



RESULTS
2008
NATIONAL
LITERARY
AWARDS

conducted by the

Fellowship of Australian Writers (Victoria)





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

The Fellowship of Australian Writers has great pleasure in announcing the results of its 2008 National Literary Awards. I would like to sincerely thank all entrants, sponsors and judges for their interest and support this year, and I congratulate those who have received awards.

Philip Rainford, 2008 President

2009 NATIONAL LITERARY AWARDS

The 2009 National Literary Awards will open on 1st September and close on 30th November 2009.

From August 2009 you will be able to download an entry form from the FAW website: "www.writers.asn.au" or you can obtain one by sending a SSAE to: FAW, PO Box 973, Eltham Vic. 3095

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

ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS (FAW)

FAW was established in 1928 and has branches across Australia. With over 2000 members, 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, advice on contracts, publishing and other matters, the chance to participate in the Poetry at the Peacock readings, Readings at Fed Square and ongoing information about the National Literary Awards.

If you would like information about FAW membership, please visit www.writers.asn.au or write to: Fellowship of Australian Writers, PO Box 973, Eltham Vic. 3095

PART 1: BOOK AWARDS

FAW MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY PUBLISHING AWARD



Sponsored by **Melbourne University Publishing**

In its thirty-sixth year, an award for a non-fiction book first published in Australia, of sustained quality and distinction with an Australian theme.

Commenced in 1978 originally titled the FAW Australian Literature Award. From 1988 to 1993 it was renamed the FAW Australian Natives Association Literature Award and from 1994 to 2000 it was known as the FAW Australian Unity Literature Award. In 2001 it changed name again to its present name.

WINNER (\$1000)

Graham Freudenberg	Churchill and Australia	NSW	Pan Macmillan
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HIGHLY COMMENDED

Greg de Moore	Tom Wills: His Spectacular Rise and Tragic Fall	NSW	Allen and Unwin
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COMMENDED

David Levell	Tour to Hell: Convict Australia's Great Escape Myths	QLD	University of Queensland Press
Richard Travers	Diggers in France: Australian Soldiers on the Western Front	NSW	ABC Books

Judges: Jean Thornton and Dr Bill Anderson

Fifty-seven books were entered for the award. The standard was high with a pleasing number of excellent books. Given the quality of entries it was difficult to select the winning books but the judges agreed that Graham Freudenberg's entertaining and superbly written *Churchill and Australia* makes an outstanding contribution to Australian history and richly deserves the first prize.

Greg de Moore's biography of sporting legend Tom Wills is a well written, deeply researched and fascinating contribution not only to Australian sports history but to Australian history in general.

David Levell's *Tour to Hell* and Richard Travers' *Diggers in France* display academic and literary distinction of a high order. Both books make compelling reading.



PART 1: BOOK AWARDS

FAW CHRISTINA STEAD AWARD

Sponsored by **Merchant of Fairness Bookshop**



In its twenty second year, an award for a work of fiction first published in Australia.

Commenced in 1987 and has never changed its name. Named after Christina Stead who was born and raised in Australia but spent the bulk of her life abroad, living in London (1928-29), Paris (1929-37), USA (1937-47), Europe (1947-53), and England (1953-1974) before returning to Australia to live.

After graduating from Sydney Teachers' College in 1921, Stead taught only until 1924 when she resigned to work as an office clerk. She left Australia for London in 1928 in order to fulfill a longing that would be similarly reflected by greater numbers of Australian literary figures some forty years later. She met her husband, William Blake, a successful Marxist banker, in London and moved with him to Paris in 1929. There she worked as a secretary in a French bank for five years. She followed her husband around the USA and Europe until he died in 1968. The next year Stead visited Australia for the first time since she departed some forty years earlier, and returned to live there permanently in 1974.

Considered by many to have been one of Australia's greatest novelists, she was often spoken of in Nobel Prize terms, especially in regards to her greatest novel *The Man Who Loved Children* which was based heavily on her childhood.

Christina Stead died in Australia in 1983

WINNER (\$500)

Caroline Hamilton	Consumed	NSW	ABC Books
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HIGHLY COMMENDED

Steve Toltz	A Fraction Of A Whole	VIC	Penguin Group (Australia)
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COMMENDED

David Francis	Stray Dog Winter	NSW	Allen & Unwin
Lee Tulloch	The Woman In The Lobby	VIC	Penguin Group (Australia)
Michael Foster	The Young Magician	WA	
Robin Stewart	M-City	VIC	Be Published
Vicki Hastrich	The Great Arch	NSW	Allen & Unwin

Judges: Molly Travers, Gail Blundell and Philip Rainford

Given that this award is for a Fictional Novel, it is surprising how many poetry anthologies and poetry novels were submitted which are not really appropriate entries for this category. We also had a number of teenage novels that were fiercely competing with adult novels for a place which is probably an unfair competition given the more complex nature of adult novels. We found it encouraging to see a number of self-published novels but many fell down due to a lack of attention to editing which was unfortunate because a number of good story tellers were among the entries. There also seems to be a tendency for lengthy novels, some of which achieved their goal through stretching out the story rather than creating greater story depth or shocking the reader through excessive use of swear words that detracted from rather than enhanced the story or character development..

The Winner "Consumed" was chosen because of its uniqueness, a journey into an extremely twisted mind. An intensely horrible while brilliantly sustained story of cooking, growing and marketing of food amidst a background of murder and retaliation with well-developed characters, excellent settings and brilliant writing.

