

RING OF BRIGHT WATER

The Society of Women Writers Qld. Inc.

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Bi-Monthly Newsletter

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MEETINGS 2nd Tues each

month 9.45 –11.45 a.m.



Hello everyone,

I've been worrying about this coming year. Have you? I hope it brings all those things you wish for, but we're no longer teenagers, are we? Some of them won't happen. One way to make sure that we enjoy our writing life is make sure we write. Seems straightforward, doesn't it? How easy it is to find all sorts of other activities to do *before* we sit down to write or even read? I suspect all too easy. Writing drops off the list. We're told Qld will have more 'intense cells' of bad weather, humid and stormy, for more months than we'd care to have them. Bears hibernate in winter, we're told. Those with money find somewhere to escape the heat and humidity.

So—what is your “hibernation project” for this coming year? Like all plans, writing them down makes them ‘sort of’ official, doesn't it? We'd love to hear or see what you've written down. On our part, your Committee has also been writing some down. Please see what activities are in the pipe-line, such as another panel discussion in the Brisbane City Library, the Sandcliffe Festival which SWWQ auspices, some really good guest speakers at our general meetings on the second Tuesday of each month, the launch of our Anthology of stories, poems and articles around the theme of “Home”, and every likelihood of us organising a Literary Lunch. Don't forget to put the dates on your calendar or in your diary, please.

My project is to become more proficient in my ‘mother tongue’, having abandoned it so that I could adapt to English. I'm now more proficient in English. Many of our members are also immigrants and abandoned their own language (more's the pity). But, whatever your language, I hope you write lots of creative pieces.

Regards, Thea.

January 2017

Members' meetings Community Meeting Room,
ground floor, Brisbane City Library.

Room opens 9.00 for **9.45 a.m.**
Start. 9.45–10.15

Report back to members about c'tee
decisions.

10.15–11.30 - activity

NOTE the starting time

We ask for a donation of \$3 per attendance.

A door prize raffle is held at each meeting for \$1 p.p.

Program:- 14th February 'general' meeting

Committee meetings Every fourth Tues. Rm 1.06,
1st floor City Library.

Room opens at 9.30a.m.

Submissions to the C'tee should be addressed to
the Secretary to be received a week prior to C'tee meetings.

Proposed Guest speakers—

March—Di Hill on perfecting your work

April—Panel discussion in the Library & Sandcliffe Festival

May—Margaret Dakin on Playwriting

July— Estelle Pinney on Memoirs

August—Anthology launch and Literary Lunch

Sept—Our AGM



TWO EVENTS TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR OR IN YOUR DIARY (or both)

A FREE EVENT

In partnership with **Brisbane City Council Library** we are presenting a panel discussion (yes, again). The City Square Library this year will be trialling Sunday morning events. So on **Sunday morning, 23rd April at 11 a.m.** we will be presenting a panel discussion, titled **Insights of an Outsider**. The panel will consist of *Venero Armano*, *Melissa Lucashenko* and *Lauren Daniels*. Venero has just published a much acclaimed novel. Melissa has won the Copyright award. Lauren has been awarded the Half the World Literary Award. You will note that they are all ‘outsiders’ in some sense. We are building a strong relationship with the Library over the past year. They fund the speakers. In return, all we have to do is to spread the word and encourage people to attend. **So please support these important “showcase” event by attending and BRING SOME FRIENDS**

This event is a precursor to the **Sandcliffe Writers Festival**, which commences with a literary dinner with **Matt Condon** on **Friday evening, 28th April**. Bookings and fees will be necessary for the dinner. There will be further panel discussions and a poetry workshop with **Angela Peita** on **Saturday, 29th April**. There will also be school author visits during the week. **The panels and workshops will be completely free.** Writers confirmed so far are *Matt Condon*, *Susan Johnson*, *Lucas Proudfoot*, *June Perkins*, and *Lauren Daniels*. (more details will follow). There will not be an official *launch* this year, but there will be flyers. Because *Sandcliffe* is auspiced by SWWQ, a proportion of the funding goes into our coffers. Your support **and attendance** at the scheduled events will be greatly appreciated. Thanks for reading all this ... and for your ongoing support for SWWQ and the events we try and bring you.

