

# RING OF BRIGHT WATER

The Society of Women Writers Qld. Inc.

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Bi-Monthly Newsletter



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**All mail to the Secretary**

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**MEETINGS 2nd Tues. every  
month**

**Don't forget your membership renewal is due 1st July**



*Hello Everyone,*

**THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD**— Yes, it is that time of the year again. We have an Annual General Meeting on 12th September.

I don't need to remind you that we are required to announce these a month in advance and are obliged to table the books as well as an Annual Report. (Oh, all that boring stuff, I hear you say).

It can be boring if we want to go into all the nitty gritty details at the actual meeting. However, a lot of this can be done beforehand.

We are asking you to send your nomination for a job on the Committee well before time, so we can sort that out quickly.

I promise that you will have the Annual Report in plenty of time and well before the actual day.

So all we need from you is to come along, socialise with your fellow writers, have a nice cuppa and go away happy.

I'm hoping to have an interesting guest speaker, but that is yet to be confirmed.

We'd like to know if you're coming,

*See you there?*

*Thea*

*July/August 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.

**General meetings** August 8,  
Book reviews  
**Sept. 12 A.G.M. and**  
Election of office bearers

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

Room opens at 9.45a.m.

All submissions to the C'tee should be addressed to the Secretary to be received **a week prior** to C'tee meetings.

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***Have you got Style?*** Of course you have. If you're reading this, you'll probably write in English as well. It is said that this is the most difficult language to master. There seem to be several exceptions for every "rule". Spelling is not uniform. Then there are these "rules" about punctuation. Most publications and competitions will also expect some standards in formatting your work. We've been talking about how you can navigate these hurdles safely. We've constructed a ***Style Guide*** for our members to use when submitting work, especially in our writing competitions. This guide will come out to you before the end of August. It will help you and it will also help our judges apply some standard criteria to your work when you submit it. Here is the preliminary notice.

***The 2017 Writing Competition— the MARJ WILKE AWARD for creative writing***

***Open to members only—***

**Membership fees are due on 1st July, remember!**

This year there will be no "theme" around which you will be asked to write. We will also not publish the work submitted. That will happen again in 2018.

- |                         |                   |  |
|-------------------------|-------------------|--|
| 1. Poems                | up to 50 lines    | Winner \$100, 2nd prize \$75, third prize \$50 |
| 2. Short stories        | up to 2,000 words | Winner \$100, 2nd prize \$75, third prize \$50 |
| 3. Non-fiction articles | up to 2,000 words | Winner \$100, 2nd prize \$75, third prize \$50 |

Certificates for the following categories: Winners, runners-up, highly commended and commended entries.

**CONDITIONS OF ENTRY:** The work submitted will be the original work of the author and not be under consideration in any other competition or by any other publisher or already published.

All work will be accompanied by *a separate title page*, with the name and pen-name of the author and full contact details; The title page will not be seen by any judges.

No name will appear on any works submitted. A pen-name may be added as a footer to a page.

All work will be in Times New Roman, 12 point font with double spacing and use the ***Style Guide*** to judge the punctuation and formatting of stories, articles and poems.

A maximum of 3 entries per category; No e-mail entries, please.

**RETURN ADDRESS:-**

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2/21 Carselgrove Avenue,

FITZGIBBON. Q. 4018

**Closing date**

**31<sup>st</sup> October, 2017**

**Note**

There will be an opportunity to perfect your entry during the 2017 Bribie Island retreat, to be held from Oct 18 – 22<sup>nd</sup> at Coungeau House, Bongaree. Registration for this retreat will open soon and close on 1st October. More about that in later notices.

**\*Marj Wilke has been an active member of the Society since its inception and remains an active member of the current committee. We can't think of a better name for this Award.**

The recent CEO of the Qld Writers Centre, Meg Vann, recently wrote as follows:-

“There’s writing and then there’s *finishing*.

We write because we love it. We write because we have stories to tell or poems to announce our feelings. We write because we can’t *not write*.

But writing is not just about writing. It’s also about finishing and rewriting, and editing and polishing. And for many writers, it’s about getting your work ‘out there’ and connecting with readers.

With so many different channels and technologies and business models emerging, there are plenty of opportunities to share your stories and develop your audience.

However, putting work out there is a huge leap for many writers. Writing is the continual unveiling of our authentic passions, right there on the page, for all to see. So it is natural that when faced with developing and sharing our work, we feel vulnerable, hopeful and hungry for information.

There are lists that puts the knowledge in your hands to develop a network that has faith in you and your writing; to grow the courage and savvy to keep putting your work out there and to develop a skin as thick as Stephen King’s pile of rejection slips.

Finding an audience brings your writing to life in new dimensions. The reader brings layered meaning and rhythm to your work, creating a conversation conducted across space and time, yet in the most intimate of venues: the imagination.

To explore those new dimensions, to make those incredible leaps of compassionate communication – to share your stories – you first need to write them. Finishing and sharing a work is an incredible achievement and whether it is your first or your hundred-and-first, the same exquisite thrill of connection awaits.

So if you are at the start of your writing journey, or if you are seeking to strengthen and diversify your writing career, getting it all out there\* will help you reach your goals.

So – for me, entering competitions is one way to measure progress and gain feedback on my work. What about you?

## **CALENDAR DATES**

**September 12** Annual General Meeting. Annual Report and election of office holders.

**October 1** SWWQ writing competition for members opens. Short stories, articles and poetry all making use of our Style Guide . Members only. **Membership fees are due 1st July, remember.**

**October 18—22** SWWQ Retreat on Bribie Island at Coungeau House (as in the past).

**October 30** Closing date for writing competition.

**December 12** End of year meeting. Winners of writing competition announced.

**\*getting it all out there includes posting your contributions on our Facebook page and Blogs, of course, as well as subscribing to a postal (or e-mail) magazine circulated to members.**