

RING OF BRIGHT WATER

The Society of Women Writers Qld. Inc.

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Bi-Monthly Newsletter

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MEETINGS 2nd Tues each
month 10–12 a.m.



Hello everyone,

Well, here we are, the second of the “new look” Ring of Bright Water and no adverse comments (so far). The last two activities we scheduled for our members’ meetings have also received very good evaluations from those who attended. You will note that a ‘writing group activity’ is scheduled for our July meeting. This is not our usual activity, but do come along to that. (I think the advertising ‘gurus’ call this “suck it and see”.)

Do you belong to a Writers’ Group? If you do, you will no doubt have close ties to your local Library. Centrally we also use the City Library for our meetings, etc. We will be combining with them to put on a special ‘writers’ event, in November, so keep reading our Newsletter for details (once those have firmed up). All that supposes, of course, that we will have a similar hardworking ‘team’ elected at the **A.G.M. in September**. Do block out some time in your diary to come to that. You’ll get some lunch and won’t be pressured, but I’m sure you’d like a say.

You will note also that in September the Committee’s task will be to ensure that our Bribie Island retreat will be a positive experience for everyone attending. We aim to have some facilitated workshops along with time to discuss and perfect your own work. (see attendance form elsewhere). **IF YOU BELONG TO A POSTAL MAGAZINE**, how about organising to meet “your” magazine friends at Bribie Island? It would be nice to see the faces that go with the names, wouldn’t it? **Keep Writing,** *Thea*

Events

Members’ meetings Community Meeting Room, ground floor, City Library., every second Tuesday of the month

Room opens 9.30 for 10 a.m.
Start. 10–10.30 Report back to members about c’tee decisions. 10.30–11.30 - activity

Cost of attendance is a \$3 donation

A door prize raffle is held at each meeting . \$1 p.p.

Program:-	12th July	Writing group activity
	9th August	Guest speaker
	13th Sept.	Members’ Showcase and A.G.M—Election of Office bearers

Committee meetings Every fourth Tues. Rm 1.06, 1st floor City Library. Room opens at 9a.m.

Submissions to the C’tee should be addressed to the Secretary to be received a week prior to C’tee meetings

28th June Revisiting Constitution and Committee functions.

26th July no meeting

23rd August Process for A.G.M.

27th Sept. Readiness for our retreat at Bribie Island

Closing date for Anthology Comp. 31st July 2016

INTERESTING TIMES

The **Queensland Poetry Festival** is nearly upon us. Held from Aug. 25th—28th at the Judith Wright Centre in Fortitude Valley, Brisbane. Contact qldpoetry@gmail.com for further details. The **Brisbane Writers' Festival** follows closely, on Sept. 7th—11th. **SWWQ** will host a day in the City Library on 26th November.

If you would like to contribute any member notices or news, please email your text as an attachment and your image as a jpeg, to make the work of the Editor easier. Unfortunately it is impossible to publish members' works using this avenue. If that is your aim, join one of our Postal Magazines and interchange ideas with other members of the magazine or come to the specially designated meetings dealing with evaluations and feedback.

All contact for the Newsletter is to be with theabiesheuvel@gmail.com. If you have matters that should be considered or decided by the Committee, please email such matters to the Secretary, Helen Boardman, (address p. 1), who can then table them at our Committee meetings. If you would like to attend Committee meetings, you are at liberty to do so, but you will not get to vote on the decisions. Dates and times are on the first page.

EVALUATIONS

We ask participants to fill in an evaluation form after every workshop. Here are some of the results:-

WORKSHOP BY Thea Biesheuvel, 10th May, 2016

Twelve people attended (apart from the presenter)

The topics covered were getting inspiration from re-writing fairy -tales and myths and 'mind-mapping' particular topics. For the purpose of this exercise the topic was "Home".

Participants said:

40% said they wrote articles mainly

31% said they wrote stories

8% said they wrote poetry

The rest were equally divided between letters to Editors, plays and 'other' (7- 8%)

80% of people said this workshop presented a good reminder

50% said it was helpful

23% said it was useful

About fairy-tales and their modernisation, 77% said it was very useful and fun, 63% said it was fun and they'd loved it.

About mind-mapping, 50% said it was very useful and alright, 33% said it got the brain working

99% of attendees said they'd attend a workshop similar in structure at any time.

