

Coffs Harbour Writers' Group



Established September 1986

Affiliated with the Northern Rivers Writers Centre

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NEWSLETTER

December 2013

Announcements

Please Note: Unfortunately there was no November newsletter published as the editor was unable to produce it due to him falling off the roof of his garage and fracturing seven ribs that led to a brief stay in hospital and has been recuperating at home. He realises that he has been stupid and has vowed never to climb up a ladder again. Thank you to those members who sent me their good wishes and the get well card. Ron.

Last Social: This was held at Janice and Alastair's home on 17th October. A very good roll-up of members and visitors who shared some interesting readings and humour. Thank you Janice and Alastair for your warm hospitality.

November Social: This was held at the Buddha Bounty Cafe in Toormina on Thursday 21st November from 10 am to 12 noon. A good attendance and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Last Workshop: Thank you, Leonie, for your wonderful workshop 'Scoping and Structuring Your Plot' on Thursday 7th November held at the Coffs Ex-Services Club.

We had the pleasure of having three members from the Tenterfield Writers Ink group at the workshop. The following communication was received from the members to Lorraine:

We had the most fantastic time with you all and made good time coming home ... despite a fair degree of unwillingness to leave. Our hosts were great and, when we met for lunch today, we learned that we'd all stayed up late last night, talking until our bodies demanded sleep. Such a change from our normal lives.

We thought Leonie Henschke's workshop was extremely helpful to us and we agreed that we'd been privileged to take part. She has a way with workshops, for sure.

I think we can declare our trip to Coffs Harbour a complete success!

On behalf of Christine, Barbara and myself, a huge thank you.

Kind regards, Mary.

From President Lorraine

We have had an exciting year of skills learning workshop opportunities facilitated by some of our very capable members throughout the year. Being able to draw upon the skills of our membership is an excellent way of knowledge sharing for the benefit of our members and guests with an end result of improving their writing skills. This included holding a night workshop at the Coffs Library, something that proved to be highly beneficial for guests who are not able to attend our daytime workshops.

Next year's proposed events will include guest speakers, for example: Author Talks, Creative Blogging, day workshops, Getting Started on Your Story, Character Development and Dialogue, Structuring Your Plot, Editing and Preparing for Publication, night workshops at the Coffs Library, Pitching Your Synopsis, E-Publishing Your Works for the 21st Century and a special mid year event - Word Games and Role Plays Christmas in July Dinner. Dates and venues are currently being firmed up. Watch this space.

Reply from Lorraine:

Mary, I am so pleased that you all enjoyed your stay in Coffs and that you benefited from Leonie's workshop

I can well imagine the talking that went on at your host's homes, especially at Estelle's and Rhonda's.

There is a welcome invitation for you and your members to visit us again and hopefully stay a bit longer.

Kind regards, Lorraine.

New Members: Welcome to Robyn Veugen, Yvonne Kachel, Sally Ross, Jennifer Hill, and (Elizabeth Ann) Beth Donovan. Thank you for supporting us and to share our writing experiences.

Please note: If acceptable, any articles of a religious or political nature, submitted to the editor for publishing in this newsletter shall be sub-headed as an *Opinion Piece*.

Christmas Party — 5th December:

This will be held at the Beachstone Cafe from 10.30 am to around 2.30 pm. Directions below.

From Karolyn Gibson, Publicity Secretary, in regard to Christmas lunch information for Thursday 5th December. To get to Beachstone coming from Coffs Harbour I recommend:

- Take the exit in front of Nautilus Resort
- The sign says "Sapphire" will point to a right hand turn and take you back onto the "old" highway
- Just follow that to the end and turn into Split Solitary Road (the old highway finishes at Split Solitary Road now)
- From there it is as per usual to the cafe

If you're coming from the North:

- Take the Split Solitary Road turn off and follow the signs

If you miss the first turn off at Nautilus you can

- Take the Split Solitary Road exit on the left at Sapphire
- Cross the highway on the bridge and go around the roundabout
- Exit the roundabout when you get to the "old" highway
- Then follow to cafe

Remember to bring:

Santa's Cringle (value up to \$10); decorations; Nibbles). BYO alcohol (corkage charged to each individual). Juice, cordial, tea, coffee, cake available at own individual cost). Members charge for main meal and salad dishes=\$15. Non-members as per chosen meal cost (that is chicken & quino

salad=\$18.50; lamb wrap=\$16.80 plus \$1 for share of salad dish if desired). Take care and stay safe and we'll see you there. Karolyn.