"A Fraction of the Whole" was Highly Commended because of its witty style and content reminiscent of Peter Carey's early work. Philosophical commentary from the almost impartial narrator give pause for thought as he has a go at everyone and everything in an amusing and satirical way.

**The Merchant
of Fairness
Bookshop**

PART 1: BOOK AWARDS

FAW ANNE ELDER AWARD

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



In its thirty second year, an award for a first book of poetry first published in Australia.

Commenced in 1977 and has never changed its name. Named after Anne Josephine Chloe Elder (1918-1976), ballet dancer and poet, born on 4 January 1918 at Remuera, Auckland, New Zealand, elder daughter of Norman Robert Mackintosh, an insurance-manager from Victoria, and his New Zealand-born wife Rena Dillon, née Bell. Anne came to Melbourne with her parents in 1921. Educated at home by a governess and at St Margaret's School, Berwick, she travelled with her family to Norfolk Island and New Zealand, and at the age of 15 to England and Scotland.

After suffering a heart attack about 1968, Elder declined in health and spirits. Passionately attached to natural beauty, she felt the encroachment of suburbia on her home at Eaglemont until in 1972 she and John moved to Parkville while awaiting the completion of Ballindean, their home near Romsey. She died of cardiopulmonary disease complicating scleroderma on 23 October 1976 in Royal Melbourne Hospital and was cremated. Her husband and children survived her. Administered by the Victorian Fellowship of Australian Writers, the Anne Elder award for a first book of poetry was initially presented in 1977.

WINNER (\$1000)

Sandy Fitts	View From The Lucky Hotel	VIC	5 Islands Press
Sarah Holland-Batt	Aria	QLD	University of Queensland Press

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Elizabeth Hodgson	Skin Painting	QLD	University of Queensland Press
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COMMENDED

David Adès	Mapping The World	SA	Wakefield Press
Carol Jenkins	Fishing In The Devonian	NSW	

Judges: Connie Barber, Jennifer Harrison

Engaging with a wide variety of styles and surprising philosophical interests is the most illuminating and demanding aspect of a judge's task. In this year's books there is a range of artistic approaches and language skills: polished literary writing, singular meditation, experimental nuance and innovative approaches to subjects and structures.

First publications once came from beginning writers. Now many are from mature, experienced artists. All entrants should be commended for their valuable contributions to the possibilities of poetry.

We could not distinguish different categories of value as 'poetry writing' between the two we have placed first: in one the literary skill and humanity of a mature intelligence and in the other the humanity and vibrancy of a much younger writer. We were impressed by both writers' innovative poetics. Rarely has Australia received two such finely articulated first collections in one year.

In other books we found the powerful voice of an indigenous writer, the delicacy of a writer recreating the short life of a young woman in pioneering days, a representation of the mistresses of a world famous artist, the innovative use of a scientific frame for metaphor, evocative love poetry, and a contemplative investigation of subjects as diverse as a cochlear implant and a mother's new coat. These substantial books all embraced intelligent themes of the human condition.

The awarded authors and all other entries should be congratulated for expressing their most profound thoughts in this most demanding and intriguing form of art.

PART 1: BOOK AWARDS

BARBARA RAMSDEN AWARD

Sponsored by **Society of Editors & the Fellowship of Australian Writers (Victoria)**



In its twenty fifth year for a major literary award for a book of quality writing in any field of literature and recognises the contribution by both author and editor in producing the final product.

The Fellowship supplies two specially cast bronze plaques designed by renowned sculptor and medallionist, Michael Meszaros, which is presented to the author and the publisher's editor to recognise the combined effort of both parties to achieve final result. The design is of the Origin of Art, showing the creator at work, and a figure representing the forces that ensure its effective communication.

This award commenced in 1971 and ran twenty two years until 1992 and was revived in 2006 with the support of the Society of Editors.

Named in honour of Barbara Mary Ramsden (1903-1971), editor, born on 27 December 1903 at Annandale, Sydney, eldest of three children and only daughter of Edward Maxwell Ramsden, a Melbourne-born medical student, and his wife Edith Johnson, née Hindley, who came from England. The family moved to Richmond, Melbourne, and later to Adaminaby and Bathurst, both in New South Wales. From 1919 Barbara boarded at Ascham school, Sydney. Her early interest in medicine appeared to wane and in 1924 she enrolled in arts at the University of Sydney. In the following year she moved with her mother and youngest brother to Melbourne and in 1926 entered the University of Melbourne (B.A., 1928). She obtained employment as a clerk in the university's engineering and metallurgy library in May 1928. Transferred to the central library in June 1931, she worked there part time and in the book-room of Melbourne University Press before performing the duties of assistant-reader with the publishers.

Winners:

Editor: Elise Jones

Writer: Kim Kane

Judges: Janet Mackenzie, Ms Renée Otmar, Stephanie Holt

The books submitted for the 2008 Barbara Ramsden Award reveal the diversity of editorial roles, from providing critical suggestions about structure to identifying nuances of voice and vocabulary, helping select and refine a collection of poems, and guiding a first-time author.

The winners of the award, for *Pip: The Story of Olive*, are author Kim Kane and editor Elise Jones. In a very exacting genre – the young adult novel – we were particularly impressed by the delicate handling of the eponymous Pip, an imaginary friend, and the fluent narrative enlivened by well-rounded characters, convincingly realised settings and delightful use of language, with exemplary attention to detail throughout.

Given that this award recognises both individual editors and the value of editing more generally, we were disappointed that several otherwise impressive books entered were let down by frequent, distracting copyediting and proofreading errors; offering the judges (not to mention ordinary readers) a book in this state is like sending a designer gown down a Fashion Week runway without bothering to iron it first.

