Coffs Harbour Writers’ Group
Established September 1986

Affiliated with the Northern Rivers Writers Centre

March 2014 Newsletter

PO Box 1953, Coffs Harbour 2450
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Next Meeting: The business meeting will be held at the Coffs Ex-Services Club at 10.30am on Thursday 6th March.

AGM: This will be held after the business meeting.

Next Social: Will be held at Buddha Bounty Cafe, Toormima on Thursday 20th March at 10 am.
King O'Malley By Brian Lee Davit

The American-born King O'Malley, self-describe himself as a Christian Socialist, who imputed a birth-right to Quebec in Canada, in proclaiming to be a British subject to [successfully] contest the Adelaide Seat of Encounter Bay in the election of 1895.

Before King O'Malley (King was his mother's maiden name) forayed into colonial politics, O'Malley, in a former life as a snake oil salesman, became a bishop – and the only bishop in the history of the Redskin Church of the Cayuse Nation.

King O'Malley's support for indigenous spirituality was the moral forces to drive O'Malley to join the ALP with this moral implication compelling his support for compulsory arbitration

King O'Malley's oratorical buffoonery was his stock in trade. O'Malley, a crossword-puzzle fanatic, created a vortex of interest in changing the name of the Australian Labour Party to Australian Labor Party out of respect for American auto and steel workers who were conflicted by the industrial barons predominated by the influence of auto magnate Henry Ford.

In America's industrial heartlands of Detroit, Michigan, Cleveland and Ohio, industrial noblemen, committed to the "American Way", inflicted a culture of punishment on the families of those striking workers as the four-flushing-Yankee-Labor-Market offered no rights of protection against the de-unionising, downgrading, bashing and bludgeoning of organised labour in America's industrial belts by the religious right within the American way.

You gotta go down
And join the union
You gotta go down
For yourself

Aint nobody gonna join for you
You gotta go down
Yourself

(American union song)

Existentialist dread connected Painters and Dockers in opposing names changes to the industrial wing of the ALP. This opposition commenced to unwind as remnants of the O'Malley nee Wilmot family were embraced as comrades within the Federated Ship Painters and Dockers Union during the late 1950s.

The swinging sixties saw men, with white-collars in reverse; take anti-working class positions on the waterfront. A Tasmanian deceit implied by the sixpence in the poor-box Hursey family as they organised Catholic opposition to the traditional custom of unionists doing old-fashioned pull up in support of the union's political ideals.

As the torchbearers in this Catholic action aimed at the waterfront, the Hursays attended a fiery stop work meeting at the water's edge by the Hobart Wharf. The minute's secretary notated that a union member by the name of O'Malley (not the one who wanted to swap out and swap Marcus in?) was king-
hit and subsequently stiffened by another union member. The minute’s secretary described the puncher as Hursey in name.

The minutes indicated that a melee between unions members ensued when a motion was passed that banned the Hursey family from attending the Catholic Church and in default, would be not recognised as members of the organisation of Waterside Workers Federation.

The mover of the motion was of small stature with fair complexion. He gripped the meeting’s focus when he said that his union was the property of the members. And if Jesus Christ was prepared to join the union, the membership should respect Jesus Christ as a card-carrying member of the union.

An amendment was moved, that was lost on a show of hands, that Jesus Christ could not be accepted as a member as his divinity precluded him from following the industry.

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Poetry Competition

FAW Tasmania 2014 Poetry Prize. For a poem of more than 60 lines.
1. Poems must be unpublished and must not have won a monetary prize in any other competition. Length must not exceed 60 lines.

2. Poems are to be typed, single spaced, in plain font, on one side only of white A4 paper. Please staple pages of longer poems in the top left-hand corner.

3. Title only is to appear on poem. Entrant’s name must not appear on the pages. Name and address of author, title/s of poems are to be given on a separate sheet. Keep a copy of work, as entries will be destroyed after judging. Judge’s decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

4. Entries close on August 31st 2014 and must be postmarked by this date to be eligible for judging.

5. Results will be announced at the FAW October general meeting and all prizewinners will be notified.

6. Entry fee is $5 per poem. Please make cheque or postal order payable to FAW Tasmania Inc.

7. Send to: FAW Tasmania Inc PO Box 234 NORTH HOBART TASMANIA 7002.

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Book Review

The briefest punctuation guide ever! Makes understanding punctuation easy. By Ruth Colman. Spiral bound, 43 stiff pages. Published by the University of New South Wales Press 2010

Our member Adrienne de Bouvier in Western Australia kindly sent me this very useful book. Note: Ruth Colman has another book published, The Briefest
*English Grammar Ever*, in the same format priced at $23.95. Book Warehouse can still order both books in Coffs Harbour or Toormina, I think.

The contents of *The briefest punctuation guide ever* are:

- What this book is and isn’t
- Intro
- I’m writing ordinary sentences. What punctuation marks do I need
- What’s the difference between a hyphen and a dash? Aren’t they the same?
- Capital letters can be confusing. When should I use them? When shouldn’t I use them?
- Please! Please! tell me about apostrophes
- I’m quoting something written by someone else. What are the rules?
- I want to write a conversation, just as it was spoken
- Lists. Are there any rules?
- Not strictly punctuation, but...
- In conclusion
- Helpful books

Truly, this is a great little book that every budding writer should have in their library. Ruth Colman has managed to simplify what some people find difficult to grasp.

The author recommends *The Macquarie Dictionary* and *The Concise Oxford Dictionary*. Also very helpful are *The Cambridge Australian English Style Guide* by Pam Peters and *Style Manual: For authors, editors and printers* revised by Snooks & Co. However, the sixth edition of this revised *Manual* was published in 2002 by John Wiley & Sons Australia, Ltd. It is still available. — Editor.

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**Quotes**

The purpose of a writer is to keep
civilisation from destroying itself.

— *Albert Camus*

All environmental problems become harder —
and ultimately impossible — to solve with ever more people.

— *Sir David Attenborough*

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**Editor’s last word**

As I have stated before, I will cease being the editor at the next Annual General Meeting in March 2014. I wish to thank those members who have assisted me with their advice and contributions to the newsletter. I will still be around to do more fruitful writing. Best wishes and good health. Ron.