

**From the President of the Fellowship of Australian Writers (Victoria)**

The Fellowship of Australian Writers has great pleasure in announcing the results of its 2011 National Literary Awards. The FAW expresses sincere thanks to all entrants, sponsors and judges for their interest and support this year.

We congratulate those who have received awards and encourage all entrants who were not successful in the current year to read the judges' reports and try again next year.

Lynn Smailes

President

**2012 NATIONAL LITERARY AWARDS**

The 2012 National Literary Awards will open on 1st September and close on 30th November 2012.

From August 2012 you will be able to download an entry form from the FAW website: <[www.writers.asn.au](http://www.writers.asn.au)> or you can obtain one by sending a SSAE to: Fellowship of Australian Writers, 6 Davies Street, Brunswick, Victoria, 3056.

Entry forms are also included in the August/September issue of *The Australian Writer*, the regular publication of the Fellowship of Australian Writers (FAW) Inc.

**ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS (FAW)**

The FAW was established in 1928 and has branches across Australia. The Victorian branch is the biggest and operates without government funding. Its daily activities are carried out by a voluntary committee who are dedicated to nurturing, supporting and providing opportunities for writers at all stages of their careers. FAW members receive 4 issues of *The Australian Writer* per year, occasional email bulletins, advice on contracts, publishing and other matters, and ongoing information about the National Literary Awards.

If you would like information about FAW membership, please visit

<[www.writers.asn.au](http://www.writers.asn.au)>

or write to:

Fellowship of Australian Writers, 6 Davies Street, Brunswick, Victoria, 3056

## PART 1 – BOOK AWARDS

### **FAW SID HARTA LITERATURE AWARD**

Sponsored by **Sid Harta Publishing**

An award for a non-fiction work, including biography and autobiography, of sustained quality and distinction with an Australian theme.

<b>Winner (\$1000)</b>			
<b>John Bailey</b>	<i>'Into the Unknown: The Tormented Life and Expeditions of Ludwig Leichhardt'</i>	NSW	Pan Macmillan
<b>Highly Commended</b>			
<b>Craig Collie</b>	<i>'Nagasaki: The Massacre of the Innocent and Unknowing'</i>	NSW	Allen & Unwin
<b>Commended</b>			
<b>Katie Holmes</b>	<i>'Between the Leaves: Stories of Australian women, writing and gardens'</i>	WA	UWA Publishing
<b>Jennifer Gall</b>	<i>'In Bligh's hand: Surviving the Mutiny on the Bounty'</i>	ACT	National Library of Australia

#### **Judges' Report: Jean Thornton and Dr Bill Anderson**

The winning entries were of excellent quality and the judges had little difficulty in arriving at their decision.

John Bailey's outstanding book about the explorer Leichhardt and his expeditions in Australia is extremely well-written and engaging and makes a significant contribution to an important area of Australian history. The subject of his book has been the focus of many previous studies and Bailey does well to present a well-trodden historical path in a fresh and fascinating way.

Craig Collie's book on the atomic bombing of Nagasaki is a superbly researched and well-written study of one of the defining moments of the twentieth century. Collie presents many moving accounts of the experiences of the citizens of Nagasaki and of Australian POWs in Nagasaki at the time.

Katie Holmes' stories of Australian women and their gardens is a well-written, entertaining and thought provoking book.

Jennifer Gall's book on Bligh and the Bounty is an exceptional marriage of really fine writing and truly wonderful illustrations. This beautiful book it is a credit to all involved in its creation.

## FAW CHRISTINA STEAD AWARD

Sponsored by **Fellowship of Australian Writers (FAW) Vic., Inc.**

This is an award for a work of fiction first published in Australia.

The award was inaugurated in 1997 and is named after Christina Stead, an Australian novelist. Christina Stead was regarded as being worthy of a Nobel Prize, especially in regard to her greatest novel, *The Man Who Loved Children*, which was based heavily on her childhood. Christina Stead died in Australia in 1983.

<b>Winner (\$500)</b>			
<b>Mardi McConnochie</b>	<i>'The Voyagers'</i>	VIC	Penguin
<b>Highly Commended</b>			
<b>Tony Birch</b>	<i>'Blood'</i>	QLD	University of Qld
<b>Scot Gardiner</b>	<i>'The Dead I Know'</i>	NSW	Allen & Unwin
<b>Kylie Ladd</b>	<i>'Last Summer'</i>	NSW	Allen & Unwin
<b>Commended</b>			
<b>Barry Jonsberg</b>	<i>'Being Here'</i>	NSW	Allen & Unwin
<b>Clancy Tucker</b>	<i>'Gunnedah Hero'</i>	VIC	
<b>Marian Penmann</b>	<i>'Losing my Marbles'</i>	VIC	

### Judges' Report: Philip Rainford, Gail Blundell and Nikki Teller

As a judge it is always hard to put aside personal biases to look for good pieces of literature across multiple genres. In the end it comes down to having a well-written story that tells a tale in a new way. The books we selected retained our interest throughout. Unfortunately, a number of books showed great potential but the authors either got tired of writing the story or could not come up with a more creative ending. *'Losing My Marbles'* took us on a journey through Alzheimer's Disease. *'Gunnedah Hero'* took a young boy places where an adult would fear to go alone. *'The Dead I Know'* led us into the mind of a funeral parlour employee and death. *Being here* examines an old lady's world. *'The Voyagers'* is a romantic novel about two souls separated by war, but who reach across the years, believing that the other was dead until fate brought them together. All authors should spend as much time on the ending as the beginning.