We urge publishers to adequately resource the editing of their books, at all levels, and encourage them to recognise the input of editors by including editorial credits in their books.

Trophy by
**Michael
Meszaros**



PART 2: MANUSCRIPT AWARDS

FAW MALVERN NEWS SHEET COMMUNITY WRITERS' AWARD



Sponsored by the **Malvern News Sheet**

In its twelfth year, for an anthology by a community writers' group. Commenced in 1997 originally titled the FAW SAAB Community Writers Award, it was renamed in 1999 the FAW Community Writers Award and gained its present title in 2001 when the Malvern Newsheet community publication wound up and donated part of its capital to sponsor this award.

WINNER (\$500)

Port Phillip Prisoners	That Summer And Other Stories	VIC
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HIGHLY COMMENDED

Flemington Kensington Writers' Group	Undertow	VIC
Tuesday Writers	The Pen At Work	VIC

Judge: Elizabeth Owen

The competitors in this award are all to be congratulated on the professionalism of the entries.

As in any venture carried out by a group some contributors' work is of a higher standard than others. This occurred both within individual anthologies and across the spectrum of the different entries.

There were a moderate number of entries showing writing, which is often a solitary pursuit, can benefit from communal activity.

The range of concerns addressed by the competitors was pleasingly great as was the style of the writing.

There were considerably fewer poetry entries than short stories which was quite surprising given the resurgence of the former art form in Australia.

In the final analysis the winning entry gained its award from the ability of the authors to access and recreate the inner world of their subjects.

It was this controlled sensitivity which stood out although other entries are also to be commended for the imaginativeness of their work.

The winning entry is: "That Summer and Other Stories" for a tightly knit anthology of consistent quality across all stories and some particularly excellent work.

"Undertow" by the Flemington Kensington Writers Group is Highly Commended also for its range and quality across quite a large number of entries.

"The Pen at Work", by the Tuesday Writers is also Highly Commended for the humanity with which its subjects are recreated.

All community groups should be certain to adhere to the Conditions of Entry as incidence of the lack of adherence was taken into account in the judging.

*Malvern NewsSheet
Community Writers
Award*

PART 2: MANUSCRIPT AWARDS

FAW JENNIFER BURBIDGE SHORT STORY AWARD



Sponsored by **Mary Burbidge**

In its eighth year, in honour of Jennifer Burbidge, 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.

Commenced in 2000 and has never changed its name.

WINNER (\$250)

Maggie Veness	Complimentary With Surveillance	NSW
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HIGHLY COMMENDED

Belinda Grieve	Don't Mind Me	NSW
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COMMENDED

Joan Reid	Made In China	VIC
Maggie Veness	Pilgrimage	NSW

Judge: Mary Burbidge

Most stories were of a good standard and nearly all improved on the second reading. However more effort put into transforming an account into a shaped and imaginative story and more attention to spelling and grammar are needed before the also-rans can be considered as possible winners. There were several well-written stories I would have like to recognize, and choosing the winner was quite difficult.

The winning story, *Complimentary with Surveillance*, is a skillful depiction of the thought processes of a person with serious paranoia and how these shape the person's life. It deftly creates empathy and builds tension to a tragic conclusion and is marred only by an unnecessary closing paragraph.

Don't Mind Me explores the burgeoning relationships of a young man living with the challenges of Multiple Sclerosis, written mostly from his quirky viewpoint

Made in China deals with the all-encompassing love of an adoptive mother when tragedy changes everything and *Pilgrimage* is a tender story of kindness and endeavour.

Mary Burbidge

PART 2: MANUSCRIPT AWARDS

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



Sponsored by **Wellington Shire Council**

In its twenty-eighth year, for a manuscript written for readers aged 10-15 years with a special prize for winners from Gippsland.

Commenced in 1981 and has never changed its name. Named after Mary Grant Bruce born: 24 May 1878 in Sale, Victoria, Australia. Died: 2 July 1958 Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex, England.

The author of the Billabong series of books, Mary Grant Bruce began writing poetry and short stories at the age of seven. Later she became editor of her school magazine. After completing her matriculation Bruce moved to Melbourne where she worked as an editor and wrote weekly stories for the Leader children's page. Her first book A Little Bush Maid, originally a serial, was published in 1910. Between 1910 and 1942 she published 37 children's novels. During her career Bruce was a contributor to Blackwood's Magazine, Morning Post, Daily Mail, Windsor Magazine, Cassell's Magazine, Strand, Argus, Age, Herald (Melbourne), Australasian, Leader, Sydney Morning Herald, Sydney Mail, Lone Hand Auckland Weekly Press, Woman's World, West Australian and the British Australasian. During World War II Bruce worked for the AIF Women's Association, sold her autograph at charity auctions for the war effort and broadcast a series of talks for the Department of Information.

WINNER (\$600)

Aleesah Darlison	The Trouble With Zen Treehorn	NSW
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SECOND PRIZE (\$300)

Anna Quinlan	Grandpa's Shed	ACT
Paula Wilson	High Ground	VIC

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Aleesah Darlison	Swallow Hollow	NSW
Sandra James	The Great McDonalds War	VIC

GIPPSLAND REGIONAL AWARD (\$200)

Sandra James	The Great McDonalds War	VIC
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Judge: Margaret Campbell

The Trouble with Zen Treehorn was a clear winner in this year's awards, an outstanding story, tension-filled and yet gentle, revealing the repercussions of an older brother's assumed responsibility. Equal second were Grandpa's Shed: a boy longs for his own space and his grandfather's legacy offers the refuge, and High Ground: a young girl's effort to save her grandmother and animals from a rising flood.

