

Coffs Harbour Writers' Group



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Affiliated with the Northern Rivers Writers Centre

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PO Box 1953, Coffs Harbour 2450 www.coffsharbourwriters.com



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Greetings

It was another wonderful month for the 'thinker' with so many activities around our region to interest and inform. We are blessed with so many fascinating speakers and events at the Coffs and Bellingen libraries, the Coffs Regional Art Gallery, and many smaller venues. Just keep an eye on the local paper.

The week leading into the June long weekend and the Bellingen Festival was a great example. Author and journalist, Kristina Olssen was interviewed at the Coffs Library by Liz Keen (ABC Open) – a free, Wednesday evening event with wine and food, and on the Thursday evening, Adrian Newstead, Aboriginal art expert and author of *The Dealer is the Devil*, gave an illustrated talk at the Regional Art Gallery outlining the history of Aboriginal art. A \$5 event with wine and food!

Both these authors were speaking in Bellingen at the Festival which started on the Friday with a 'taster night', an excellent introduction and an ideal one-off for anyone who couldn't spare the whole weekend. The Festival highlight for me was Alex Miller, an acclaimed Australian writer. He's particularly known for *Journey to the Stone Country* and *Lovesong* but look him up in the library for his full range. He's written ten novels and they all explore Australian themes with evocative images of the Australian bush and people's reactions to its demands. *Leonie*

What's on in July and coming soon?

3 July 2014 Coffs Harbour Writers' Group Monthly Meeting 10.30 am - 12.30 pm Coffs Ex Services Club.

10 July 2014 Writers' Evening Workshop 6.00 pm – 8.00 pm Pitching your Synopsis. Facilitated by Leonie Henschke. Coffs Harbour Library. Bookings Karolyn 0423538506 Members \$7:50, non-members \$15.

17 July 2014 Writers' Group Christmas in July function. More details below from the President.

1 – 3 August 2014 Byron Bay Writers' Festival featuring more than 100 authors. The program includes some of Australia's best writers and thinkers from Malcolm Fraser, Clare Wright, Julian Burnside and Tim Flannery to Ashley Hay, Alex Miller, Andy Griffiths and many more. See the website www.byronbaywritersfestival.com.au

15 August 2014 ETC Social Media Essentials for Writers' Workshop. See details below.

21 August 2014 Social Morning at Ron and Danni's home in Bellingen. Please contact Ron at the next meeting or ron1936@telstra.com to confirm attendance and gain address details.

From the President

Guest at Bay and Basin Writers Group, Sydney

On my recent trip to Sydney, I took the opportunity to drive further south to beautiful Sanctuary Point, where I attended as a guest the Bay and Basin Writers' Group meeting. This is another group who has broken away from FAW (Federation of Australian Writers).

I was invited to speak about our group and what we do to encourage and skill our members and guests in the community, including holding evening workshop in our library.

During their meeting my brain was encouraged to participate in a word game short story where each member, including myself gave a 'word of the day' that we had read or came across over the past week. These words were all used to form our short stories, not that easy when there were words like: mucilaginous, peremptory, phlegmatic, poignant and formidable!

Christmas in July Event – Thursday 17 July

As previously mentioned Thursday 17 July, we will be holding a **Christmas in July Lunch** event instead of our usual social coffee morning.

Time: 11 am to 2.30. Venue: Lorraine Mouafi's home, please phone 6653 3256 for address details.

This is a free members-only event, however members are asked to bring along a plate to share. BYO wine if you would like to partake in an alcoholic beverage. There will be a few surprises, so bring along your 'let's enjoy ourselves' enthusiasm.

Numbers limited to 15, please RSVP Lorraine directly.

Social Media Essentials for Writers

ETC (Enterprise & Training Company Ltd) will be holding a free members-only 'Social Media Essentials for Writers Workshop' at their Coffs Harbour office, 80 Grafton Street, Friday, 15 August, time: 10am to 12noon.

The workshop will include, for example: brief history of social media, how it's used today, why it is a great way to promote your writing, best practices in social media, reaching existing and new audiences, overview of most popular social media channels, including choosing the right channels to reach your audience, setting up Facebook page and a blog. Numbers are limited for this workshop; please RSVP directly to Karolyn Gibson.

Regards. Lorraine

Members write...

Janice Terry

Sydney Writers' Festival Thursday 22 May 2014

Trustwords, Sydney Mint Building, Macquarie Street, Sydney

The weekend before this event I was handed a small Historic Houses Booklet by an enthusiastic volunteer at Rouse Hill House, Rouse Hill, NSW. The event, *Trustwords*, part of the Sydney Festival, was advertised and we decided to go.

Not knowing what to expect, my husband, Alastair, and I entered the Mint building. It was beautifully restored with a sweeping staircase. We were told it was the original Rum Hospital built in 1811 and is Australia's oldest public building.

We enjoyed a light lunch in Le Petit Mint Café, as the main restaurant was being renovated. This tiny café included the old strong room safe. We had perfect timing for our introduction to the afternoon program which was a series of talks-entitled 'City of Shadows Revisited'. The talks were supported by plastic and glass slides of criminals in the 1920s from the Police and Justice Museum in Sydney. The slides had been remastered to today's standards. Most of the criminals were photographed in their Sunday best clothes, complete with hats and fur coats!

It was an interesting series of talks, and I think the audience was captivated by the information revealed and especially the pictures of early Sydney.

The talks were given by Peter Doyle who wrote the book, *City of Shadows*, Nerida Campbell, Curator of Sydney Living Museums (working on projects with the Justice and Police Museum) and author of *Femme Fatal, the Female Criminal*, and Pedro de Almeida, a curator and writer with a special interest in photography. He writes for the Sydney Morning Herald.

At the conclusion of the talks, there was a short time for questions from the audience. An elderly man came forward holding an antique camera which he stated may have been used to photograph some of the criminals that we were viewing today! The camera had belonged to one of his relatives who was a senior policeman in the 1920s and photographing crime scenes and criminals was his job.

Finally I had attended a Sydney Writers' Festival event!

Writing tip

The verbs 'lie' and 'lay' are often used incorrectly so here's some grammatical advice:

Verb	Infinitive	Past Tense	Past Participle
lie	lie	lay	lain
lay	lay	laid	laid

You need to **lie** down today; yesterday you **lay** down; in the past you **have lain** down.

Today, you **lay** the book on the table. Yesterday, you **laid** the book on the table. In the past, you **have laid** the book on the table.

Information round-up

A recent **Oral History talk** at Bellingen Library was by Ron and Angela from 'Family Voices'. An interesting English (Angela) and former ABC radio producer (Ron) couple, they are recording people's histories. It's a commercial approach to oral histories but a great way to record a relative's or your own life experiences on top level recording equipment, interviewed by them, and presented back to you on CD and USB in a presentation folder. They are living in this area (on and off house sitting) until October. 'Family Voices', Ron and Angela, mobile 0488 770 096, email starshuttle333@gmail.com

Keep an eye on <http://www.coffscoast.com.au/events/calendar/month/2014-07>. That's the Coffs Coast website for the month of July. It tends to have major events like the Sawtell Chilli Festival (5 July) rather than speakers but still worth checking each month.

That's all for now. Don't forget, contributions please. Your own stories, book or film reviews, writing exercises...whatever takes your fancy. Leonie