

Coffs Harbour Writers' Group

Established September 1986

Affiliated with the Northern Rivers Writers Centre

October 2014 Newsletter No 275

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



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Committee Members

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Greetings

Yippee! Coffs Harbour Writers' Group has been successful in gaining a Coffs Harbour Council Arts and Cultural Development grant of \$2500 for the staging of the Grassroots Writers' Weekend on 8 – 10 May 2015. Fantastic! Congratulations to the team who wrote a great submission and thank you to the Coffs Harbour Council and its Cultural Officer, Christabel Wright, for choosing our project as one of the successful entries. We have come under the Coffs Harbour Arts Council for insurance cover (auspicing) so we also thank them for their support.

Now the exciting part! Planning and putting on a wonderful hands-on fun weekend for writers from near and far. Let's all get behind the organising team for, as they say, 'many hands make light work'!

Leonie

What's on in October?

2 October 2014 10.30 am – 12.30 pm Coffs Harbour Writers' Group Monthly Meeting Coffs Harbour Ex Services Club

16 October 2014 Writers' Group Social Morning 10 00 am – 12 00 pm. Venue to be confirmed. Contact Lorraine 0404163136

23 October 2014 Writers' Group night workshop 5.30 pm – 8.00 pm Coffs Harbour Library. The Road to Publication: Self-publishing versus traditional publication (includes using agents, publishers, submissions, promotion, media networking and marketing). Workshop facilitated by Rosalie Skinner. Bookings: Lorraine 0404163136.

Don't forget our monthly meetings are always the first Thursday of the month 10.30 am – 12.30 pm (and lunch afterwards) and held at the Coffs Harbour Ex Services Club. This is a time for a short business meeting followed by members' readings and information sharing. The third Thursday of the month, from 10.00 am to 12-ish, is the Social Morning held in a member's home or at the Sawtell Nursery café on Hogbin Drive. You are invited to share friendship, ideas, and your own or other writers' works with the group. This is a very informal gathering and a good way to get to know your fellow writers. We also have guest speakers at our monthly meetings and a number of workshops held after the meetings, from 1.30 pm – 3.30 pm, for skills development and fun. We also hold evening workshops at the Coffs Harbour Library, usually from 5.30 pm to 8 pm. All the details are on our website www.coffsharbourwriters.com

From the President

Yes, we received an Arts and Cultural Grant from the Coffs Harbour Council!!!!

Where has this year gone?

Here we are nearly at the end of yet another informative year of listening to some of the most amazing members' works, author talks and participated in lively skills learning workshops.

One that I personally benefited from was the 'Social Media for Writers' workshop held at ETC, including the one to one follow up sessions with Matt Angel. These sessions have enabled me to add value to our website. If you haven't see out website for a while take a look, especially the pull downs under Members Profiles and Members Stories/Poems.

Matt assisted me with finalising my own blog titled **Snip Bits of Life** *a complication of life's happenings*. <http://snipbitsoflife.wordpress.com>

We are truly fortunate to have members and connections in our group who are willing to share their knowledge and skills by facilitating relevant workshops throughout the year.

2015 Calendar of Events

As we approach 2015, we need to consider the type of workshops we want throughout the year. I am currently preparing the Calendar of Events for next year and happy for you to

give me some ideas as to the type of guest speakers and/or workshops. I have a guest speaker to start off the year in February and a workshop scheduled for March.

Our group will be hosting next year's **Grassroots Writers Weekend** from 8 to 10 May. Over the coming weeks the sub-committee will convene for finalising the program for this 'hands-on' weekend of learning, networking and, of course, fun.

Vacant Position on the Committee

We still have not confirmed who will take up the committee position of Publicity/Social Secretary now that Karolyn has had to resign from the post. She has done an amazing job throughout the last few years and we want someone willing to continue as the main event contact person. You must have access to the Internet.

Lorraine

Members write...

Jean Reid

It's Just Not Cricket

The crowd's mood was intense; you could
feel the suspense,

When McCredie made good his entry,

Not through the gate, where you'd expect
one as great,

As he had potential to be.

But through a hole in the fence, and in his
defence,

He bowed to the crowd on one knee.

There was no doubt that he would, finish
Baillie for good,

With the skill and the speed of delivery.

Have his name on the board, in the club
house at Lords,

And attend Buckingham Palace for tea.

But the gods as they say, move a
mysterious way,

Not governed by Man's need for glory.

They enjoy a good joke, like any other
bloke.

When life becomes boring and dreary.

They decided that day, just for fun they
would play,

A game with this ball throwing dandy,

Show him once and for all, tall poppies
can fall

And no- one's immune to their trickery.

There appeared in the sky, a huge bird
way up high,

Invisible to all but McCredie,

As he bowled the first ball, the great bird
began to fall,

At speed never before seen in flight
history.

It zoomed onto the pitch, grabbed the ball
in its fist,

Then soared high to the top of a chimney,

Where it sat for a while, with a
contemptuous smile

Before disappearing from sight quite
completely.

Mac threw his arms in the air, in utter
despair.

Gone now was his one chance for glory.

The selectors would look, in their little
black book

Cross his name from the list; end of story.

Baillie now saw his chance, he must make
a stance

If selection was his top priority

He was off like a shot, but what's that,
great Scott,

A wild crowd descending towards me.

That's enough the gods said, let's go
home to bed,

We've had fun and caused mayhem a
plenty.

Let them sort themselves out, they must
learn without doubt.

Nothing is certain but their mortality.

So sports fans everywhere, take heed and
beware,

Of heroes who seek fame and glory,

For no matter how great, they can meet
the same fate,

Fallen and broken like poor Humpty.

For the diary!

Join in the fun of the Grassroots Writers' Weekend, Coffs Harbour, 8 – 10 May, 2015

Hosted by the Coffs Harbour Writers' Group

A hands-on, practical weekend of workshops. For the beginning, the aspiring and the published writer...something for everyone. Only \$25 (accommodation and optional dinners extra).

More information at www.coffsharbourwriters.com.au

That's all for now. Don't forget, contributions please. Reviews, writing exercises...whatever takes your fancy. And don't forget we need more members' profiles up on the website. Leonie