This short nine sentence tale is written by a fellow fantasy author. I met Marsha through my publisher Museitup Publishing. This is reproduced with her permission.

[Tea Leaf Tales: How to Protect Yourself From A Sea Monster.](#)

On a stroll along the beach after school let out for the day, I slowed to observe a group of teens gathering in a circle.

“Stay back!” one teenage boy shouted at the others moving closer to look at something partially submerged in the sand.

“Is it a jellyfish?” asked a pudgy adolescent girl.

“Naw, there’s only one, and everyone knows that jellyfish swim in schools, especially this late in the summer when they migrate.”

“Eeww, it’s wiggling. Touch it and see what it does,” she suggested and tucked her toes neatly together, but seemed more impressed with the brainy boy than the sea animal.

“Not me,” the discoverer faced the young man who’d just arrived beside him, “but you’re wearing shoes, so you give it a push.”

The newcomer took a step back, but a third boy announced with authority, “Stand over here with me,” as he drew a straight line in the sand with his big toe and clapped his hands three times, “because if you stand behind this enchanted line, it can’t get you.”

The girl hopped behind the mark, then let out a scream when the translucent, white head of the creature rose two feet tall and spewed slime as it lunged across the intended line of protection at their row of bare feet.

I shook my head knowing it takes a curved line to block any creature born of the sharply angled waves that fight wild autumnal temperature swings.

<http://marshaamoore.blogspot.com.au/2013/09/tea-leaf-tale-how-to-protect-yourself.html>

Author Biography:

Marsha A. Moore is an author of fantasy romance. Much of her life feeds the creative flow she uses to weave highly imaginative tales.

The magic of art and nature often spark life into her writing, as well as watercolor painting and drawing. After a move from Toledo to Tampa in 2008, she’s happily transformed into a Floridian, in love with the outdoors. Marsha is crazy about cycling. She lives with her husband on a large saltwater lagoon, where taking her kayak out for an hour or more is a real treat. She never has enough days spent at the beach, usually scribbling away at stories with toes wiggling in the sand. Every day at the beach is magical! She’s been a yoga enthusiast for over a decade and is excited to be taking part in a Kripalu yoga teacher-training program during 2013. That spiritual quest helps her explore the mystical side of fantasy.

Life Lost, Love Gained By Leon Stokes

A reticent man walked into a cafe and sat at a wooden bench with a stool. He felt like an espresso coffee this day and happily it was mild winter weather. He inclined himself to look at the news headlines as a few moments later a young girl with dark hair brought his cup to him.

"It's a lovely day. The weather is beautiful and I'm pleased to be here," the man started.

"I don't think so, my cat just died," the girl said in a sullen voice.

The man considered the girl thoughtfully and then said: "Your cat probably had a good life, though, I can understand why you are sad. Sorry to hear that."

"Yes, our cat wandered off a week ago and we haven't seen him ever since."

"Well, it seems tough, I know, but, they don't live forever on earth. They have a purpose in life and then they go away, probably to cat heaven," he said as he moved the paper and took another sip of his coffee. "I hope you feel better later. Maybe you'll get another one."

"Thank you, sir. Enjoy your coffee."

The man thought about the girl and went back to reading a paper.

Cruel, he thought, especially for children.

A flamenco song played in the background over the café speakers and people sat quietly. He felt reticent of what it really meant, although, he did feel compassion for the girl. The news headlines are mostly unpleasant and there was a good report. The front cover of the local paper had referred to a freak attack on a woman and her attacker was still out there. What was wrong with the world? Ironically, his coffee warmed his heart as he listened to the lively music. He felt love for the girl. (Words: 308).

Please Note: The Christmas lunch will be the last gathering for 2013. There will be a break in January 2014 and the first regular meeting will commence on Thursday 6th February 2014. Meanwhile have a happy, prosperous and safe New Year.

Quote

We have a natural right to make use of our pens
as of our tongue at our peril, risk and hazard.