The winner of the Gippsland Writer Award was The Great McDonald's War exploring the theme of respecting difference and working together for a positive outcome.

The winning entries were the results of great ideas and the writers' imagination and skill to craft believable, captivating stories enjoyable to read.

Characterisation, dialogue, structure and language are essential considerations in story writing but, in many entries, their impact was lost in poor grammar, spelling, punctuation and presentation.



PART 2: MANUSCRIPT AWARDS

FAW JOHN SHAW NEILSON POETRY AWARD

Sponsored by **Collected Works Bookshop**

In its thirty-eighth year, for a poem or suite of poems of sustained quality and distinction by an Australian Author.

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.) Due to the family's precarious lifestyle on the land, Neilson only completed two and a half years of schooling before returning to work on his family's farm. His first work was published in the Bulletin magazine in 1896 and he continued to write in the years that followed. During his lifetime he published 3 collections of his poetry: Heart of Spring in 1919, Ballad and Lyrical Poems in 1923 and New Poems in 1927. His Collected Poems edited by R.H. Croll was published in 1934. In the latter part of his life poor health and a move to Melbourne diminished his writing output and he died in 1942.



WINNER (\$600)

Ross Gillett	My Grandfather's Art	VIC
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SECOND PRIZE (\$150)

David Musgrave	Prothalamion	NSW
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HIGHLY COMMENDED

Gavin Austin	Footprints On The Moon	NSW
Anthony Watson	Lost	VIC
Eva Collins	My Parents	VIC

COMMENDED

John Stokes	Beginning Again	ACT
Sharon Kernot	Sex Scene	SA
Marjorie Ward	Women At The Pool	VIC

Judge: Garth Madson

The best competitions are always the hardest to judge. This year's batch of poems was rich with work by poets in control of their craft. The first ten poems I read went straight onto the long list before I realised I would have to bring more stringent criteria to the initial judging. Even then, a third of the poems made the long list. The best poems in any competition are always unique. They often take us into areas where we as individual readers have never thought of going before, although these may be so everyday, so very familiar. So familiar and yet so unique. This is the case with this year's winning poem, "My Grandfather's Art". It is in two sections, two minor incidents between a grandson and a grandfather that capture a relationship, two characters and a bridge between generations. It links boys and men, youth with old age. The details are sparse and the emphasis is on what does not quite happen, but the second section builds on the first and is enriched by it. The second placed poem, 'Prothalamion', if the title is to be believed, was written to celebrate an event, a wedding. It does much more than this, it plots out a journey, both literal and metaphoric, delicious in its choice of details. Like the winning poem, 'Prothalamion' holds the personal close and the universal closer. Also worthy of mention were 'Love', 'The End of this Road', 'Quicksand', 'The Witching Hour', 'Homecoming', 'monster' and 'Users'.

Collected Works
Bookshop

PART 2: MANUSCRIPT AWARDS



FAW JIM HAMILTON AWARD

Sponsored by **Eltham High School**

In its fifteenth year, for an unpublished novel of sustained quality and distinction by an Australian Author.

Commenced in 1994 and has never changed its name. 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.

WINNER (\$1000)

Clare Carlin	Excursions	VIC
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COMMENDED

Paulette Gittins	The Beautiful Country	VIC
Sulari Goonetilleke	Chasing Odysseus	NSW

Judges: Robert Watson and Renée Otmar

The winning entry, *Excursions*, was easily the best. The novel reveals much of what is unique about living in contemporary Australia, without resorting to cliché. The author's skill manifests in the spare, dream-like quality of the writing – that is severe on occasion, yet unwaveringly attentive and consistent in tone throughout.

Many entries – short and long – were of excessive length. The appropriate length of a novel may well be compared with that of a piece of string, but it is also always a work of compression and concision. The great, cathartic 'moments' in a manuscript can be achieved by the writer's own severe editorial choices, by distilling a ferment of ideas into a few just sentences or pages. Most entrants sought the cathartic moment by writing more pages.

Some common shortcomings:

*Idiomatic and vernacular dialogue often failed the test of verisimilitude and originality.

*Few manuscripts dealt with or presented significant contemporary issues and perspectives (except in 'young adult' examples).

*Narrative formats in some cases resembled ordinary TV drama: parallel narratives, interstices at points of tension etc.

*Endings: sometimes a good story was let down by its conclusion. Implied epiphanies did not necessarily suffice.

A large number of entries were fantasy/sword & sorcery genre pieces of inordinate length. These were hard to line up against the other entries.

At least eight entries were deemed 'publishable' by the judges. That is, they were works that not only exhibited a degree of literary craft, taste and intelligence, but would also reward a repeat reading.

Eltham High
School

PART 2: MANUSCRIPT AWARDS

FAW ANGELO B. NATOLI SHORT STORY AWARD



Sponsored by **A.B Natoli Pty**

In its ninth year, for a short story of up to 3,000 words of sustained quality and distinction by an Australian Author.

Commenced in 1999. 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.

It has its origins in the FAW "K&M Teychenne" Short Story Award (1990 to 1993) and the Lyn Anne Simmonds Short Story Award (1994 to 1998).

