

Tascribe

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The Fellowship of Australian Writers Tasmania Inc.

Please communicate with FAW by mail to PO Box 234, North Hobart TAS 7002.

Patrons Janet Grecian & Christopher Pearce

Issue No. 6

Nov-December 2025

2025 Committee

Jennie Herrera: President. **Bethamy Nader:** Treasurer. Committee: **Penny Parrish, Jeff Garsed, Mike Cooper.** Jennie is currently filling in as Secretary & Newsletter Editor. Bethamy would like to lay down the treasurer's work at the end of this year so please think if this is something you'd like to take on.

Meetings are held at Friends Meeting House, 395 Argyle St, North Hobart, at 2pm on the 2nd Saturday of each month except January. All writers are welcome.

Subscriptions for 2026 are being accepted. \$35 adult, \$45 family, \$20 student. Send via our bank (CBA a/c 067 000 1056 7470 with your name and 'subs' as payment details) or by cheque or money order to P.O. Box 234, North Hobart 7002. Next year's subs due January 1st, 2026.

Newsletters by email: Send your name and email to fawtas@gmail.com to update our lists and to Jeff Garsed at jgarsed@gmail.com to receive your copy.

MEMBERS' ALERT: We would like everyone to consider and let us know their thoughts on these issues: 1. De-incorporation. 2. Anthology and ABN no. 3. Need for a new Treasurer. FAW became an incorporated body some years ago. It was thought this would look more professional and provide legal protection though FAW Tas does not provide grants (which sometimes seem to be a bone of contention in other groups) and all competition entries are judged anonymously. It costs us an incorporation fee each year, requires us to be publicly audited, and the government now requires the purchase of the Microsoft Excel system to present the annual return which also costs. We can continue all our programs as a non-incorporated body and it would make the treasurer's job simpler and do away with the need for a Public Officer. Having an ABN no. requires us to have a tax agent and to be spot-checked by the ATO. We can still publish without an ABN. But are members still keen to have book-length anthologies in the future? Our treasurer would like to lay down the position at the end of this year so please consider contacting Bethamy to learn what is involved in the treasurer's job.

Forthcoming Meetings

Saturday, November 8th: Members' readings. We suggest you might like to share something from your favourite East or South-East Asian writers or your own experience living or visiting there.

Saturday, December 13th: Members' Christmas writings welcome.

Meeting Reports

September Meeting: We raised the issues of possible de-incorporation and whether members would like to do another anthology and whether we should give up our ABN no. One alternative we are considering is to use our web-site to do more to showcase members' writing credits and perhaps showcase a member's writings each month. We then shared memories of Robyn Mathison with Rory Stone, Cheryl Turner,

Bethamy Nader, Vi Lipscombe, Annie Costin and Penny Parrish providing items. Greg Blades read from his sci fi writing.

October Meeting: We announced the results of the Robyn Mathison Open Poetry and the Beatrice Clarke Childrens' Poetry. Our judge for the Open section wrote: "Each poet sings with their own distinctive voice. As Irish poet, Seamus Heaney, said in his 1974 lecture, 'Feeling into Words' *Finding a voice means that you can get your own feeling into your own words and that your words have the feel of you about them; and I believe that it may not even be a metaphor, for a poetic voice is...intimately connected with the poet's natural voice.* This is key to developing strong poetry. Work that takes the reader into your world through the use of fresh, concrete images and surprising language. Avoiding predictable language and clichés is crucial. Avoid the 'sad autumn leaves' and 'sparkling stars' – instead look to your own exact world and use images based on what surrounds you, using all your senses, to transport your reader. It may seem counter-intuitive but one of the most effective ways to develop your own voice is to read widely in contemporary poetry...Where you read for pleasure, yes, but also with an analytical eye to see how your fellow poets work their words to achieve impact." She suggests looking at https://www.arts.tas.gov.au/tasliteraryawards/tim_thorne_prize_for_poetry She says "poetry is highly crafted, compressed and precise". "Have a thoughtful look to see how these poets play with aspects of craft such as: line breaks; word music; pace; muscular verbs; abstract concepts vs concrete images; layout; or prose sentences vs concise lines, to name a few. Ask your poems some questions – then have a play. And yes, the art of refining and editing your work can be accomplished in a spirit of play."

Although she awarded no prizes 9 Special Mentions were given:

David Atkinson NSW 2 poems.

Lauren Thomasse TAS.

Colleen Keating NSW 3 poems.

Judith Green VIC.

Janeen Samuel VIC 2 poems.