It was fun presenting it

WORKSHOP BY Ynes Sanz 14th June, 2016

Ynes presented to 15 participants.

She covered the topics around the intriguing nature of some poems, the use of all the senses, some didactic and some intimate poetry, the use of simple words, yearning, wistful underlying sense and just what it is that makes a poem endure over the centuries. She handed out copies of poems to illustrate the points she was making.

Participants said:

They wrote Poetry that interested them, mostly sad or else varied. Some said they were not really poets. They did not write free verse but wrote In response to emotional 'things'

Some said their poetry was heartfelt but not very good, ordinary doggerel

75% of poets self-edit, mainly by re-writing

75% enjoyed the reading of the specific poems discussed, especially Ynes' own poem

20% enjoyed all of it

5% enjoyed the comments of the participants

100% would come to a similar workshop again

80% thought that nothing could be improved

10% felt a short exercise might have been helpful

10% thought greater attendance would improve the discussions.

So you see—You Missed some interesting writers' events.

The committee is trying hard to present matters that interest you at these meetings

It would be so good to see you there. There will be a series of three workshops on analysing prose and 'professional' critiquing. Part 1 will take place on 12th July.

Life is theatrical and literature a quotation (Goethe)



THE ALICE AWARD 2016

The Alice Award was conceived in 1975, the year of the 50th Anniversary of the Society of Women Writers (Australia). It is awarded every two years by vote from each State. Each State hosts an event in turn and awards the successful nominee. This year it is Tasmania's turn. *Are you going? Our Qld nominee is Dr. Marilyn Hume. Find her on Google.*

The presentation will be at a reception and dinner on Sat. 6th August in Launceston with a lunch the following day. SWWTas will also be organising a bus tour to Cradle Mountain and/or wineries. For a guide to accommodation, etc., as well as registration for the dinner please contact wendylaing02@gmail.com. We'd love to see as many SWW members attend as possible.

MEMBERS' ACHIEVEMENTS

The biggest achiever this year (so far) has been Adele Moy. She organised speakers, venues and publicity for the Sandcliffe Writers' Festival (with some help from her friends at SWWQ). Mocco Wollert is as prolific as ever with several poems published and a letter to the Editor of the Courier Mail. Toni Risson has a chapter called "Embroidering Eliza" in *War Stories of our Town*, a book produced by the Scenic Rim Shire Council. Di Hill continues her successful journey into the blogosphere and travel writing. Thea Biesheuvel has had two poems published in The Australia Times (on-line) as well as figuring in a Media Release about WWII featuring *Survival in Rotterdam* a chapter in the book *Jitter-bugging at City Hall*, produced by U3A Brisbane.

COMPETITION

DON'T FORGET THE CLOSING DATE FOR OUR COMPETITION ABOUT "HOME" IS 31st JULY. REMEMBER ALSO THAT THE SNAIL MAIL IS NOW REALLY AT SNAIL'S PACE (unless you pay extra postage), so allow plenty of time for your mail to reach us.

AND TO ADD TO YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS, HERE ARE THE COMPETITIONS JULY- AUGUST-SEPT. THAT YOU COULD ENTER

JULY DEADLINES

Age Book of the year Awards	pspencer@theage.com.au for books of Literary Merit	
Age Short Story Comp.	shortstory@theage.com.au Guidelines and dates available on request.	
Albury City Short Story Award	WAM@alburycity.nsw.gov.au Guidelines available	
Bruce Dawe Nat. Poetry Prize	www.australianpoetry.org Guidelines available on request	Entry fee \$6 p.poem
Max Harris Poetry Award	poetryandpoeticscentre@unisa.edu.au	Guidelines available on request

AUGUST DEADLINES

Aesthetica Creative Writing Comp.	info@aestheticamagazine.com Prize £500	Entry fee £10+VAT
Boroondara Literary Awards	bla@boroondara.vic.gov.au Prizes from \$1,500 to \$50	Guidelines available on request
Bundaberg Arts Fest. Lit. Comp.	kadycheyne@gmail.com Short Stories, poetry, plays	Guidelines available Entry fee \$5
Carmel Bird Short fiction award	info@shortaustralianstories.com.au for guidelines	Entry fee \$7
Dickinson Memorial Lit. Comp.	coordinator@qbwa.org.au for guidelines	
FAW North Shore Prose Comp.	fawnorthshore@gmail.com for guidelines	Entry fee \$5
Gawler Poetry Comp.		
Gawler Short Story Com	council@gawler.sa.gov.au for guidelines	
Ipswich Poetry Feast In. Comp.	cmoore@ipswich.qld.gov.au for guidelines	Entry fee \$5