WINNER (\$600)

Margaret Sutherland	The Camphor Laurel	NSW
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SECOND PRIZE (\$400)

Jacqui Dent	Panthers Ahead	NSW
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HIGHLY COMMENDED

Marjorie Lewis-Jones	Home Free	NSW
Rafael S.W	Balloon Children	VIC
Kate Rotherham	Go Well	VIC

COMMENDED

Sharon Kernot	Standing Tall	SA
Julie Twohig	Paradise	VIC

Judge: Louise Le Nay

This year the overall standard of the entries was extremely high, which meant the stories that made it to the short lists were greater in number than in previous years, and harder to separate. All the stories showed style and sophistication.

Many stories established interesting characters in challenging situations, but often lost momentum. The resolution in these stories tended towards a simple morality play – the hero was always given the winning hand, and the villain a comeuppance. While this is the way we'd like life to be, it rarely is. The journey of the hero is often a journey of failure, through which growth is achieved.

The winning entries are diametrically different in style – the real (The Camphor Laurel), and the absurd (Panthers Ahead). They each demonstrate tenderness and insight into human frailty. The writers are skilled wordsmiths, and story craftsmen.

The protagonist in The Camphor Laurel is a flawed woman – nursing anger, resentment, fear and self-consciousness – while appearing on the outside to be the Dutiful Daughter. All the characters of The Camphor Laurel are drawn tenderly, but with a sharp eye.

In Panthers Ahead, we are swept into a surreal world. But the choices that face our main character, Molly – while comical and unusual - are still the choices of everyday life. Her choice to act selflessly brings unexpected results with cosmic ramifications.

As always, I was amazed and humbled by the scope of the story ideas. My congratulations to the winners and commended, and thanks, as always, to the FAW for the privilege and pleasure of reading the entries.



PART 2: MANUSCRIPT AWARDS



FAW DI CRANSTON AWARD

Sponsored by **Di Cranston**

In its twenty-first year for a play, screenplay or TV script of sustained quality and distinction by an Australian Author under aged 25.

Commenced in 1988 as the FAW Young Writers Script Award with two categories titled the FAW Adele Shelton-Smith Award and the FAW Di Cranston Award. These categories were merged into one award in 2004.

WINNER (\$250)

Sara Bovolenta	Christoph Menz	NSW
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HIGHLY COMMENDED

Luke Preston	The Adventures Of Abigail Storm	VIC
Reece Pocock	The Soldiers	SA
Anne Morgan	Cockroaches 'r' Us	TAS

COMMENDED

Maurice Strandgard	Massacre	VIC
Luke Preston	Undercover	VIC
Margaret Watts	Ferallee's Fortune	NSW

Judge: Peter Krausz

Although the number of entries for this category were fewer than last year, the overall quality was higher. It was good to see writers attempting genre pieces, as well as trying some more unusual approaches to often-told stories. The emergence of higher quality screenplays is good to see, and demonstrates that writers are now prepared to invest more time into what has generally been an underdeveloped form of writing. I will comment however that I was surprised to see that most entries had spelling mistakes. In the scheme of things that does not mean a great deal (apart from indicating a lack of quality control/proofing) but in a few cases the spelling error could have indicated two different words, altering the possible meaning/intention of the text.

The winner, Christoph Menz, although essentially another holocaust drama, had a freshness of perspective and a fine sense of drama and personal tragedy, presented as a compelling screenplay. The depiction of the German doctor as being a man of high cultural ideals, transcended the issues of politics and hate with his attempts to save his Jewish pupil who is a fine singer. Many issues related to identity, murder, war, personal responsibility and cultural hatred are pursued by this fine piece of writing.

I can only encourage writers to keep developing their plays and screenplays, in the context of re-working tried and tested genres, or attempting original approaches to stories and issues, that provide the reader with challenging ways to explore narrative meaning.

Di
Cranston

PART 2: MANUSCRIPT AWARDS

FAW WHITE LIGHT FEATURE FILM SCRIPT AWARD



Sponsored by **White Light Productions**

In its forth year, for a play, screenplay or TV script written by a writer aged 25 or under.

WINNER (\$250)

Sara Bovolenta	Christoph Menz	NSW
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COMMENDED

Anne Morgan	Cockroaches 'r' Us	TAS
Jane Waite	Ellen Macdeath And The Toe-tag Tango	TAS

Judge: Angelo Salamanca

The response to the White Light Productions Feature Film Script Award received 8 entries. There was a good mix of the cinematic and tele-movie material. I was delighted to see some screenplays written for children.

Essentially, I look for compelling material affording strong imagery through gripping big print, engaging dialogue, and non hackneyed story-lines.

Premises, themes and genres screen-writers tackled this year were, very diverse: man's inhumanity to man; enterprising youngsters; sexual politics; love found and lost; love lost and found; dark satire in a futuristic milieu; the pros and cons of being hirsute; period dramas set during WW2; dangerous liaisons and family scams; the glue - or lack of it - that binds the family unit.

Unfortunately some writers neglected to present their screenplays in the industry standard format. I would urge anyone unsure of the correct formatting to simply look up relevant websites such as Film Victoria's and seek information. Prospective producers / assessors appreciate the effort taken to correctly format a script. I hasten to add, however, that in this case, the incorrectly formatted scripts were not disadvantaged.

Notwithstanding some under-developed scripts, the writing overall was of a high standard. I believe the winner 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 **Fellowship of Australian (FAW) Inc**

In its thirty second year, (for writers aged 8 – 12 years) for a poem of sustained quality and distinction by an Australian Author under 16 years.

Commenced in 1976 and was originally the FAW CJ Dennis Poetry Award. It was renamed in 2003 as there were a number of CJ Dennis awards run by other organisations and the new name reflected the spirit of the award.