Our judge for the Children's section wrote: "I was impressed with the quality of all the entries, which reflected a diversity of style and explored a range of emotions and experiences through the imaginative and skilful use of language and form." But "Even though the standard of writing was very high, I would like to note some areas where young writers can improve their work ...don't be afraid to use punctuation to help tell your story. ... there were a few poems ... that would have been improved by using question marks, commas and full stops. Also, some poets let themselves down by not correcting spelling and grammatical mistakes." These are simple things to check before sending your entries. "Keep writing and sharing your creativity, and I look forward to your ongoing contributions to Australian poetry."

1st prize: 'A Year's Eternal Embrace' by Remy Francis. NSW. Age 12.

2nd prize: 'A Day at the Beach' by Charlotte Allen. WA. Age 8.

Encouragement Award: 'Zechariah' by Zechariah Wen. NSW. Age 10.

Encouragement Award: 'Slipping Through Time' by Luc Francis. NSW. Age 12.

Highly Commended. Zechariah Wen. NSW. Age 10.

Commended: Arjan Randhawa. NSW. Age 11.

Special Mention: Janhavi Joshi. NSW. Age 12.

We congratulate every entrant for their time and effort in sending in their poems and wish them well in their future writing.

Members' Credits

Graeme Hetherington: 2 poems published in *Studio* No 154 and a poem in the Sept issue of *Quadrant*.

Fiona Lohrbacher: Her short play 'The Rehearsal' was performed at Onefest on 4 Oct. **Jennie Herrera** put up 2 books *Travel Notes* and *Written Worlds* on her blogsite jlherrera.com (go to Writers Calendars) Some members have writing in FAW NW's new anthology *Strange and Marvellous Things* including

Andrea McMahon, Bethamy Nader, Graeme Hetherington, Leigh Swinbourne, Allan Jamieson, Anne Layton-Bennett, Edith Speers, and Marilyn Arnold. Don't forget to send us news for *Tascribe*.

Forthcoming Events

Most activities close down over December-January so just check with their contacts to be certain.

First Tuesday Book Chat at the Glenorchy Library first Tuesday of each month, 2pm to 3.30pm. They are also looking for Adult Literacy Tutors if this is something which might interest you. Bookings 6165 5493. Jo Dixon, author of *A Disappearing Act*, will speak at Glenorchy Library 6 Nov 2.30 to 3.30pm and at Hobart Library 8 Nov. 10.30 to 11.30am.

Taswriters' Office open 10am – 3pm Mondays. Anne Collins writes “they ask people to email first to arrange a time to call into the office. You can email them at admin@taswriters.org” & their website is now: <https://taswriters.wildapricot.org/>

Fullers Bookshop: Offers the Silent Book Club in the Afterword Café the first Friday of each month 5.30 – 6.30pm. You can chat about books or just come along to read with drinks & cakes. **Book launches & Conversations:** All at 5.30 pm. Thursday 30 Oct. Kate Reid's memoir *Destination Moon*. Wed. 5 Nov. Alan Carter's thriller *Franz Josef*. Thurs. 6 Nov. Alice Nunn's novel *Viva*.

Book Club: This is once a month at Mathers House, 108 Bathurst Street, Hobart. Next discussion group Friday 7 November 1 - 3pm. To enquire contact MH at 03 6234 1441 or matherplace@hobartcity.com.au

FAW NW Burnie: FAW Tasmania North-West Branch [<https://fawtasnorthwest.blogspot.com>] meets each month. Ph: 03 6432 3672 for information about time and venue. Their 2025 anthology, *Strange and Marvellous Things* is now available for purchase @ \$15 to members + postage. Contact Allan Jamieson at FAW NW, P.O. Box 608, Burnie 7320 or jamtin79@gmail.com to purchase copies. The book would make an ideal Christmas gift.

Women's Poetry Oasis, 3rd Thursday of the month, 1.30 – 3.30pm, has moved from Mathers House to the Training Room at the State Library. Go up the ramp at the rear of the library carpark. For more details contact: estherottaway@gmail.com

Wine and Books is behind Fullers in Victoria Street. Their selection of books is small but interesting. They run a session on the last Tuesday of each month, 6 pm in the shop, on 'What Writers Read'.