Don't give up on your story. It is your legacy.

## **FAW ANNE ELDER AWARD**

Sponsored by **Anne Elder Trust, managed by Catherine Elder and FAW**

In its thirty-fourth year, this is an award for a first book of poetry first published in Australia.

The award commenced in 1977 and has never changed its name. It is named after Anne Josephine Chloe Elder (1918-1976), ballet dancer and poet, who was born on 4th January, 1918. The funds for the Award come from a fund that is administered by Catherine Elder and the Fellowship of Australian Writers (Victoria).

<b>Winner (\$1000)</b>			
<b>Mags Webster</b>	<i>'The Weather of Tongues'</i>	WA	Sunline
<b>Highly Commended</b>			
<b>Michelle Dicoski</b>	<i>'Electricity for beginners'</i>	QLD	Clouds of Magellan
<b>Commended</b>			
<b>Vladislav Neklianv</b>	<i>'Another Babylon '</i>	QLD	University of Qld Press
<b>Fiona Wright</b>	<i>'Knuckled'</i>	NSW	Giramondo

### **Judges' Report: Meg McNena & Garth Madsen**

There were fewer entries in the Anne Elder Award, this year. However, the standard was very high and it was difficult to exclude any of the books from the short list. The entries fell into two main categories—those that followed a general theme or narrative and those which seemed to be more or less 'greatest hits' selections of the poet's work to date. With the former, the individual poems were often secondary to the whole, while with the latter, poems that showed a virtuosity of technique and style were often juxtaposed with less impressive work. Poets with a long career before this first collection had work that sometimes spanned decades and it was noticeable that their voices had been modified along the way.

The winner was *The Weather of Tongues*. The poet uses her experiences as a recent migrant to the country as the backdrop to the entire collection. She has an economy of words with which she creates an evocative personal tapestry. This gives coherence to the book as a whole while still allowing each poem to stand on its own. Language itself is the major theme in this collection, silence is the enemy. *Electricity for Beginners* is filled with narratives that reveal the extraordinary in the everyday. *Another Babylon* uses simple imagery and has a fable-like quality but it is always a story with an unexpected kink at the end. *Knuckled* has poems remarkable for their sparkling rhythm and seasoned with original metaphors.

## **BARBARA RAMSDEN AWARD**

Sponsored by **Institute of Professional Editors (IPEd) and Fellowship of Australian Writers (FAW) Vic., Inc.**

The Barbara Ramsden Award is a major literary award for a book of quality writing in any field of literature and recognises the contributions by both author and editor in producing the final work. The award is in its twenty-eighth year.

The Fellowship supplies two specially cast bronze plaques designed by Andor Meszaros. These are presented to the author and the publisher's editor to recognise the combined effort of both parties in producing a work of excellence.

<b>Plaque Winner '<i>In Bligh's Hand</i>'</b>			
Jennifer Gall	Author	ACT	National Library of Australia
Joanna Karmel	Editor		

<b>Special Mention '<i>Watch Out For Me</i>'</b>			
Sylvia Johnson	Author	NSW	Allen & Unwin
Catherine Milne	Editor		

### **Judges' Report: Rosemary Luke and Rosemary Noble**

*In Bligh's hand* represents a significant new investigation of the original Bligh Bounty Notebook, a jewel in the manuscript collections of the National Library of Australia. The book is illuminated by an excellent choice of images and grounded in the meticulous transcription of the Notebook text. In both areas the editor, Joanna Karmel, has been rigorous in attention to the finest detail, ensuring the accuracy of the transcription, the text and the images used in the publication. Her professional dedication to ensuring the dependability of the book as a contribution to Australian history is exemplary.

The judges agree that this is a beautiful and comprehensive book, which shows clear evidence of the editor's hand in project managing a complex production that would have required extensive consultation with a range of contributors in addition to the author. The finished work complements the text in every way possible through illustrations, additional explanations and a helpful index, all managed and cross-referenced by the editor.

Unlike other entries, this book names the editor, thereby acknowledging her contribution, in the preliminary pages. The editor also contributed useful notes about how transcription of Bligh's notebook was managed in the finished work.

