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Spring 2018

Newsletter Spring 2018

The president and committee extend best wishes for the Christmas celebrations and a successful and fulfilling year to our members and supporters. God bless our readers.

Secretary's Report

Restructure of the FAWVic is complete and we have a way forward.

Spreading the National awards over the full year is working well, based on the number of entries received and enquiries about awards still to come, but we need more people to help with the challenging workload.

Initial plans have been slow materialising, but we have established our own printery to enable FAW publication of work by members.

The first anthology of the late John Covill's poetry is on line and it was a joy to sell the first book.

The second anthology is on the way.

My wish is to form a small team to provide a means of generating revenue for the awards by printing our own books for publication under the FAW banner. The process means teaching people to print the pages and to bind the books using the perfect binding process. It works, but is a hands on job.

We plan to enhance the awards by publishing entries received as well as member writing. Publication is subject to authors' approval.

One big win has been the appointment of Mary Broad from Broad Editing Services who

has taken on the job of updating our website.

Mary also provides a professional service to writers. Please check out her shingle on the website Writer Support Services page

fawvic.com.au

Or direct to Broad Editing Services at

broadedit.com.au

National Awards

Excellent response to the new look National Literary Awards has provided us with encouragement.

Jim Hamilton Award

FAWVic has taken on sponsorship of the Jim Hamilton Award for an unpublished novel of more than 30,000 words.

This is appropriate as a recognition of the enormous amount of work Jim and Eileen Hamilton contributed to the fellowship.

I like to think of the Hamilton Award as our flagship award and we hope to increase the one thousand dollar first prize, or perhaps provide a second prize cash award.

This award now has an annual closing date of 30 November.

The keen interest means judging becomes a challenging task, but we expect to announce the winner for the 2018 award soon after 31 March 2019.

Non Fiction Award

Many of Australia's top writers and books feature in this popular award. But it was no surprise when we saw the beautiful 'Acland Street: The Grand Lady of St Kilda' come up trumps for the 2018 award. (See report below).

Jennifer Burbidge Award

The Jennifer Burbidge Award is now being judged. This award is more of a specialist topic and hopefully helps to increase awareness for people inflicted with disability.

The award is sponsored by Dr Mary Burbidge.

Mary's daughter Jennifer suffered from severe developmental difficulties. We have a duty of care to further promote this award. Closing date is now set for 30 November each year.

Angelo B Natoli Short Story Award

Closing date for this popular short story award is 31 May. The competition carries a first prize of \$1000 sponsored by the Natoli Law Firm, 24 Cotham Rd, Kew. Phone 9853 3222 or info@abnatoli.com.au

Much Ado About Something

We feel the task is never ending, but on the other side of the coin it seems advice to spread the Fellowship of Australian Writers National Literary Awards across the year was wise counsel. We have enjoyed increased entries despite having to put some awards back a little as we work through the plan.

WS had this knack of - it was and it wasn't - but we at FAWVic believe we have 'something' worthwhile with the national awards. So long a part of the Australian literary scene.

We see the joy of those who win - and those who were not so lucky - well they simply try harder next time. This because being an award winning writer is a significant achievement. Especially in such a competitive industry. We all strive for the pursuit of excellence.

For many who do not win a prize, I sometimes grieve, and feel for the judges, because it wasn't a case so much of losing, but being 'pipped at the post'.

Fortunately the judges see only a story with a number on it and do not become aware of the

winner until we have matched the number to a name. This takes personal feelings out of the equation and makes judging just a little easier.

Hard copies no longer required for National Awards

Part of our streamlining process for the National Literary Awards is to dispense with the costly requirement of printing and posting manuscripts. (Excepting books).

FAWVic will accept entries printed in pdf and sent on line, but without a name on the entry manuscript. Yes, we are in the tech age.

Writers who do not have access to technology and wish to enter a competition (even awards from other groups) should contact the secretary to discuss an alternative.

Publishing Our Own Books

FAWVic has established its own printery and we see on the website, Books For Sale page the first of planned anthologies. John Covill's 'Quietness'.

This project is being sponsored by Glenoword Books until it is able to pay for a printer. We can print any number from one up. But no more than we can sell.

The business plan is to print one hundred on the first run with payment to authors based on 10 per cent of the recommended retail price. Royalty is paid on the print run and does not rely on sales to assess amounts paid.

Nevertheless, for this enterprise to be successful we need volunteers to help with the work.

Regional Groups

Efforts to increase contact with regional groups are slowly creating optimism. I meet monthly with the Goulburn Valley Writers at Shepparton, headed by FAWVic vice president Robyn Black. I find Robyn's way of doing things most encouraging, particularly the group's readings and anthology publications. A similar event during late November with the Benalla Writers' Group in the form of a seminar and workshop was most helpful to writers.

*Please send your thoughts to our Morsels
Page on the website fawvic.com.au*

One Grand Lady to Another

Noted historian, Dr Judith Buckrich, won the prestigious Excellence in Non-Fiction Award 2017 with her outstanding 'Acland Street: The Grand Lady of St Kilda'.

Judges Jean Thornton and Bill Anderson were high in their praise for this work.

In their report they said: We had no hesitation in selecting this beautifully written, wonderfully well illustrated and superbly produced book as this year's winner.