Eastern Shore Writers meets at 7 pm on the first Tuesday of each month at Bellerive Community Arts Centre, 17 Cambridge Rd, Bellerive. Entry \$3. For more information email: eswgallofus@gmail.com

Children's Writers & Illustrators meet 5.30pm third Tuesday of each month. They alternate between face-to-face meetings at the State Cinema, North Hobart, and Zoom meetings. For more details: agenford@hotmail.com

Society of Women Writers Tasmania meets for writing activities & workshops from 9.30am to 12.30pm in Room 3, Level 2 of the Launceston Branch of the State Library on the 1st Monday of each month. For information email: rsy5995@bigpond.net.au or check their website: www.swwtas.com

Deloraine Writers Group meets in the Neighbourhood Centre, Emu Bay Road, Deloraine, on the 3rd Monday of each month from 12.30 to 2.30 pm. Entry \$2 towards rent. Aspects of writing are discussed & work can be shared. Enquiries: Wendy Laing 6362 2425, 0499 993 850, or wendylaing02@gmail.com

Poetry Pedlars readings are held at The Sports Garden, corner George & Cimitiere Streets, Launceston, from 7pm to 9.30pm on the second Tuesday of each month.

The Spoken Word meets the first Saturday of the month, 2pm to 5pm at the ART HOUSE, Main Street, New Norfolk, opposite the PO.

Hobart Repertory Society: If you have written/are writing a play contact Moya Deigan at moya.deigan@gmail.com to enquire about playreading dates and if you might be able to get your play workshopped at their New Town centre. Moya has been the ‘backbone’ of the Rep Soc for many years and is very helpful.

Competitions

Unless sending very bulky entries use a DL-size envelope. If paying entry fees by direct deposit, rather than cheque or money order, please note this on the cover sheet with your entry/entries. Always write on one side of the page only, leave reasonable margins, number each page, staple the pages of your entry but leave your cover sheet separate. Always read the requirements of each competition carefully. If you are entering under a pen name make sure you put the name you wish to have a cheque made out to, if you receive a prize, on your cover sheet.

Positive Words magazine runs 2 large and a number of mini competitions each year: positivewordsmagazine.wordpress.com/competitions

Australian Wildlife Society runs an adult and junior writing competition: www.aws.org.au

Gemma White at www.gemmawhite.com.au lists many Australian and overseas poetry competitions.

Websites with other competition information include: fawns.org.au writersvictoria.org.au & www.tamarvalleywritersfestival.com.au/writing competitions

Closing 30 October: Scribes Writers Prose Competition ‘Short Takes’. Word limit 1,000 words. Open theme. Entry fee \$10. Prizes 1st \$200, 2nd \$100, 3rd \$50. Entry forms and guidelines: www.scribeswriters.com

Closing 31 October: Ernestine Hill Memorial Award. Short story. Max 4000 words. Australian Country Theme. Prize \$1000. Entry fee \$20. Ray Cerhan Australiana Ballad. Max 100 lines. Australian Theme. 1st prize \$600, 2nd \$200, 3rd \$100. Entry fee \$18. For rules and guidelines for both go to: fawns.org.au

Closing 31 October: FAW TAS Christmas Competitions. Entries must be original, unpublished, not have won a monetary prize and not be on offer elsewhere. **FAW Jacqueline Cook Short Story Award** for a story of not more than 2500 words. Open theme. **FAW Norma & Colin Knight Poetry Award** for an open theme poem up to 40 lines. Both awards offer \$100 1st prize, \$50 2nd prize. Entry is free for members of FAW TAS. Non-members \$5 per entry. Send cheque or money order with entry to P.O. Box 234, North Hobart 7002 or by bank transfer to CBA a/c 067 000 1056 7470 with name and entry fee/s as details.

Croker Prize for Biography. This is run by the Society of Australian Genealogists. Each year has a theme which is announced in their March issue of their magazine *Descent*. (2025 was ‘My Relative’s Journey’.) Prose 800 to 1,000 words. Prize \$1,000.

Opportunities

Don’t forget to let us know if you come across magazines calling for poetry/short stories/articles, requests for material for anthologies, opportunities for play readings etc. or if you find something has changed its

details or focus. If you have any particular skill, eg cooking or gardening, or have had an interesting travel experience look for magazines in your area of interest. Some magazines only source their material in-house but many are open to queries.

Online poetry magazines. You can send to online outlets anywhere but read their requirements and submission guidelines carefully. Some only want 'modern' poetry or only take submissions at certain times. Some outlets: plumepoetry.com poetryfoundation.org/poetrymagazine Poets & Writers newsletter pw.org/literary_magazines Writers.com and Writers.com/best-places-submit-poetry-online rattle.com accepts submissions year round and runs the Rattle Poetry Prize closing 15 July.

The Australian Fairy Tale Society: <https://australianfairytales.com> or email Debs at: ausfairytales.anthology@gmail.com for details of their activities. They hold an annual conference in Sydney.

Poetry Australia. They provide an award to an unpublished poet in memory of Theresa Matheson as well as creating a *Best of Australian Poems* anthology each year.