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The book is lavishly illustrated, with many of the reproductions being of other items in the collection of the NLA. Illustrations have been carefully chosen for their relevance to nearby text but also for their capacity to add depth and background to the reader's understanding of Bligh, other participants in his stories, the islands visited, the ships and boats, the artefacts that give solidity to Bligh's incredible journey recorded in the Notebook, and Bligh's life after the epic voyage. Captions are detailed, but not weighed down with citation details, which are presented in full in the end matter.

Jennifer Gall's text itself is clear, accessible, interesting, informative and illuminating. The author's style is such that the book is a real page turner. Background information is provided unobtrusively, usefully and valuably. No copyediting or proofreading infelicities mar the reader's interaction with the text.

In addition, the judges wish to commend the work of author Sylvia Johnson and editor Catherine Milne in the beautifully written novel, *'Watch out for me'*. The suspense builds as successive chapters offer multiple perspectives on the past in clearly differentiated voices. How we live with our childhood; how authority deals with difference in a post-9/11 world: *Watch out for me* explores these issues with insight and well-controlled restraint. The skilful hand of the editor in working with the author was praised by the publisher and is evident in the finished, very readable book.

## PART 2 – MANUSCRIPT AWARDS

### **FAW COMMUNITY OF WRITERS AWARD**

*Sponsored by Fresh Start Training*

In its thirty-first year, this is an award for an anthology by a community writers' group.

Commenced in 1997 it was originally titled the FAW SAAB Community Writers Award, it was renamed in 1999 the FAW Community Writers Award

<b>Winner (\$500)</b>			
<b>The Williamstown Writers</b>	<i>'Journeys'</i>	VIC	

#### **Judge's Report: Jennifer Harrison**

I enjoyed many of the submitted collections, particularly those lively community groups that included photography and innovative text layouts in their anthologies. Overall, in many cases, the short prose pieces were stronger than the poetry and this unevenness adversely affected the outcome for some.

The Williamstown Writers deserved first prize because their anthology contained the best writing. Short stories such as *'Where's Meg?'* and the *'The Stalker'* were delightful to read and the historical essay *'Trains—a Bloody Footnote in History'* was also excellent. Poems in the collection, *'Pilgrimage to Vegas'*, *'From my Hammock'* and *'Ships of Shame'* to name three, held their own. It is probably best not to single out too many of the individual poems and stories for comment. The anthology's success rewards all the writers equally.

### **FAW JENNIFER BURBIDGE SHORT STORY AWARD**

*Sponsored by Mary Burbidge*

In its tenth year, this award in honours Jennifer Burbidge. The award is for a story dealing with any aspect of the lives of those who suffer from some form of mental disability and/or its impact on their families. It was first awarded in 2000 and has never changed its name.

<b>Joint Winners, Each receiving full prize money of \$250</b>			
<b>Stephanie Legg England</b>	<i>'Living with Dazzle'</i>	ACT	
<b>Maria Arena</b>	<i>'The Favourite Daughter'</i>	QLD	
<b>Commended</b>			
<b>Bill Kendall</b>	<i>'Gary and Justin'</i>	VIC	

## **Judge's Report: Mary Burbidge**

Most entries warranted reading twice and often were richer on the second tasting. However, laboured over-writing is a common problem and becomes more evident when you already know the plot.

Two stories stood out as well written, carefully shaped and telling an abundance about years of family life and the impact of disability through exploration of small carefully chosen scenes with plenty of realistic dialogue. I was not able to choose between them and so have decided to award two prizes this year.

### Winning Stories:

'*Living with Dazzle*' is a true story, as stated by the author. This was helpful information in this case as, had I been considering it as fiction, it would have been rejected as unbelievable, just too much bad stuff happening to one family. Despite everything, this is an engaging, optimistic story with a poignant, unresolved ending

'*The Favourite Daughter*' is a subtle and sensitive examination of the complexity of love and loving actions in the face of the changing family dynamics caused by ageing and disability.

### Commended:

'*Gary and Justin*' captures something of what it might be like to have a mind that works differently to most people's minds and what this can lead to.

## **FAW MARY GRANT BRUCE SHORT STORY AWARD FOR CHILDREN'S LITERATURE**

Sponsored by **Wellington Shire Council**

In its thirtieth year, this award is awarded for a manuscript written for readers aged 10-15 years with a special prize for winners from Gippsland. Commenced in 1981, this award has never changed its name.