WINNER (\$100)

Emily Seiler	Bye-Bye Australia	QLD
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HIGHLY COMMENDED

Benjamin Clark	Men In Suits	VIC SA
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COMMENDED

Benjamin Clark	A Money Spider	VIC
Hannah Holmes	The Lonely Tree	VIC

Judge: Shirley Randles

All entries were generally of a good standard and demonstrated much thought and effort went into the writing process. Care was taken with presentation but at times rhythm or rhyme was too contrived and inconsistent. Entrants chose to write either in rhyme or free verse and most covered issues dealing with the environment or emotions. Those who did not gain a place should keep writing and not be discouraged.

'Bye Bye Australia,' is a well maintained lament on the lack of value placed on Australia's heritage and achievements. Men in Suits succinctly contrasts the difference between greed, wealth and poverty

PART 3: YOUNG WRITERS' AWARDS

FAW YOUNG POET OF THE YEAR AWARD Part B



Sponsored by **Fellowship of Australian (FAW) Inc**

In its fifteenth year, (for writers aged 13 – 16 years) for a poem of sustained quality and distinction by an Australian Author under 16 years.

Commenced in 1976 and was originally the FAW CJ Dennis Poetry Award. It was renamed in 2003 as there were a number of CJ Dennis awards run by other organisations and the new name reflected the spirit of the award.

WINNER (\$150)

Rosie Hingston	Jack	VIC
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HIGHLY COMMENDED

Jack Burnham	In Memoriam	QLD SA
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COMMENDED

Alex Northcott	Sanctuary Doesn't Exist	VIC
Georgia Ross	Coming Of Age - Lola Alice Goodman	VIC

Judge: Shirley Randles

Thirty-seven entries covered a diverse range of emotional topics ranging from death, the environment, love, aging and war. All entrants showed a genuine desire to express themselves either in rhyme or free verse. Poems were carefully presented and varied in length from one page to twelve pages. When writing poetry it may be helpful to read the work aloud and listen critically for over-use of words such as 'and, but, even, actually.' Particularly in the longer poems the impact was slowed or lost by unnecessary use of these types of words.

Jack sustains an eerie atmosphere throughout the poem which portrays characters thoughts and provides a theory to Jack the Ripper's identity.

Lawrence Binyon's lines For the Fallen are inserted into *In Memoriam* to provocatively compare how youth of today embrace a carefree but dangerous lifestyle.

PART 3: YOUNG WRITERS' AWARDS

FAW MICHAEL DUGAN SHORT STORY AWARD Part A



Sponsored by **Penguin Books Australia**

In its fourteenth year, (for writers aged 8 – 12 years) for a short story of sustained quality and distinction by an Australian Author under 16 years.

Commenced some thirty-two years ago in 1976 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. It was renamed in 2006 in memory of Michael Dugan and his contributions to writers and writing in general in Australia and for nearly thirty-five years service to the FAW. As there were a number of Alan Marshall awards run by other organisations it was felt appropriate that the name change occur.

WINNER (\$100)

Phoebe Leung	Gemma And The Eggies	VIC
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HIGHLY COMMENDED

Phoebe Leung	Journey To The Rainbow	VIC
Genevieve Thorpe	Bluey The Whale	VIC

COMMENDED

Gemma Murphy	The Hidden Past	VIC
Thomas Williams	The Chronicles Of Fanteria	VIC
Benjamin Clark	The Story Of A Pixel	VIC

Judge: Shirley Hassen

All entries were well written. Many were badly presented, pages not numbered, names having to be blanked from work, no title on one, typed both sides of the page. Assortment of fonts and sizes. Font should be as the competition states. These oversights were some of the reasons for my judging.

I found, as with every Awards entry, that there is much talent out there.

To the next Award entrants, I would advise you to comply with the award rules. TITLE - LINES DOUBLE SPACE- TYPE ONE SIDE OF THE PAPER - DO NOT INCLUDE YOUR REAL NAME ON YOUR WORK-AND FONT SIZE.

I enjoyed reading the entries and as usual, was sorry that every entry couldn't win. But just remember; Keep entering competitions because you could be the next winner, so do not take heart, just keep on writing and editing ... writing and editing.



PART 3: YOUNG WRITERS' AWARDS

FAW MICHAEL DUGAN SHORT STORY AWARD Part B



Sponsored by **Penguin Books Australia**

In its fifteenth year, (for writers aged 13 – 16 years) for a short story of sustained quality and distinction by an Australian Author under 16 years.

Commenced some thirty-two years ago in 1976 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. It was renamed in 2006 in memory of Michael Dugan and his contributions to writers and writing in general in Australia and for nearly thirty-five years service to the FAW. As there were a number of Alan Marshall awards run by other organisations it was felt appropriate that the name change occur.

WINNER (\$150)

Rebecca Abbott	Crack In The Pavement	VIC
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HIGHLY COMMENDED

Dimos Micheloudalakis	The Search For Tutenkhaman's Tomb	VIC
Bianca Louise Kowalczyk	Going Home	VIC

COMMENDED

Rebecca Abbott	Kind Of Funny	VIC
Rebecca Abbott	Penny Pan	VIC
Becky Bunting	Sophie	NSW

Judge: Shirley Hassen

All entries were well written. Many were badly presented, pages not numbered, names having to be blanked from work, no title on one, typed both sides of the page. Assortment of fonts and sizes. Font should be as the competition states. These oversights were some of the reasons for my judging.