Red Room Poetry is based at The Arts Exchange, Level 3, 10 Hickson Rd, The Rocks in Sydney (redroompoetry.org) & they run a range of poetry events as well as putting out a newsletter.

Oxygen magazine comes out in April & October but only accepts submissions in February. The editor Cheryl Howard accepts **Poetry for Public Transport** at any time. This is a free publication for people using Melbourne's public transport. Send to: poetry.clh@gmail.com or Greentree Publishing, PO Box 614, Woodend VIC 3442 with SSAE. Include name & address on each page, one poem per page.

About Kids Books publishes chapter books, middle grade novels, collections of poems or plays for children & books of short stories for children. For more information contact dibates@outlook.com Also check out **Wombat Books** which has prizes and publication for young writers. Go to: <https://wombathriza.com.au/rhiza.prize/>

Remember Press has set up in Hobart to specialize in family histories and memoirs. 97 Warwick Street, Hobart or: rememberpress.com or 0418 848 284.

Eucalypt: A Tanka Journal, submission dates for tanka written in English are March 31 & September 30. Subscription is \$30 for 2 issues per year. Send subs (cheques made out to J. Thorndyke) to address below or Paypal to editor.eucalypt@gmail.com or email for bank transfer details. Submit up to 6 tanka, but only 1 or 2 poems will be accepted per issue. Include a statement work is original, unpublished in print or on social media & not under consideration elsewhere. Email submissions (or information requests) to editor.eucalypt@gmail.com or to Julie Thorndyke, 3 Forest Knoll, Castle Hill NSW 2154.

Mona magazine is a community-focussed poetry magazine for women in regional, rural or remote communities in Australia & is completely authored & produced by these women. Although it is a hard copy print magazine work must be submitted on-line. Details at: monamagazine.com

Poetry in the Hospital is edited & produced by Tony Brennan & is a free Calvary Hospital publication for patients & visitors. Submissions of poems with a hospital or health theme are welcome. There is no payment for work accepted. Work in the publication is protected by copyright retained by the authors. Send original poems in the body of an email to: tony.brennan@calvarycare.org.au or to Tony at Calvary Care, PO Box 1523, Hobart 7001.

Studio seeks poetry to 100 lines, letters, short stories, reviews & literary articles to 3,000 words & considers new or previously published work. Payment is a copy of the magazine. Send submissions with SSAE to Studio, 727 Peel Street, Albury NSW 2640 or email as a Word document attachment, using Times New Roman 12 point font, single-spaced, with your name & address to studio00@bigpond.net.au Subscription is \$55 within Australia for 3 issues, post-free, & can be paid by cheque, MO or by Visa or Mastercard. If paying by card, for security reasons use regular mail giving name, on card, card type & number, expiry date, amount & signature.

Tasmanian Ancestry published by Tasmanian Family History Society Inc considers articles in any format. Please ensure any images submitted are of good quality. Deadline dates for contributions are Jan 1, April 1, July 1 & Oct 1. Journal address: The Editor, PO Box 326, Rosny Park, TAS 7018. Email: editors@tasfhs.org The TFHS also runs the **Lilian Watson Family History Award** “for a book however produced or published on paper, dealing with family or biographical history and having significant Tasmanian content.” Entries close 1st December each year. Entry forms on www.tasfhs.org

Online Publication for young Tasmanian writers. Ralph Wessman has launched an online publication for young Tasmanian writers, **Hobart Road**. This can be viewed at: <https://walleahpress.com.au/hobart-road-poetry.html> and submissions can be sent via: hobart-road@walleahpress.com.au He is thinking of closing it down again as there has so far been little response.

Varuna in the Blue Mountains offers writers residency to work on a manuscript and gain professional help with their writing. Go to: varuna.com.au

Literary Hub. This is described as a “curated website full of stories, podcasts, reviews and articles about writing, reading and books”. Go to: lithub.com

FAW NSW advertises the Camden Press as an online way to promote your novel. Go to <https://linktr.ee/jfnoder> (run by José Noder) and a 12 week project kit to help you write your Life Story. Go to www.12stories.com.au/freeguide They also have an Isolated Writers Branch. Is this something country writers in Tasmania might find helpful?

Hobart Bookshop, Salamanca Square gives a 10% discount to FAW members on books & stationery. Send your email to hobartbookshop@gmail.com to get information about book ‘events’ or go to their website hobartbookshop.com.au and click on ‘Events’. Or ring them on: 03 6223 1803.

Deadline for the Jan-February newsletter is December 22nd. Please send news to our P.O. Box.