<b>Winner (\$600)</b>		
<b>Janice Elva Williams</b>	<i>'They Say the Frost Never Settles'</i>	VIC
<b>Second (\$300)</b>		
<b>Carmel Lillis</b>	<i>'That Old Dog'</i>	VIC
<b>Highly Commended</b>		
<b>Diane Bates</b>	<i>'Fighting Lizard Woman'</i>	NSW
<b>Vicki Daddo</b>	<i>'Mad Jack and the BMX Boys'</i>	VIC
<b>Commended</b>		
<b>Marian McGuinness</b>	<i>'Leech Creek'</i>	NSW
<b>Carmel Lillis</b>	<i>'Dream Castles'</i>	
<b>Gippsland Regional Winner (\$200)</b>		
<b>Vicky Daddo</b>	<i>'Mad Jack and the BMX Boys'</i>	VIC

### **Judge's Report: Margaret Campbell**

Fewer entries this year did not mean a lowering of the overall standard and it was reassuring to note topics and style relevant to this age group rather than inclusions suitable for much younger readers. I had the pleasure and the challenge of reading a diverse collection of stories which included a gaol escapade, internet romance, horoscope readings, a bunyip and Rudolph's red nose.

Whether tension-filled, humorous or poignant, the short-listed entries captured me with their immediacy, believable characters and dialogue, their structure and plot development. The winner, *'They Say the Frost Never Settles'* makes excellent use of dialogue and humour to carry the reader through a tension-filled night in an old gaol, the conclusion a sobering reminder of possible repercussions. Second prize, *'That Old Dog'*, is a poignant narrative exploring the grief of a mother's illness and a daughter's determination for their old dog to win a medal at the local show.

*Sponsored by* **Collected Works Bookshop**

In its fortieth year, this is an award for a poem or suite of poems of sustained quality and distinction by an Australian author. It commenced in 1971 and has never changed its name. John Shaw Neilson was born in 1872 in Penola in South Australia. His father was John Neilson who gained a reputation as a bush poet in the 1870s.

<b>Winner (\$600)</b>			
<b>Amanda Surrey</b>	<i>'Home'</i>	VIC	
<b>Second (\$150)</b>			
<b>Kathryn Lomer</b>	<i>'Change'</i>	TAS	
<b>Highly Commended</b>			
<b>David Campbell</b>	<i>'Little Girls Lost'</i>	VIC	
<b>Margaret Bradstock</b>	<i>'The Sure Extinction'</i>	NSW	
<b>Melinda Kallasmae</b>	<i>'Yours Truly'</i>	VIC	
<b>Commended</b>			
<b>Jo Gardiner</b>	<i>'Hippocampus'</i>	NSW	
<b>Bill Jenkins</b>	<i>'On a Day Like Any Other...'</i>	WA	
<b>John Egan</b>	<i>'On a White Cross'</i>	NSW	

**Judge's Report: Garth Madsen**

The overwhelmingly dominant theme for the entries, including those on the short-list, was loss, with its companion themes of death and grief. It is a major theme and one to which we can all relate. Unfortunately, in many cases, the power and the significance of the experience was not captured in the poetry. Some poets chose to give the reader too much detail. Others relied heavily on the clichés and banalities of grief. Still others used forms that seemed inappropriate for the weight of the theme. The short-listed entries all brought something refreshing to their subject matter, a different perspective, quirky details, original metaphors, a freshness of imagery. They allowed the reader to experience old territory with new eyes. They gave the reader the space in which to exercise the imagination. The winner, 'Home', is a prose poem. It takes the reader on a journey back to a New Zealand where memories clash with present experiences. The details are little more than glimpses, but this sparseness adds to the emotional impact. The rhythm of the poem matches this in its staccato of full stops and commas. There is nothing like a well-constructed prose poem to remind us what the essentials of poetry are. Second place went to 'Change', a more conventional poem where the images (the sandpit which is now a garden, the dead father's barometer shaped like a ship's wheel) seem so accidental at first reading but are responsible for creating the framework that holds the whole poem together.

## **FAW JIM HAMILTON AWARD**

*Sponsored by* **Eltham High School**

In its seventeenth year, this is an award for an unpublished novel of sustained quality and distinction by an Australian author. Commenced in 1994 it has never changed its name. It is named in honour of Jim Hamilton in recognition of his contribution and that of his family for thirty years of service to the FAW, Australian writers and writing.

<b>Winner (\$1000)</b>			
<b>Nicole Jamison</b>	<i>'The Lookout'</i>	TAS	
<b>Highly Commended</b>			
<b>Margaret Gregory</b>	<i>'The Wild Ones'</i>	VIC	

### **Judges' Report: Robert Watson and Clare Carlin**

The judges' report is still being compiled because one of the judges has had to attend to work commitments overseas. When the report is available, it will be posted with the results of the Awards on the FAW website <writers.asn.au>

**FAW ANGELO B. NATOLI SHORT STORY AWARD**

*Sponsored by A B Natoli Pty*

In its eleventh year, this award is for a short story of up to 3,000 words of sustained quality and distinction by an Australian author. Commenced in 1999. it is named in memory of Angelo B. Natoli, who for many years served as Honorary Solicitor to the FAW and whose firm still retains that office.