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PART 3: YOUNG WRITERS' AWARDS

FAW COLIN THIELE POETRY AWARD



Sponsored by **Be Published Pty Ltd**

In its twenty-fourth year for a poem of sustained quality and distinction by an Australian Author between 15-20 years.

Commenced in 1984 and has never changed its name. Named after Colin Thiele, one of Australia's most prolific and popular writers for children. He was born in 1920 in Eudunda, South Australia. His paternal grandfather migrated from Germany to South Australia in 1855. In 1945, Thiele married Rhonda Gill and they have two daughters.

WINNER (\$200)

Aksel Dadswell

The Dead Cathedral

WA

SECOND PRIZE (\$100)

Yue Zhuo

The Adult

VIC

Judge: Grant Caldwell

The winning poems were chosen from a collection of generally disappointing entries. The winning poems evidence some originality of language and rhythm, and they are (the winning poem particularly) substantial poems that are sustained and focused. There were some poems that made a genuine attempt at emotional exploration but these poems were flawed, one even seemed to have left out a word. Other poems were cliché or tired in language or idea (some suggested they were written from set exercises), or else employed antiquated rhyming patterns.

Many of these young poets seem to be at a loss as to what to write about, and it is incumbent on their teachers, or on the poets themselves, to find those things that interest them, not what they think people want to hear about, and to write about them in their own natural voices, without attempting to push or strangle their language unnaturally. They should look at published poets whose work they enjoy, and see how these poets use language, especially how they used language in their early writing.



PART 3: YOUNG WRITERS' AWARDS

FAW JOHN MORRISON SHORT STORY AWARD



Sponsored by **Paul Jennings**

In its forty-third year for a short story of sustained quality and distinction by an Australian Author between 15-20 years.

Commenced in 1965 as the FAW State of Victoria Short Story Award, which ceased in 1989. Named after John Gordon Morrison, born in Sunderland, England in 1904 and migrated to Australia in 1923. Initially working on sheep-stations in NSW, in the 1930s he began a ten-year stint working on the Melbourne waterfront and subsequently joined the Communist Party. He published his first stories under the name of "Gordon" in trade union magazines during this time. He was later a member of the Realist Writer Group and went on to publish two novels, four collections of stories and a book of essays. After leaving the waterfront he worked as a gardener until 1963 when he became a full-time writer, publishing also book reviews and journalism. 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. He died in 1998.

WINNER (\$200)

Matthew Dunn	Lennox House	NSW
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SECOND PRIZE (\$100)

Zoya Patel	Mary's House	NSW
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COMMENDED

Anna Houghton	Our Future	VIC
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Judge: Fred Curtis

Conceptually, there are some inspired images among the entries this year, examples include a protagonist who vacuum cleans the world, clones that threaten to replace mankind, a haunting and more.

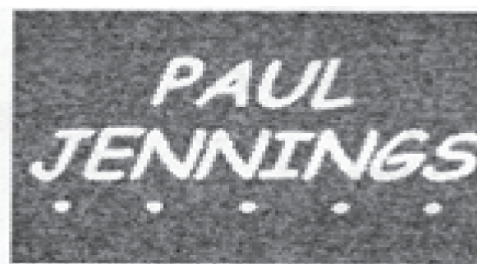
Most of the stories are dark, reflecting, it would seem, the 'Emo' stereotype as defined by Wikipedia: emotional, sensitive, shy, introverted or angsty and associated with depression, self-injury and suicide.

There is nothing wrong with this, but the collective melancholy is a bit overpowering, making me suggest that there is much joy in the world and that a sense of humour is vital to the creative soul. Have a look at some of the stories in The Roald Dahl Omnibus (Barnes and Noble 1993).

'Lennox House' and 'Mary's House' (first and second respectively) deal with disturbed minds, both have believable, yet unexpected endings.

'Our Future' (commended) suggests that mankind might not have a future, yet towards the end, reveals hope in an act of kindness.

A spelling mistake, like any error in writing, distracts the reader by drawing attention to itself. Not editing out such blots allows the reader's mind to drift. Add other faults, like bad grammar, and a barrier grows between the written and the read word. Writer's workshops are an ideal way of finding out if you are guilty of such sins and how to seek absolution. As Mark Tredinnick says in The Little Green Grammar Book (UNSW Press 2009), 'Grammar counts because it makes meaning possible, and meaning is what writers are trying to make.'



PART 3: YOUNG WRITERS' AWARDS

FAW MAVIS THORPE CLARK AWARD PART 1



Sponsored by **Graeme & Robyn Base**

In its fourteenth year for an anthology of sustained quality and distinction by an Australian student.

Commenced in 1994 with no name changes. Named in honour of Mavis Thorpe Clark who was born 26 June, 1909 in Melbourne, Australia. Died: 8 July, 1999 Melbourne, Australia.

Mavis Thorpe Clark was a prolific writer of children's fiction who, in late life, also wrote for adults. In the process of researching her first adult book, Pastor Doug, the biography of Sir Douglas Nicholls, she created a large archive of letters and correspondence of relevance to indigenous scholarship.

Mavis Thorpe Clark was born in Melbourne, Victoria, in 1909. Her writing career began at the age of 14, when the Australasian published, as a children's serial, her work The Red School, by no means a masterpiece, but her first literary endeavour. Her first published book, written when she was 18 and sold to Whitcombe and Tombs in 1930 for the then handsome sum of £30, was Hatherley's First Fifteen, a boy's adventure story about Rugby football.