The history of the 175 year old iconic and much loved Acland street is deeply researched and written in a most engaging and entertaining manner, truly a joy for both the mind and the eye. This is a model local history, a delight to read, and a significant contribution to Australian historiography."

Dr Buckrich was born in Budapest, Hungary in 1950 and emigrated to Melbourne, Australia with her parents in 1958.

She has a BEd in Drama and Media Studies from Rusden College (1977) and a PhD from the University of Melbourne (1997).

Judith also won a 2016 Victorian Community History Award for 'The Village of Ripponlea'.

She is working on a history of Greville Street, Prahran, and planning a work on the Yarra River.

Judith is the author of 'Melbourne's Grand Boulevard: The Story of St Kilda Road'; 'The Montefiore Homes: 150 Years of Care'; 'George Turner: A Life.'; 'The Long and Perilous Journey: A History of the Port of Melbourne'; 'Lighthouse on the Boulevard: A History of the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind'; 'Design for Living: A History of Prahran Tech'; 'Well Rowed University: Melbourne University Boat Club The First 150 Years'; 'The Making of Us: Rusden Drama, Media and Dance 1966-2002'; 'The University Boat Club The First 150 Years'; 'The Making of Us: Rusden Drama, Media and Dance 1966-2002'; 'The Village of Ripponlea'; 'The Political is Personal: A Twentieth Century Memoir'.

Judith returned to Budapest in 1987 and was

working for the English Language Daily News during the 1989 velvet revolution. She had many articles published in Australia in The Age Monthly Review, Quadrant and Directions about this eventful period.

In 1995 she co-edited, with Lucy Sussex, the first anthology of Australian women's science fiction, fantasy and magic realism, She's Fantastical.

Judith edited two collections of Australian poetry translated into Hungarian by Istvan Turczi.

Between 2003 and 2009 she edited the third and fourth volumes of Our Voice/Nuestra Voz/Notre Vois for the International PEN Women Writers' Committee. Was Chair of the International PEN Women Writers' Committee from 2003 to 2009 and President of the Melbourne PEN Centre from 1993 to 2005.

Since 1977, Judith has written works for the theatre, short stories, feature articles and essays and worked as an editor and translator.

She has taught writing at Deakin University, the Victorian Writers' Centre and Melbourne University Union and been an arts administrator. Spoken about her work on television and radio and given talks at the National Gallery of Victoria, Royal Historical Society of Victoria and for many other organizations.

Judith curated exhibitions for the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and the Museum of the Port of Melbourne and has several entries in Remembering Melbourne 1850-1960 and the Encyclopedia of Melbourne for which she was image researcher.

Please see judithbuckrich.com.au for more data.

Highly Commended award to Mark Colvin

Mark Colvin was highly commended for his book 'Light and Shadow: Memoirs of a Spy's Son'.

Sadly Mark passed away before he could enjoy his commendation, but left with us a fine history of work in literature, broadcasting, and health awareness.

Judges Bill Anderson and Jean Thornton reported: "This exceptionally well written and engrossing memoir by the late Mark Colvin, best known for his outstanding career as a journalist and broadcaster, is an exceptionally fine, important and entertaining book and is most worthy of a High Commendation."

Mark was an Australian journalist and broadcaster.

Based in Sydney, he was the presenter of PM - one of the flagship Australian radio current affairs programs on the ABC Radio network from 1997

to 2017.

Melbourne University Press said Mark joined the ABC as a cadet in 1974. He was the first presenter of The World Today and worked for Four Corners for five years.

After five years as London correspondent for the ABC, interrupted by six months in hospital with a life threatening disease, he returned to Australia as presenter of PM in 1997, a job he continued to do despite three years on dialysis and a successful kidney transplant.

Mark died in May 2017.

Quietness

Solitude can be sweetness and calm,
Silence can be as lovely as sound,
Peace can meet beauty alone,
Quietness continue serene,
Stillness comes gently at night,
Uttered thoughts bring true love,
Tranquility has a soft hush,
All without motion bring rest.

John Covill.

Point Ormond

Here in the light refreshing wind
of early afternoon,
Sniffing the sailing tang, seeing the distant haze,
Where clouds are stretched across
the upper sky like painted rippons,
Beside the old and rusty beacon on the mound,
Here on the dry burnt grass beside the sea,
A poet comes and contemplates the view,
Not of what lies behind of park
and trees and red tiled dwellings,
But of the broad curved sweep
of slowly lapping water,
Washing over rocks until it is
firmly stopped by the rigid face
of a basalt wall.

Kites are flown while pushbike
riders pedal by along the winding path.
Nearby sits a man with his guitar
whose gentle notes sound softly.
Then swimmers go towards the Elwood beach's
clean spread sand.
where some then plunge their
sunburnt bodies in to the cooling waves.

A motor pleasure boat skims
speedily with spraying wake.
A few yachts gently glide on the long horizon
where sturdy container ships sail smoothly.
A busy little aeroplane drones above,
While just past noon the remnants of the moon
are strangely present.

The straight breakwater has upon its top
human bodies lying in the sun,
While nearby swims a dog.
The sky is pale with blue reduced by grey
and underneath with speckled bluey green,
The ocean undulates.

John Covill.

Tribute to John Covill

Poems from former FAWVic committee member John Covill who died on 6 February 2018 printed in the Australian Writer No 1.

The book is titled Quietness, and the front cover photograph is Point Ormond on Port Phillip Bay.

FAWVic Committee

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