<b>Winner (\$600)</b>			
<b>Nicole Jamison</b>	<i>'Hymn for the Noonans'</i>	TAS	
<b>Second (\$400)</b>			
<b>Vivinne Ulman</b>	<i>'By Night I Swim'</i>	NSW	
<b>Highly commended</b>			
<b>Beverley Lello</b>	<i>'Road Rage'</i>	VIC	
<b>Julie Twohig</b>	<i>'The Glove'</i>	VIC	
<b>William Glaser</b>	<i>'Don't Stop'</i>	VIC	
<b>Commended</b>			
<b>Julie Twohig</b>	<i>'Adornment'</i>	VIC	
<b>Robert Hollingworth</b>	<i>'My Brother Bill'</i>	VIC	
<b>Yvonne Parker</b>	<i>'The Old Magnolia Tree'</i>	VIC	

**Judge's Report: Louise Le Nay**

The winning story *'Hymn for the Noonans'* is a kind of Huckleberry Finn set in future dystopia. It's about family, pecking order and human frailty. It's told boldly, without sentiment. The first person descriptions come from the gut rather than from the head—the observations are raw and brutal, the flawed humanity is guileless. The second place winner *'By Night I Swim'* sensually explores inner uncertainty through the act of swimming. The descriptions are beautiful, the observations wistful. There is a sense of life being 'on hold' while meaning is being sought from an adult world that is too shadowy and repressed to offer comfort.

A short story is more than a narrative. It should harmoniously combine narrative with theme and style into a work of eloquence. As an illustration of this, I recommend William Trevor's short novels. A story that is worth telling, is worth telling without resorting to tired descriptions and cliché. Human frailty is best understood if it is articulated without predictable adjectives. The joy of writing is about seeking written perfection. We may never get there. Luckily, the journey is as rewarding as the achievement.

My sincere congratulations to the winners and commended, and thanks, as always, to the FAW for the privilege and pleasure of reading the entries.

## FAW DI CRANSTON AWARD

Sponsored by **Di Cranston**

In its twenty-third year, this is awarded for a for a play, screenplay or TV script of sustained quality and distinction by an Australian author. It commenced in 1988 as the FAW Young Writers Script Award

Winner (\$250)			
<b>Scott Wallace</b>	<i>'The 21st Truth'</i>	VIC	
Highly Commended			
<b>Melissa Lee Speyer</b>	<i>'Seekers'</i>	VIC	
<b>David Halliday</b>	<i>'Willow Shakespeare'</i>	VIC	
<b>David Halliday</b>	<i>'Perfection'</i>	VIC	
Commended			
<b>Jim Euclid</b>	<i>'Heartworm'</i>	VIC	
<b>Megan Short</b>	<i>'False Positive'</i>	VIC	
<b>Christie Nieman</b>	<i>'Call Me Komachi'</i>	VIC	

### Judge's Report: Peter Krausz

The quality of writing of the submissions in this category this year, despite an overall reduction in entries, continues to be variable. It is good to see more screenplays in the mix, but that indicates a reduction in stage and radio plays, which deserve to be re-invigorated. What is apparent, at the first instance of writing, is establishing an interesting, compelling idea/storyline that develops into a high quality piece of writing. If that initial idea is not compelling enough, then the final outcome will suffer. I think it is also essential that several drafts are produced, with feedback along the way, to heighten the quality of the finished work.

This year's winner demonstrated both an unusual and a compelling idea, Argentinean politics in the 1950s, and a well developed screenplay that incorporated the personal, social and ideological issues that reflected the fraught period of the country. Through the key characters, the writer involves the audience in a complex array of political events set against the social divisions and machinations endemic in a country going through a major upheaval. The writing reflected a naturalistic style, well developed characterizations, and a command of persuasive writing with several points to make about the era, to an audience that may not be aware of all the subtle social divisions existing then.

The highly commended and commended winners all had interesting ideas, and generally well developed writing of variable consistency, just falling short of being finely completed pieces, demonstrating the need for more drafting. There are plenty of stories and ideas out there that could be developed into compelling scripts/plays, and I urge aspiring writers to continue to explore this concept. Although I certainly encourage more screenplays to be produced, I would also like to see more plays, and especially radio plays (a lost art perhaps) written and submitted for the FAW awards. Good writing is fundamental to any quality play or film, and I certainly hope that writers continue to focus on this striving for quality.

**FAW WHITELIGHT AWARD Part A**

*Sponsored by Whitelight Productions*

<b>Winner (\$125)</b>			
<b>Darryn Wade Fry</b>	<i>'Out of the blue'</i>	VIC	
<b>Highly Commended</b>			
<b>Trish Bolton</b>	<i>'Alzheimer's: A love story'</i>	VIC	
<b>Kate Rizzetti</b>	<i>'Fire break'</i>	VIC	

**FAW WHITELIGHT SHORT SCRIPT AWARD Part B**

<b>Winner (\$125)</b>			
<b>Lyn Reeves</b>	<i>'Where The Heart Is'</i>	TAS	
<b>Highly Commended</b>			
<b>Pierre Langenegger</b>	<i>'The Third Wish'</i>	VIC	
<b>Commended</b>			
<b>Sally Pitts</b>	<i>'Closing The Distance '</i>	VIC	

**Judge's Report: Angelo Salamanca**

The 'FAW White Light Short Film and TV Script Award' received 18 entries. It was refreshing to read scripts whose writers adopted a no-holds barred attitude and it would seem—in some instances—avoided self-censorship.