SEPTEMBER

ABC Radio National/Ian Reed Writer-in-residence opportunities	Contact direct on ABC web-site
E. J. Brady Short Story writing competition	artsmallacoota@gmail.com
The Examiner Literature awards	tace@gilligerry.com
FAW NSW Hilarie Lindsay Young Writers competition	fawnsw.org.au
FAWQ Soapbox Article Writing Competition	nancycoxmiller@optusnet.com.au

General

Australian Bush Poetry Competition Calendar	contact hal@abpa.org.au for monthly competitions
Commonwealth Short Story Prize	contact writers@commonwealth.int for further details

FORWARD PLANNING

Adele Moy

Some exciting writing events from SWWQ are currently being organised. Brisbane Square Library has kindly agreed to fund an event on **Saturday 26th November** supporting and promoting our organisation. This will be a great opportunity to meet and mingle with members who, because of work and other commitments, find it difficult to attend our usual Tuesday meetings. At the time of this going to print, your committee is looking at a panel discussion with leading Queensland women writers, Kris Olsson, Shelley Davidow and Marilyn Hume, focussing on the importance, necessity (or otherwise) and the generated authorial kudos associated with 'women only' literary awards. There will, of course, be a strong emphasis on our biennial Alice award. The winner will be announced in August and Queensland is keeping its fingers crossed that our chosen writer Dr. M.K. Hume will bring home the award. Our last Queensland winner was historian and writer Susannah de Vries. Previous Queensland recipients have been the late Jill Shearer and Nancy Cato.

The event at Brisbane Square Library will be **free**, and for those who attended The Sandcliffe Writers Festival panel discussion in the library's End Room in April, I'm will agree this venue works very well. We'll keep you updated as more details become available.

Speaking of Sandcliffe, early planning is underway for the next festival which will be held in **April 2017**.

Funded by Brisbane City Council and auspiced by Women Writers Queensland, Sandcliffe aims to support and promote Indigenous and non-Indigenous Queensland writing. The festival committee is planning forums, workshops and events to cater to a wide range of

A great writer is not one who imitates nobody, but one who nobody can imitate.

writing interests and would really welcome any input from our members on what you'd like to see at the festival and what sort of events, such as workshops, discussions, poetry readings, interactive sessions etc. you'd be willing to attend and support. Please do keep funding constraints in mind however. Email sandcliffewritersfestival@gmail.com with your thoughts and ideas. Looking forward to hearing from you.

ABOUT POETRY

The Poetry Festival is less than 8 weeks from opening (see **#QPF2016 #LOSTLANGUAGEFOUND**) and only 2 weeks from releasing the full program and new website, as well as announcing the 2016 Arts Queensland Poet in Residence + the inaugural QPF Indigenous Poet in Residence. Here is your invitation to the QPF2016 Program Community Launch @ **Gilimbaa** at **6pm Friday July 15th**, all welcome (drop by on the night). Deep thanks to Gilimbaa for being a design partner this year.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

You'll notice an exhortation to pay your Annual subscription (please, we rely on them). There are also members who wonder how to pay the fee for extra entries (more than 3) to our competition.

The usual method has been and still is, a cheque payable to The Society of Women Writers Qld. Inc. and sent to our Treasurer. The more modern method is to pay by Direct Debit, to BSB 034 050, Account No. 136032 and add your name in the relevant box, so we know it's you. Much more convenient.



The Society of Women Writers Qld. Inc.

BRIBIE ISLAND RETREAT

Wed. 19th October, 2016 - Sun. 23rd October, 2016

REGISTRATION FORM—send to Helen Boardman, accompanied by your fees, please.

NAME

ADDRESS

CONTACT DETAILS (incl. Phone and e-mail details)

DATES ATTENDING (Please tick)

Wed Thurs. Fri Sat Sun. (till noon)

Fish & Chips RSL

COSTS

Accommodation \$25 per night = \$

Meals (3 per day) \$10 per meal = \$

Add workshop(s) costs please \$10 per workshop = \$

TOTAL \$

It is anticipated **that Friday** night will be fish and chips, to be paid for by participants

It is also anticipated that **Saturday night** will be at the local RSL to be paid for by participants. Those days will be charged at \$20 for meals for those paying for their own evening meal.

