wife Project is derailed by train-wreck Rosie whose chaotic brilliance and warmth doesn't tick even one box on his "Questionnaire".

Don, our Sheldon-Cooper-type hero shows ingenuity. What he does makes sense; it's just not emotional sense. Logically, when Don needs to learn to dance it makes sense to practice dance-steps in his office with a skeleton borrowed from the Lab. What could possibly go wrong?

This is a clever, light-hearted comedy which will keep a smile on your face in-between the laugh-out-loud moments. Importantly, we laugh with our hero, not at him. Don has just enough social awareness to gain our sympathy. He senses when he is about to make a *faux pas* but the social clues elude him until it goes spectacularly awry.

Gradually The Wife Project is taken over by The Rosie Project, which brings these charming opposites closer, with readers cheering all the way.

Grassroots Writers Weekend 24th – 26th March 2017 Panthers Leagues Club, Port Macquarie hosted by Port Macquarie Writers' Group

Submitted by Wendy Haynes, President, Port Writers Inc.

The planning for the next Grassroots Writers Weekend hosted by Port Writers on 24th – 26th March 2017 is well under way. There will be a limit of 100 participants for the event.

Workshop and Panellists Submissions are **NOW OPEN**.

This request for volunteer presenters and panellists has been sent out early to give you time to prepare your presentation. Presentations will be in 1 ½ hour time slots allowing time for questions. Handouts are preferred by participants. **You can present more than 1 workshop.**

If you have presented at previous events please bring something new to the table.

If you would like to use this opportunity to launch a new book you have written from 2015-2017 and be part of a discussion panel please respond ASAP as space is limited.

We may receive a high number of submissions, if this is the case which we hope it is, we will select submissions firstly based on variety for the participants, and secondly to give new presenters an opportunity. As a presenter for this event you will gain free access to all the workshops for the weekend. If you plan to attend the dinners on the Friday and Saturday nights this will need to be paid for, cost TBA. Accommodation information will be sent out soon or go to www.wotif.com.au

The closing date for submissions is 30th October 2016 to allow time to arrange and finalise the program for 2017. We plan to have the final program available on 30th January 2017 via Facebook, emails and www.portwriter.com.au

Wendy Haynes grassrootswritersweekend@gmail.com or 0427 240 464

Debbie Deasey dadeasey@dodo.com.au or 0414 423 270

Critique Group beginning September

Margaret Penhall-Jones is starting a critique group which offers aspiring writers a chance to share, critique and improve their writing. The group is free of charge and open to all adult aspiring writers, whether you're writing memoir, your first novel, short stories or poetry.

The group will be held on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month, from 2pm to 4pm, beginning 10 September 2016 at the Seminar Room, 'the Mud Huts' in Duke Street, around the corner from *Artisti* cafe.

As numbers are limited, please email Margaret at penhalljones@gmail.com for more information.

Margaret is a registered volunteer with the Arts Council and member of the Coffs Harbour Writers Group.

Below: The venue, the Mud Hut, in Duke Street, Coffs Harbour.



Competitions and 'broadcast' opportunities (from Margaret Penhall-Jones)

1 September: Adrien Abbott Prize

This competition allows you to submit up to three poems, maximum of 25 lines/250 words. First prize: \$500. [More information here:](#)

1 September: Outstanding Short Story Competition

All stories should have relevance to the broader Australian LGBTIQ community. Maximum length: 750 words. [More 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](#)

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](#)

15 September: Margaret River Short Story Competition

This diverse short story competition is open to authors of any age and nationality. Maximum length: 3000 words, first prize: \$500. [Information here:](#)

16 September: The Katharine Susannah Prichard Short Fiction Awards

Two categories, open to all Australian residents. Young Writers' Award, maximum length: 2000 words and Open Award, maximum length: 2500 words. Cash prizes. [Information here:](#)

30 September: Positive Words Magazine September Mini-Competition

Write a poem in ten lines or less, or a short story in 100 words or less including the word 'Snail'. First prize: six-month subscription to *Positive Words* Magazine. [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](#)

15 October: Martha Richardson Memorial Poetry Prize

Open theme poetry competition accepting submissions of up to 40 lines. First prize: \$1500. **Information here:**

4 November: Odyssey House Victoria 6th Annual Short Story Competition

This competition is open to writers of all ages and experience. Maximum length: 1500 words, first prize: \$1000. [Information here:](#)

30 November: Atlantis Short Story Contest

This US short story contest is open to international writers. Submissions of fiction and non-fiction short stories are accepted. Maximum length: 2500 words, first prize: \$300. [Information here:](#)

Now for some requests to our members:

Authors featured in the Anthology are reminded that it is preferable if the books are pre-purchased which will help with the upfront printing costs. Payment would be appreciated at the September meeting. Each book will be \$20 to members and \$25 to non-members. Great Christmas presents.

We will be catering for the Launch event so please contact Yvonne Kachel (0457989875) with offers of food if you haven't already done so. The Gallery only has a small kitchen so it is more convenient if you bring in a ready prepared plate.

We will be serving alcohol from a bar so to be absolutely compliant we will need Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) currently qualified people to pour drinks. Could we have an indication of members (or family) who hold an RSA and might be able to help?

Also do we have any pianists among the Group who would be available to play the beautiful grand piano at the Gallery for us? We don't want to intimidate anyone but pianist, Roger Woodward, described it as the best Yamaha he has ever played on so a wonderful opportunity to play a beautiful instrument.

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