Subject matter was diverse. The theme of forgiveness and reconciliation was tackled in more than one of the pieces. The psychological breakdown suffered by members of the police force was one of a more confronting concepts presented. As was heartbreak felt by family members witnessing a loved-one succumb to Alzheimer's.

Important social issues such as fire and flood were explored, and there were odd-couple encounters which made for entertaining reading. Dirty dealings prior to a wedding demonstrated the pitfalls of marriage before it's even begun! One of the more unusual stories was a behind-the-scenes look in the writing of a famous pop song.

Unfortunately some writers neglected to present their screenplays in the correct format. I would urge anyone unsure what is required to Google *screenplay formatting* and study templates for the Film or TV Industry standard. Prospective producers / assessors appreciate the effort taken to correctly format a script. It simply makes their job easier and demonstrates a willingness for writers to take their work as seriously as possible.

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I hasten to add, however, that on this occasion incorrectly formatted scripts were not disadvantaged.

I would also urge writers tackling screenwriting for the first time to read scripts of produced works so as to gauge the success (or otherwise) of the transition from the page to screen. As a teacher or screenwriting and judge for this award, I eagerly seek compelling story-lines affording strong imagery through gripping big print; engaging dialogue and subtext. For what it's worth, I get a pain in my abdomen whenever I receive hackneyed scenarios.

Notwithstanding some under-developed scripts, the writing overall was of a high standard. I believe the winners and those commended stand a good chance of attracting producers with a view to having their work developed further and possibly produced.

## PART 3 – YOUNG WRITERS' AWARDS

### **FAW YOUNG POET OF THE YEAR AWARD Part A**

*Sponsored by Clare's Desk*

This award is in its thirty-fourth year, It recognises writers aged 8 – 12 years and is awarded for a poem of sustained quality and distinction by an Australian Author under 16 years. This award commenced in 1976 it was originally the FAW CJ Dennis Poetry Award.

<b>Winner (\$100)</b>			
<b>Lauren Han</b>	<i>'Escape'</i>	NSW	
<b>Highly Commended</b>			
<b>Madison Morgan</b>	<i>'Phoenix Poem'</i>	VIC	
<b>Lachlan Thomas</b>	<i>'The Griffin'</i>	VIC	
<b>Commended</b>			
<b>Antonia Langenegger</b>	<i>'Artist's sea'</i>	VIC	
<b>Eliza Coombes</b>	<i>'Frozen world'</i>	TAS	

### **Judge's Report: Shirley Randles**

The maturity of writing from this age group was impressive, making it difficult to choose winners. I advise reading the work aloud to hear and remove any unnecessary words, which detract from a poem's natural rhythm.

However, all who entered deserved to be congratulated on their efforts and be encouraged, even if they did not gain a place this year.

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Entries often dealt with nature and the environment. Some submissions were in free verse, other poems were carefully rhymed. Exceptional, well-planned use of alliteration and repetition enhanced the imagery in some poems. In the winning entry, 'Escape', alliteration gives the sense of the timeless ebb and flow of the ocean: *'Rambling ... roaming ... wandering, / Through centuries of sand.'*

### **FAW YOUNG POET OF THE YEAR AWARD Part B**

Sponsored by **Clare's Desk**

<b>Winner (\$150)</b>			
<b>Danielle Bowen</b>	<i>'Guerilla Viet Cong'</i>	VIC	
<b>Highly Commended</b>			
<b>Daisy Moore</b>	<i>'After Brunswick Head by Philip Falkes'</i>	TAS	St. Michael's School
<b>Adeline Eberhard</b>	<i>'Calluses'</i>	TAS	St. Michael's School
<b>Commended</b>			
<b>Bradley Dicks</b>	<i>'Life After Death'</i>	QLD	Southport School

### **Judge's Report: Shirley Randles**

The maturity displayed by all entrants was exceptionally high. Those who did not receive awards should not be discouraged. Keep writing. Many entries dealt with serious matters of death, war and how today's actions affect the environment.

Advice: Plan for the audience that you wish to reach. If your topic is unfamiliar to the general population, include enough information for your poem to be understood and appreciated. Read your work aloud to hear unnecessary words, so that they can be eliminated.

