



Volume 6, Issue 1 February 2011

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Meeting Dates

2011

15 January
 19 February
 19 March
 16 April

February 2011 Meeting

Saturday 19 February

2:00pm to 4:00pm, Fradgley Hall, Burleigh Heads

Guest Speaker – Stephanie Dale

*NAME OF TALK: Song of the Soul
 - Crossing the bridge between
 thinking about writing and doing
 it.*



Stephanie Dale is an award-winning journalist who has undertaken two very long walks in the past few years.

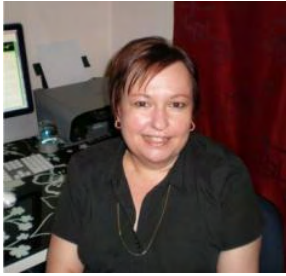
In 2005, Stephanie walked El Camino – the mystical road to Santiago de Compostela – and in 2007 she joined her son for the middle leg of his epic pilgrimage from Canterbury to Jerusalem.

Stephanie, a Gold Coast based author, has two published books: the wildly successful travel memoir *My Pilgrim's Heart - a woman's journey through marriage and other foreign lands* and the recently released novel *Hymn for the Wounded Man*.

Seven years ago, tired of ignoring the longing in her heart to write, Stephanie took radical action - she sold everything she owned and devoted herself to writing. She has now begun work on two more novels.

For more information on Stephanie Dale please visit her website at:
<http://www.voyagermoon.com.au/>

From the President



GCWA President,
Jeannie May Barker

Greetings fellow writers

Whilst it was lovely to have a break from the newsletter in January all the other GCWA activities remained the same. The committee has been busy as always, planning workshops and events and keeping on top of everything involved in running an independent association.

January Meeting

The January meeting was an intimate affair with so many people away on holidays or volunteering with the QLD flood appeal. The lower numbers made for a very interesting meeting all the same and we had a lot of fun with an impromptu goal setting activity presented by Angelika Heurich and myself. And, as promised at the meeting, we have written an article for the newsletter based on the information we shared at the meeting. We hope you enjoy it.

QLD Floods

The recent floods in Australia, and particularly in Queensland, have touched us all. The committee voted unanimously to donate all funds from the January meeting to the [Premiere's Disaster Relief Appeal](#), this included our catering costs, entry fees, funds from the raffle and even the raffle prize itself which was donated back to us for the fund.

As well as cash donations and hands-on volunteer work, many writers and writers groups have created a variety of fundraising activities to support those affected by the floods, including [Authors for Queensland](#), [100 Stories for Queensland](#), and [Writers on Rafts](#). It's heartwarming to see so many people pulling together and giving everything they can to people who have lost so much. A true demonstration of the Aussie Spirit!

Australia Day at Evandale Parklands



Dave Ferrer, the Banjo of the Bush

GCWA again participated in the Gold Coast City Council Australia Day Celebration at Evandale Parklands. We shared readings and storytelling and chatted with many aspiring writers throughout the day. We were also regaled by 'The Banjo from the Bush', Dave Ferrer, who shared many traditional Aussie poems with us.

You can view photos from the event on our [website](#) and [FaceBook](#) page. Thank you to Angelika Heurich,

Gavin Fisher, Darryl Greer, Marion and Starla Martineer for supporting the association at this key Gold Coast event.

See you at a meeting soon.

Jeannie Barker

Member of the Month – John Millett



John Millett

Bush Boy with Honours

If early life is most character-forming, then John's halcyon childhood served him well. He was raised on a property outside the tiny hamlet of Niangala in New South Wales. By the beautiful Mulla River, on the crest of the Moonbi range, he went rabbiting and fishing for salmon in summer; saw snow and ice in winter. His handsome maternal grandmother, Florence Anthill (a matriarchal figure who lived till 98, still firmly in control of all her faculties) introduced young John to boyhood adventure classics such as *Robinson Crusoe*, *Ivanhoe*, *The Last of the Mohicans* and the poems of Walter Scott. Though a professed atheist now, he admits to always having liked Francis Thompson's *The Hound of Heaven* during his teens.

This boy went on to be described by Professor Chris Wallace-Crabbe as '...one of the most underrated poets in Australia'. His poetry has been likened to that of Kenneth Slessor. Certainly the most eminent writer ever to join Gold Coast Writers' Association, John remains modest about his achievements, which include winning the Victorian Premier's Literary Award, the Scottish International Poetry Competition twice, the Max Harris Literary Award for poetry, and being short listed four times for the NSW Premier's Awards. From 1962 he has been involved with *Poetry Australia*, advising on legal and accountancy matters then becoming Editor from 1987. But perhaps the jewel in John's crown is having been honoured in 1999 with an Order of Australia for services to Literature.

The military was his world for many years – he served in England during WW2 as a Wireless Air Gunner with the all-Australian RAAF No 10 Squadron, from which experience he wrote the popular *Tail Arse Charlie*, also adapted for ABC radio and the stage.