WINNER (\$350)

Maree Risteski	The Starless Midnight Sky	VIC
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HIGHLY COMMENDED)

Milena Andricc	Flying Freely	VIC
Abigail Budiawan	Australiana	NSW

COMMENDED

Lauren Hawkins	Written By Me!	VIC
Cassie Bleechmore	Doing The World A Favour	VIC
Rosie Hingston	Jack	VIC

Judge: Shirley Hassen

All entries were well written. Many were badly presented, pages not numbered, names having to be blanked from work, no title on one, typed both sides of the page. Assortment of fonts and sizes. Font should be as the competition states. These oversights were some of the reasons for my judging.

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I enjoyed reading the entries and as usual, was sorry that every entry couldn't win. But just remember; Keep entering competitions because you could be the next winner, so do not take heart, just keep on writing and editing ... writing and editing.

GRAEME & ROBYN
BASE

PART 3: YOUNG WRITERS' AWARDS

FAW MAVIS THORPE CLARK AWARD PART 2



Sponsored by **Graeme & Robyn Base**

In its fourteenth year for an anthology of sustained quality and distinction by a group of secondary school students.

Commenced in 1994 with no name changes. Named in honour of Mavis Thorpe Clark who was born 26 June, 1909 in Melbourne, Australia. Died: 8 July, 1999 Melbourne, Australia.

Mavis Thorpe Clark was a prolific writer of children's fiction who, in late life, also wrote for adults. In the process of researching her first adult book, Pastor Doug, the biography of Sir Douglas Nicholls, she created a large archive of letters and correspondence of relevance to indigenous scholarship.

Mavis Thorpe Clark was born in Melbourne, Victoria, in 1909. Her writing career began at the age of 14, when the Australasian published, as a children's serial, her work The Red School, by no means a masterpiece, but her first literary endeavour. Her first published book, written when she was 18 and sold to Whitcombe and Tombs in 1930 for the then handsome sum of £30, was Hatherley's First Fifteen, a boy's adventure story about Rugby football.

WINNER (\$200)

Fahan School	It Takes A Thought To Make A Word	TAS
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HIGHLY COMMENDED)

Eltham High School	A Mix Of Minds And Worlds	VIC
Eltham College of Education	Places In The Mind	VIC

Judge: Helen Cerne

The 2008 FAW Mavis Thorpe Clark secondary schools category was disappointing because of a lack of entries. I would like to encourage, applaud and commend the schools that did enter for their diverse memorable prose and expressive poetry. It's great to see a new generation of writers with vibrant voices and credible characters exploring raw human experience.

'It takes a thought to make a word' by Fahan Writing Class is well presented, a strong anthology exploring effectively clever narratives and poetic responses to literary allusions.

A Mix of Minds and Worlds by Eltham High School is a very good collection of work with effective visual and emotional imagery, a pity it was not securely bound for judging.

Places in the Mind by Eltham College of Education is a concise insightful collection which competently combines emotional subjects with engaging characters.

However, schools should read the judging guidelines and conditions of entry as both these good collections should have had 1.5 spacing for easier reading.

GRAEME & ROBYN

BASE

PART 4

FAW CHRISTOPHER BRENNAN AWARD



Sponsored by **SALLY DUGAN**

The thirty-fourth 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.

Commenced in 1973 and has had no name changes. Named after Christopher Brennan (1870-1932) was born in Sydney and educated at St Ignatius College on a scholarship founded by Cardinal Moran. After school he was expected to enrol in theology college but instead opted for Arts at the University of Sydney. He studied classics and philosophy and graduated in 1892. He won a scholarship in that year and travelled to the University of Berlin where he studied philosophy. Distracted by a love-affair and the attraction of French symbolist writers, he didn't complete his doctorate but returned to Sydney in 1894. He worked in the Public Library - while writing his first poetry - until 1909 when he was finally offered a position as a lecturer in modern literature at the University of Sydney, raising to associate professor in German and comparative literature. In 1897 Brennan published a booklet of his poems titled XVIII Poems: Being the First Collection of Verse and Prose by Christopher Brennan, and followed this later in the year with XXI Poems: (1893-1897) Towards the Source. In December 1914 he published his major collection of works titled simply Poems, but which is usually referred to as Poems (1913).

Judges: Sheryl Clark, Kristin Henry and Kris Hemensley

Winner: Robert Gray

**Sally
Dugan**

Trophy by
**Michael
Meszaros**

PART 5

FAW ADAM LINDSAY GORDON COMMEMORATIVE AWARD



Sponsored by **Adam Lindsay Gordon Commemorative Committee Inc**

For entry by an Australian poet for a poem that relates to the life of the Australian poet Adam Lindsay Gordon.

PART A: Open Professional Section — eligible to poets 17 years and above.

WINNER (A COLD CAST BRONZE STATUE OF AN ARABIAN HORSE)

P.S. Cottier	Swimming at Flemington	ACT
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PART B: Open Section for unpublished poets aged 17 years and above.

WINNER (\$300)

Merrilyn Crabbe	Policeman, Horseman, Politician and Friend	VIC
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PART C: Student Section for students aged 12 - 16 years inclusive.

WINNER (\$200)

Jack Burnham	For A.L.G. Requiescat in Pace	QLD
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Judge: Meg McNena

A: The entries show an understanding for the life and times of Adam Lindsay Gordon. However, the winner conveyed a lyrical empathy, which elevated the poetry beyond a chronology of events.

B: Use of half rhymes in the winning poem renders the rhyme-scheme more subtle. It is also effective to build the poem around one aspect of Adam Lindsay Gordon's rich life, the gum at Yallum Park.

C: Short lines, a trotting rhythm and use of a refrain add power to the winning poem.



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