The winning entry, *'Guerilla Viet Cong'*, condemns the emotional and physical horrors of war. It is also an indictment on the futility of such combat. Powerful words are used to describe the 1960s ballots to conscript Australian men: *'Birthday Present From Hell. / Sent against choice to spill blood and cause havoc.'*

## **FAW MICHAEL DUGAN SHORT STORY AWARD Part A**

*Sponsored by Penguin Books Australia*

In its sixteenth year, this Award is (for writers aged 8 – 12 years) this is an award for a short story of sustained quality and distinction by an Australian author under 16 years. Part A is for writers from 8 to 12 years, and Part B is for writers from 13 to 16 years.

When it began in 1976, this Award was known as the FAW Alan Marshall Award. In 1994, it changed its nature from an award for a work of fiction or long poem which contained strong narrative element, to a short story award for young writers.

<b>Winner (\$100)</b>			
<b>Taylor de-Chalain-May</b>	<i>'Tawaret the Great'</i>	VIC	Beaconhills College
<b>Highly Commended</b>			
<b>Thomas Harris</b>	<i>'Thor Versus the World'</i>	VIC	Beaconhills College
<b>Madison Morgan</b>	<i>'The Legend of the Ghost Lady'</i>	VIC	Beaconhills College
<b>Sian Eleanor Hardy</b>	<i>'Paranormal'</i>	VIC	
<b>Commended</b>			
<b>Elizabeth Ann Paul</b>	<i>'The Lost Boy'</i>	TAS	St Michael's School
<b>Libby O'Brien</b>	<i>'Brother for Sale'</i>	NSW	
<b>Katie Corley</b>	<i>'The Dalmatian with No Spots'</i>	VIC	Beaconhills College

## **FAW MICHAEL DUGAN SHORT STORY AWARD Part B**

<b>Winner (\$150)</b>			
<b>Pascale Kahn</b>	<i>'Empty Streets'</i>	NSW	
<b>Highly Commended</b>			
<b>Elysia Janssen</b>	<i>'The Sacrifice'</i>	VIC	
<b>Lochlan Taverner</b>	<i>'The Decision'</i>	QLD	
<b>Commended</b>			
<b>Madeline Milne</b>	<i>'The Education'</i>	WA	
<b>Kaiden Hamilton</b>	<i>'Wasters'</i>	VIC	

### **Judge's Report : Shirley Hassen**

As usual, the works submitted were very well written and most stories and poems were very good. There is much writing talent out there ... BUT! ... Many of the competitors did not observe general competition rules. Many stories omitted page numbers. Some stories were not paper-clipped, but placed in sleeves and bindings that caused a lot of inconvenience when the judge (me) needed to assess the work.

Other than guidelines not being adhered to, I was impressed at the imagination (quirky, amusing, queer, astounding and spooky) of the work presented. I urge all entrants to read the guidelines more seriously to enable better judging of your work. My final words are these: Although every piece could not be placed, unplaced entrants should not be discouraged, but encouraged. Most of you presented amazing work.

### **FAW COLIN THELE POETRY AWARD**

*Due to insufficient entries, this award was not judged this year*

### **FAW JOHN MORRISON SHORT STORY AWARD**

*Sponsored by Paul Jennings*

In its forty-seventh year this is an award for a short story of sustained quality and distinction by an Australian author between 15-20 years. It commenced in 1965 as the FAW State of Victoria Short Story Award, which ceased in 1989, when it was renamed after John Gordon Morrison, who was born in Sunderland, England He was awarded the Gold Medal of the Australian Literature Society, the Patrick White Literary Award in 1986 and the Order of Australia in 1989.

<b>Winner (\$200)</b>			
<b>Madeline Warmington</b>	<i>'Come Rain, Come Shine'</i>	VIC	
<b>Second (\$100)</b>			
<b>Daisy Wallace</b>	<i>'Moon's Light'</i>	VIC	

### **Judge's Report: Jennifer Harrison**

The quality of the writing submitted for this year's John Morrison Award was impressive. Three outstanding entries deserve acknowledgement: 'Come Rain, Come Shine', a wonderful evocation of family drama written sparsely and with great power from the perspective of a ten year-old girl; 'Moon's light', a stream-of-consciousness story which sensuously captures the sexual frisson of youth and 'The night-runners', a science fiction story of unsettling imagination. It was tough to split these three but the power of the narrative in 'Come rain, come shine' invited the first prize. Unfortunately there were only two possible awards in this category and the rawness of 'Moon's light' satisfied as a short story more than the lengthier 'The Night-Runners' which in some ways resembled a chapter in an ongoing story. Nevertheless, the sureness of voice, pace and creativity in all three works was startling. Heartfelt congratulations to all the writers.

## **FAW MAVIS THORPE CLARK AWARD PART 1**

*Sponsored by Graeme & Robyn Base*

In its eighteenth year, this is an award for an anthology of sustained quality and distinction by an Australian student.

It commenced in 1994. It is named in honour of Mavis Thorpe Clark who was born 26th June, 1909, in Melbourne, Australia.

Mavis Thorpe Clark was a prolific writer of children's fiction who, late in life, also wrote for adults.