You will notice that on page 1 we have indicated that we will launch the **SWWQ Anthology, called simply Home**, in August. We’d like to do that during a “Literary Lunch”, most likely on our “Ekka” Day.

Will you be in the city for that day? We will possibly get a grant for that occasion. If that is successful the cost to you will be \$20 for the Anthology. Cheap at the price,

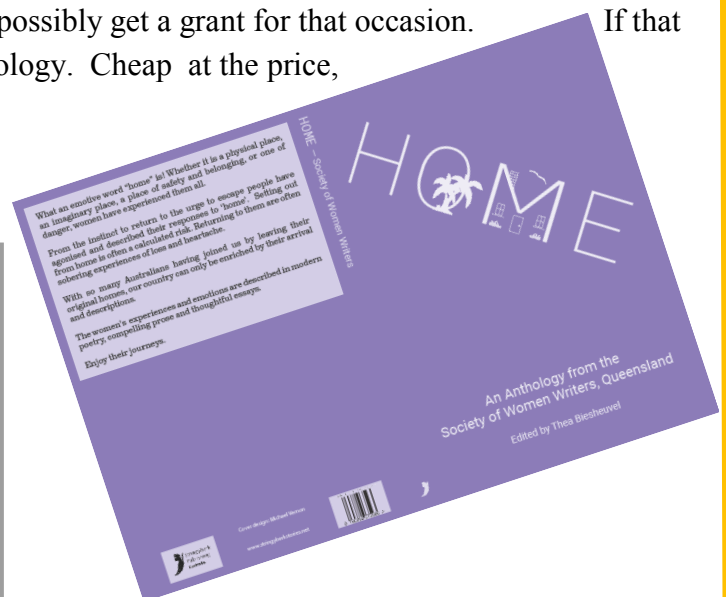
I hear you say. **We need to know the likely numbers, so send me an indication please.**

The Field of Words short story competition is currently open (closes March 31).

Entries are to be between 1000 – 2500 words long. Monthly finalists are published online.

First prize is \$750 (AUD); the runner-up receives \$200 (AUD). All finalists, as well as the winner and runner-up are published on the Field of Words website; their work is also promoted across social media channels. **For more information visit:**

www.fieldofwords.com.au



PLEASE NOTE THAT WE WILL NOT BE POSTING OUT ANY MORE HARD-COPIES OF THE NEWSLETTER, EXCEPT FOR THOSE FEW MEMBERS WHO DON'T HAVE EMAIL

ARE YOU A CREATIVE WRITER? (Number 2)

Elements of Style (according to Strunk & White).

“Omit needless words” said Strunk to White

“You’re right” said White, “that’s good advice, but Strunk, you’re drunk with words. Two thirds of those you chose for that fiat would fill the bill.”

“Would not the thought—the core— be more succinct if shrunked (or shrunk)?” said Strunk. “Good grief! I’m brief (I thought) P’raps not...dear me! Let’s see... Okay! Just say “write tight! No fat in that!”

“Quite right! said White “Er—I mean “Quite!” or simply “Right!”

Maurice Sagoff, in Shrinklits

Get your amusing/nostalgic stories published in “YOUR TIME” Magazine

SWWQ has negotiated a deal with **Your Time** magazine. This is a free print magazine for over 55 year olds, with helpful information for many older folks—hints about downsizing, investments and so on. Quite a readable, intelligent publication.

It appears in print at various locations in Brisbane city and on the Sunshine Coast, mainly in newsagents’, outside cafes and real estate offices, etc., but can also be found ‘on-line’ at

<http://www.yourtimemagazine.com.au>

The Editor, Dot Whittington and Julia Fielding have negotiated an agreement that will get your story in there and at the same time raise the profile of SWWQ. You can approach Dot directly, but if you send it via Julia Fielding (jfielding@aapt.net.au) she can ensure that the by-line is SWWQ and get us noticed.

Please read some or all of the magazine before you send anything, as you will need to sense the tone of the magazine. It is upbeat, presenting retirement as a pleasant time, so grim or tragic stories will not see the light of day. However, stories or articles that deal in an upbeat manner with ageing, history, memories, downsizing, being told to declutter and so on, are favoured. Humour is most welcome. It is the older demographic speaking to the older demographic.