In an age where the internet enables those with ambition to put themselves 'out there' on a personal website, John the quiet achiever remains serenely unmoved to follow suit. With a list (too long to enumerate) of publications at home and overseas under his belt, he continues to contribute poetry and short stories to literary journals worldwide, whilst closer to home using his legal background to give advice on military compensation appeals. He is now happily settled with his wife and family on the Gold Coast. But perhaps, as he wrote of a retired cattle man in his *Surfers Paradise Poems*:

*Sometimes a night's drift wakes him
and he watches the dingo eyes of the
stars –
and an old clock chimes in his head
when the moon makes a river on the sea
the colour of bees.*





The first chapter sells the book. The last chapter sells the next book.

- Mickey Spillane

Members Book Sales at Meetings

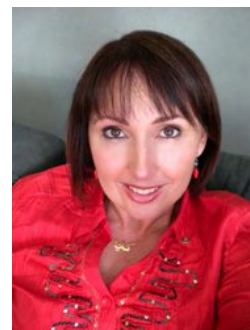
A reminder that if you would like to sell your books at a GCWA meeting, it is essential you contact the president to reserve a place by the Wednesday prior to the meeting.

Please email or phone Jeannie to request a booking:
president@goldcoastwriters.org.au 0431 443 385.

Member Book Launch

Literary Lunch with Kay Danes

Make Somerset your destination on Thursday 17 March for the Literary Lunch. Meet with other passengers in the dining carriage and hear from our widely-travelled special guest speaker, [Kay Danes](#). This feature event takes the format of a book club-style discussion hosted by Jennifer Levitt.



Join fellow travellers for lunch and conversation as Kay Danes shares about her new book, *Beneath the Pale Blue Burqa*, an inspirational story based on her 2008 humanitarian aid mission into war-torn Afghanistan. Hear first-hand Kay's insight into the struggles faced by the Afghan people, particularly women and children. Kay has received many humanitarian awards, including two Australia Day Awards. Kay has also written *Standing Ground* and *Families Behind Bars*.

Date of Travel	Thursday 17 March 2011
Boarding Time	12.30pm
Destination	The Ray Building Dining Room, Somerset College
Travel Attire	Smart Casual
Tickets	\$35.00 per person (three course gourmet meal + wine)

Sponsored by PlastaMasta Burleigh Heads

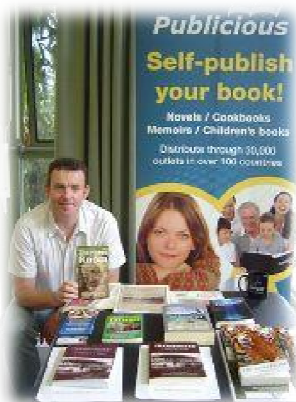
Promote Your Business Service at GCWA Meetings

Promote your business service in the GCWA online business directory for just \$100 per year – that's less than \$2 per week!

Listings include your company name, your name, address, website, email, phone numbers, social media links, 100 word description, logo or other image. (Note: All listings must be appropriate to the GCWAs vision – supporting and encouraging writers – and are subject to the approval of the committee.)

Members with a business service can also book a display at one of our meetings for just \$20. Display your products and promotional materials, and network with members before and after meetings. (Note: This service is restricted to current GCWA members and is subject to the approval of the committee.)

For more information and bookings email info@goldcoastwriters.org.au



Andy McDermott, Director of Publicious

Member Contribution – John Litchen

No response to a manuscript submitted is dispiriting. Even a negative response is preferable to none at all.

Today with more writers than ever before it is easy to understand why publishers swamped with unsolicited manuscripts ignore them, and as a consequence why a writer determined to see work in print is willing to pay for publication. But does paying for publication prove anything other than knowing you have the stamina to complete a long manuscript? If the work is good enough, somewhere a publisher will be willing to take a chance and pay you to publish it.

There are valid reasons to consider self publishing, such as a restricted market you understand and deal with directly. I do this with a text book on Aikido and sell it to students at national seminars and teaching courses. New students to our dojo invariably buy a copy once they know it is available.

But writing a novel is different. It is hard to maintain the mindset existing at the start because unlike a short story, a novel can't be written in one sitting but takes months, perhaps even years.

The more you write the more proficient you become. Some people shudder at the thought of 80,000 or more words looming ahead and often never start, but taken in small increments a novel is not daunting. Think of it as a series of short pieces each of which can be easily completed.

Finding time to write 500 words a day should not be hard. If you do it every day in a few months you will have completed a first draft. It will need editing and rewriting but the feeling when you finish that is tremendous. You must then put it aside and allow your mind to distance itself before beginning the editing and rewriting.

I enjoy writing a novel as much as reading one. I think of it as reading very slowly, each day discovering something new in the words produced.