<b>Winner (\$350)</b>			
<b>Jack Burnham</b>	<i>'Resurgam'</i>	QLD	
<b>Highly Commended</b>			
<b>Kaiden Hamilton</b>	<i>'Slugs'</i>	VIC	
<b>Serena Davis</b>	<i>'Forming'</i>	TAS	
<b>Damien Hamilton</b>	<i>'Diversity'</i>	VIC	
<b>Commended</b>			
<b>Paton Lacey</b>	<i>'Horror Stories From Hell'</i>	WA	
<b>Brodie Hamilton</b>	<i>'Not Quite Disney'</i>	VIC	
<b>Marty Bridges</b>	<i>'Collection'</i>	VIC	

### **Judge's Report: Shirley Hassen**

Please see the comments under the Michael Dugan Awards.

**FAW MAVIS THORPE CLARK AWARD PART 2*****Sponsored by* Graeme & Robyn Base**

<b>Winner (\$200)</b>			
<b>Hervey Bay State High School</b>	<i>'Hervey Bay State High School 2011 Anthology'</i>	QLD	
<b>Highly Commended</b>			
<b>Aldridge State High School</b>	<i>'Aldridge State High School 2011 Anthology'</i>	QLD	
<b>Year 9 Creative Writing</b>	<i>'Gothic Narratives'</i>	VIC	Canterbury Girls Secondary College
<b>Canterbury Girls Secondary College</b>	<i>'Sacred Landscapes'</i>	VIC	
<b>Commended</b>			
<b>Fahan School Writing Class</b>	<i>'The Gathering of Flowers'</i>	TAS	Fahan School
<b>Hamilton Family Home School</b>	<i>'Sibling Rivalry'</i>	VIC	Hamilton Family Home School
<b>Year 8 Students, St Michael's School</b>	<i>'The Dancing Light'</i>	TAS	St Michael's School

**IVY HART PEACE & ENVIRONMENT RHYMING POETRY AWARD PART A*****Sponsored by* Meryl Tobin**

This award is in memory of Ivy Hart who died in 2003. A lover and writer of rhyming poetry and a political activist for social justice, peace and preserving the environment, she published two books of rhyming poems on these issues, and they have been used in schools. This is an award for rhyming poetry of sustained quality and distinction with the theme of Peace OR the Environment. Part A is for primary school children in Years 3 and 4, and Part B is for primary school children in Years 5 and 6.

<b>Winner (\$100)</b>			
<b>Tessa Yu</b>	<i>'The Alphabet of Animals'</i>	VIC	

<b>Runner Up</b>			
<b>Antonia Langenegger</b>	'The canary'	VIC	
<b>Highly Commended</b>			
<b>Antonia Langenegger</b>	'All I want'	VIC	
<b>Commended</b>			
<b>Antonia Langenegger</b>	'The tree king'	VIC	

## **IVY HART PEACE & ENVIRONMENT RHYMING POETRY AWARD PART B**

Primary school children from Years 5 and 6

<b>Winner (\$100)</b>			
<b>Brynnie Angharad Rafe</b>	'Why is the world?'	VIC	

### **JUDGE'S REPORT: Meryl Tobin**

Congratulations to all poets who entered this section. Though there were only four entries in Part A and one in Part B, all poets deserved and won a prize or certificate for their efforts. Each tried hard to sustain the rhyme and rhythm and had considerable success. However, poets need to read their work aloud or ask someone else to read it to hear how it flows and mark wherever the rhyme and/or rhythm don't quite work. Then they should rework such passages.

Subject matter and style varied widely. For instance, the winning poem, '*The Alphabet of Animals*', reads like a children's alphabet book and makes use of many appealing pictures a reader can see, hear and feel.

The runner-up, '*The Canary*', adopts a simple style in writing about a pet canary and how it behaves.

The Highly Commended poem, '*All I Want*', shows a love of the environment and concern for it, discussing, for instance, the problems of pollution.

The writer of the Commended poem, '*The Tree King*', chose to write about a tree likened to a human king.

Even though the only entry in Part B, '*Why is the World?*' stands out as a winner. The poet chose a challenging subject – the condition of our planet and what needs to be done to save it. It is a young person's passionate cry for sustainability. Despite the heaviness of the subject, some images, such as *Watch the fern's tiny spiral unfurl/slowly, quietly into a curl*, are appealing lyrical lines.

PART 4

**FAW CHRISTOPHER BRENNAN AWARD**

*Sponsored by* **SALLY DUGAN**

This is thirty-ninth year of an award to honour an Australian poet who has written work of sustained quality and distinction.

The Fellowship supplies a special cast bronze plaque designed by Michael Meszaros.

The recipient each year is chosen by judges on behalf of the Fellowship.

It commenced in 1973 and has had no name changes. It is named after Christopher Brennan (1870-1932)

**Judges: Sherryl Clark, Kristin Henry and Kris Hemensley**

**Winner: Jennifer Harrison**