BRING

Your own bed linen, towel, blanket or sleeping bag, and pillow.

Toilet Soap/detergent/cleaning products

Laptop or iPads with charger, lead and adaptor plug

Other writing aids, reading materials

Your own dietary needs, alcohol/soft drinks and “nibblies”.

FOCUS

Wed/Thurs Arrivals - Your time

Friday night Getting to know each other's work or work in progress.

Sat. morning Workshop **\$10 per person attending** **Add to TOTAL**

Sat. afternoon Your time

Sat. night RSL visit

Sun. morning Workshop **\$10 per person attending** **Add to TOTAL**

Sun. noon Clean-up and departure

GENERAL INFORMATION on BRIBIE ISLAND

This long weekend retreat offers encouragement, friendships, opportunities to network with others, supportive feedback and confidence in your writing. All this on beautiful Bribie Island. It is especially valuable for members of Postal Magazines who may not ever see each other.

The venue is affordable and comfortable, a perfect environment for quiet time, inspiration and fun. It has several bathrooms, wide verandahs, in keeping with its "old Queenslander" heritage. It is called Coungeau House, a TOC H facility, **36 Banya St., Bongaree, Bribie Island**. There are caretakers in the grounds. The Phone number there is 3408 1435

There are good facilities all around Bongaree, including a Library, a number of 'eateries' and coffee lounges, as well as supermarket and boutiques.

DIRECTIONS

The island is connected to the mainland by bridge. It is about 100 km north of Brisbane. If coming from Brisbane, head North, follow the Bruce Highway, M1, to

cross the Caboolture River, then follow the sign to Bribie Island and continue until you've crossed the bridge onto the island.

Just past the bridge continue around the first roundabout AS IF you're returning to the mainland, but turn left just before the bridge to follow the waterline along Welsby Parade. Turn left past the caravan park, when you get to Campbell Street, then left into Banya Street. Park in the grounds of No. 36 or along the verge.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Register with Helen Boardman, Secretary on h.j.boardman17@gmail.com and include payment, please.

See page 4 for payment details.

Contact Thea Biesheuvel on (07) 3354 2130 or thea-biesheuvel@gmail.com for further details should you require them.

WRITERS' GROUPS

The "Writing Queensland" magazine lists 42 groups that meet to discuss their writing with each other. Have you checked to see if your Library plays host to one in your locality?

SWWQ also has 5 Postal Magazines where participants lodge their work and send them on to the others in their group for feedback and comments. If you can't get to meetings it might be worth putting yourself on the list for one of those (Coordinator is Sue Wagner).

We also have workshops allied to our 'general' meetings, on the second Tuesday of the month.

All these activities mean that we should be mindful of the *etiquette* of providing feedback to the writer. After all, we'd like to improve on our first (or second) attempts don't we?

One of the crucial components is to remember that we are there to comment on *the writing* and **not the author**.

Just commenting that you don't like ... or that you think... Is nice, but doesn't help the writer to consider what to keep and what to scrap, does it?

Let us know what happens in your group, please.

TAPESTRY

In her recent address during the Sandcliffe Writers' Festival, the Qld author and journalist, Susan Johnson described our writing 'scene' as a wonderful tapestry of colours and ideas, put together smoothly to form an imaginative picture.

Once you've admired that picture, however, you can turn it around. What do you see on the back of the hessian or linen? A strangely distorted version of the picture, strands of wool or silk knotted together to anchor them, some gaps and even some signs of unpicking in places. That is also part of our writing 'scene'. We can believe at times that it is all a mess. Or—we can reverse the work and see the wonderful picture. We need both. Come and add **your bit of colour** to our tapestry.

Avid Reader Bookstore is running a **FLASH FICTION** competition. You can enter up to **three** short stories of **50 words** each. Closing date is **6th August, 2016**. There is a prize of \$500 for the winner. Find Avid Reader Bookstore on line or send to books@avidreader.com.au

Playwriting Australia is having a Play Festival and a hosting a National Script Workshop as well as a series of masterclasses. If **PLAY** is your 'thing', contact them on info!pwa.org.au

We would like to offer our condolences to our long-time member and lovely friend, Joan Turnour, on the death of her husband. Never an easy time. Remember happy times, Joan.