Editors are busy people and there will be no sensitive shortening of your story to fit into the available space. It is *up to you* to make sure it is **no more than 1,200 words** and preferably shorter.

Please note that you can find Barbara Bufi’s funny short story on page 12 of the January edition. Do not despair if you can’t read the print on-line because it is too small. Click on the “expanding square” symbol and then click on the plus sign (+) and the print will be huge!

The Boonah Writer’s Festival

29th—30th April, 2017

Sat. morning Mary-Rose Maccoll; Angela Slatter on Short Stories/Horror; Nigel Munro-Wallis on Play-writing

Sat. afternoon Amy Andrews on Romance; Angela Sunde on Children’s books; Nick Earls as Guest Speaker for Sat. night

Sun. morning Det. Sgt Tracey Pelling on Crime; Andy McDermott on Contract Publishing; Alex Adsett on the role of an Agent and Kerry McDuling on Marketing

Contacts Diana Hockley 0754632644/0428718960 for information and bookings

www.boonahwritersfestival.com

[facebook](#) **Boonah Writers Festival**

NB—This overlaps the Sandcliffe Festival on 28th and Sat. 29th April, see page 2

OPPORTUNITIES and COMPETITIONS

Winning an award can earn a new writer recognition, credibility and some prize money, but it can also open up opportunities for reprints such as Melbourne Books' yearly *Award Winning Australian Writing* anthology

This is only open to short stories and poems that won first place in an Australian Award in the previous year, giving award winning writers an opportunity to further extend their audience. So Helen Boardman's short story, *Bonsai* and Barbara Bufi's poem *Home* will be submitted for publication in *Award Winning Australian Writers*.

Competitions with closing dates in February and March 2017

Black Dog Institute Annual Writing Comp.	blackdog@blackdog.org.au	Feb.
Bush Curlews Literary Comp.	bushcurlews@hotmail.com	Feb
Colin Roderick Award	louise.lennon@jcu.edu.au	Feb
Eaglehawk Dahlia and Arts Literary Comp.	rc150888@bigpond.net.au	Feb
Josephine Ulrick Literature Prize	joanne.chang@girffith.edu.au	Feb
Josephine Ulrick Poetry Prize	c.keys@girffith.edu.au	Feb
Prime Minister's Literary Awards (may have gone)	pmliteraryawards@pmc.gov.au	
Winston Churchill Memorial Trust	info@churchilltrust.com.au	Feb
Bundaberg Writers Club Inc.	Esmond@internode.on.net	March
Castaways Poetry Prize	www.rockingham.wa.gov.au /Community/Art-and-culture	March
Flash 500 International Competition	info@flash500.com	Quarterly
Gulgong Henry Lawson Soc. (poetry and stories)	henrylawsongulgong@yahoo.com.au	Mar
Kathleen Julia Bates Memorial Writing Comp	dibates@pacific.net.au	March
Kingaroy Eisteddfod Inc. Literary Comp.	eisteddfod.kingaroy@gmail.com	March

Please email the contact addresses for correct dates, entry forms and fees and awards.

WQ Centre has small handbooks with all details and dates, for about \$20. This would enable you to work 2—3 months ahead of deadlines. SWWQ is a member of WQ so you are entitled to a "member discount" if and when it applies.

The Writers' Anthology Group and Bent Banana Books are pleased to announce a 2017 Anthology, called **Redemption**.

For that they require one short story, 1500—3,000 words and/or one or two poems of 30 lines or fewer. Story writers may submit poems at no extra cost. Publication in October, 2017.

Along with the submissions you will be required to send \$20 for a complimentary copy of the book and compulsory WAG membership. No royalties will be paid. All entries in **MS Word** and in **hard copy** in the first instance. **Single space** between paragraphs, **single quotation marks** for direct speech. Recommended fonts **Georgia or Times New Roman 12 pt**.

Submissions to Writers' Anthology Group, 24 Ontario Drive, Warner, Qld. 4500

Deadline April 30, 2017.

There are other conditions relating to formatting the text, so **please check** on **Ph. 3889 2118** or email **bentbananabooks@gmail.com** for an entry form and conditions.

All work is to be new work first published in *Redemption*.