

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

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Greetings

Our collection of short stories by members of the Coffs Harbour Writers' Group has arrived and it looks fabulous! Congratulations to all our members who were able to contribute. Copies will be available at the next meeting and members will be able to share some readings. As already noted the public launch was postponed but a new date and venue can be determined by the Group. A Library Author's launch is also planned so our writers can be duly lauded! A short Newsletter this month but a bumper issue for November with excerpts from some of the writers' stories in the Anthology. Choose some selections now!

Regards Leonie

What's on in October/November?

10.00 am - 12.30 pm **Wednesday 5 October** Cavanbah Centre. Coffs's Harbour Writers' Group Monthly meeting followed by lunch (see below).

12.30 pm – 1.30 pm **Writers' Group Lunch** Wednesday 5 October in Chill Out café, Community Village (next to Cavanbah Centre).

10.00 am – 12.30 pm **Thursday 20 October Social Morning Tea**, Shearwater Restaurant, Promenade Shopping Village, Harbour Drive (the block before the Jetty Theatre).

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!!!**

Members' success!

Us!!! The 30 Year Anniversary Anthology of works by members of the Coffs Harbour Writers' Group has now been published. Copies available at the next meeting (with cake!).

Members Review...

Janice Terry

Book Review – *Tears of the Moon* by Di Morrissey Published by Pan MacMillan Australia 2015

Di Morrissey has captured the essence of the Kimberley, with her story of two inspiring journeys and two unforgettable women. The stories of Lily in the 1990s and Olivia in the 1890s.

The story begins with Lily researching her family tree in 1995, where her quest for knowledge inspires a visit to Broome in search of the family's roots.

The story is uncovered of pioneers Olivia and Conrad setting out to build their home in the outback, of the Kimberley, of the hardship with makeshift living conditions and the generous help of the local aborigines and the pearling seafarer, Captain Tyndale. The founding pearling industry attracts people of all nationalities seeking their fortunes.

Australia provides the fitting backdrop for both stories with its harsh conditions, remoteness, and mystery.

A great read. *Janice*

Critique Group

Margaret Penhall-Jones has started 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 is held on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month, from 2pm to 4pm, 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.

30-SECOND WRITING TIPS from the Australian Writers' Centre Newsletter

leant/leaned, leapt/leaped, learnt/learned

All of these options are acceptable, but for consistency you should use one set or the other. American English tends to use the "ed" varieties, while elsewhere including Australia, the common usage is:

- **leant** (*different from "lent her my coat" – which is from "lend"*)
- **leapt**
- **learnt** (*although if speaking about a "learned colleague", pronounced LEARN-ID, then this remains as "learned".*)

NOTE: this rule is also true of **spelt/spelled**: in Australia, we recommend using "spelt".

Example:

After she learnt that the frog had leapt from the boiling water, she leant against the wall and spelt out the details for everyone.

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

[14 October: Joseph Furphy Commemorative Literary Prize](#)

This prize includes both poetry and short story submissions in a number of different categories. Categories include: junior, youth and open. First prize: \$300, entry fee: \$5. [Information here](#)

[21 October: Glen Phillips Poetry Prize](#)

The competition has an open theme and is accepting unpublished entries. Maximum length: 50 lines, first prize: \$200, entry fee: \$10. [Information here:](#)

1 November: F(r)iction Fall Literary Competition

United States based competition. Three submission categories: short stories, flash fiction and poetry, with cash prizes available. Entry fee: \$15 USD. [Information here:](#)

20 November: Judith Wright Poetry Prize

This competition seeks poetry by writers who have published no more than one collection under their name. First prize: \$6000, entry fee: \$12 for *Overland* subscribers, \$20 for non-subscribers. [Information here:](#)

20 November: Neilma Sidney Short Story Prize

This prize seeks short fiction of up to 3000 words, themed around the notion of 'travel'. First prize: \$4000, entry fee: \$12 for *Overland* subscribers, \$20 for non-subscribers. [Information here:](#)

30 November: Blackened Billy Verse Competition

Writers of Bush verse are invited to compete. First prize: \$500. [Information here:](#)

30 November: InkTears Short Story Contest

International competition accepting short story submissions. Maximum length: 3500 words, first prize: £1000, entry fee: £7.50. [Information here:](#)

30 November: Best of Times short story competition

Submissions for humorous short stories of any theme. Maximum length: 2500 words, first prize: \$300-\$500, entry fee: \$10. [Information here:](#)

31 January 2017: Toowoomba Repertory Theatre Play Writing Competition

Aspiring and experienced Australian playwrights are invited to submit unpublished and unperformed play scripts. Entry fee: \$40, first prize: \$4000. [Information here:](#)

31 March 2017: FAW Tasmania Nairda Lyne Award

This competition is for an original, unpublished short story suitable for children 8-12 years. Maximum length: 1000 words, first prize: 100, entry fee: \$5. [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