I have heard you need to write a million words to get the poor quality stuff out of your system and I believe I'm well on the way to doing that. No matter the odds against getting a novel published, nothing will stop me eventually succeeding.

There is nothing to stop you doing the same.

Member Achievements

Joan Songaila's story of her summers in New Zealand was published in 'Paradise' in the Gold Coast Bulletin, Dec 18-19 2010

Joan Songaila's story 'The Flag that Changed a Nation' was published in 'One Summer' in the December issue of the Gold Coast Bulletin's Paradise Magazine.

Legal Queries

If you have a question on a legal issue relating to writing, please email it to the editor gcwa.editor@gmail.com Our Honorary Solicitor, Darryl Greer will respond to queries via the newsletter as time and space allows.

New Members

We welcome the following new members:

Mrs Kate Brennan, Mrs Barbara Saker, Mr Kenneth Cunningham

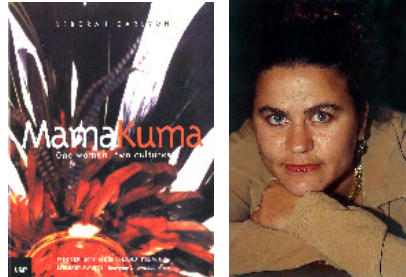
Book Review

By Jill Smith

Title: **Mama Kuma One Woman, Two Cultures**

Author: **Deborah Carlyon**

Publisher: **UQP**



This is a wonderful journey of Deborah discovering her Grandmothers extraordinary strength and her own cultural heritage. Deborah really gets into the details of village life, explaining her culture through her grandmothers eyes and experiences.

My heart warmed to everyone cares, hands on approach of raising children, and the daily village life in the remote PNG highlands. Of course, they did not know they were in a remote village. Their world was the village and keeping it safe from other from raids was the responsibility of the Chief, Kumas' father. As a girl, Kuma was the first person to make contact with the strange *mangare gages*, who were thought to be spirits of the dead who now roamed their lands.

Kuma literally took the white man by the hand and led her people into uncharted territory. How her marriage to the white man, changed the whole village, and her golden girl daughter Ba being educated away from the village affected their daily life. The depth of raw emotion and extremes of display at loss are vividly described.

The great reverence and respect Kuma engendered as a strong woman, spiritual person, and family lynch pin lasted her entire life. The poem at the front of the book speaks volumes, a segment of which follows.

Mama Kuma was held by many hands, suckled by many breasts,
and loved by many mothers.

Her soul drew from the fountains of fresh air, nature,
And timeless wisdom, from traditions and
rituals which were believed and alive.

This is a wonderful book and truly deserved to be a Queensland Premier's Literary Award winner. As a gift for the reader in your life, or as a treat for yourself, this book can be purchased for only \$20 on line through <http://www.getprice.com.au>.

Support Group Report

The All Genres

*~I'm writing a book. I've got
the page numbers done.~*

- Stephen Wright -

At our January meeting we welcomed newcomers, Johnny Pickering and Paul de Launay. We discussed P.D.James, a highly successful crime writer. She has written over twenty-one books and has won many international awards and received several honorary degrees.

In her book, 'Talking About Detective Fiction,' she writes, 'The setting in any novel is an important element of the whole book. Place, after all, is where the characters play out their tragicomedies and it is only if the action is firmly rooted in a physical reality that we can enter fully into their world.... Many novels are named for the place on which the action is centered; obvious examples are 'Wuthering Heights,' 'Mansfield Park,' 'Howard's End' and 'Middlemarch,' where the setting exerts a unifying and dominant influence on both the characters and the plot.'

'In addition the setting can from the first chapter establish the mood of the novel, whether of suspense, terror, apprehension, menace or mystery. We have only to think of Conan Doyle's 'The Hound of the Baskervilles,' of that dark and sinister mansion set in the middle of the fog-shrouded moor, to appreciate how important setting can be to the establishment of the atmosphere. 'The Hound of Wimbledon Common,' would hardly provide such a frisson of terror.' 'My own detective novels, with rare exceptions, have been inspired by the place rather than by a method of murder or a character.'

The All Genres meet on the first Saturday of each month 12:15 for 12:30 (except for January) at the Meeting Room of the Broadbeach Library, adjacent to Pacific Fair, at 12.15 for a 12.30 start. Newcomers welcome.

Di Baker - 55 383568.

Lovers of Good Writing - Short Story Competition



*~There's no money in poetry,
but then there's no poetry in
money either.~*

- Robert Graves

(Sent in by Robert Young)

Presented by Fellowship of Australian Writers (Qld) Inc.

Prizes: First \$250 Second Prize: \$100 Plus Highly Commended Certificates

Closing Date: March 30, 2011

Entry Fee: \$5 per entry. Limit of three entries per author. Word count: 1000 to 2500.

Winner announced at May meeting of FAWQ.

Conditions of entry

1. Entries must be the original unpublished work of the entrant and have not won a prize in a previous competition.
2. Copyright remains with the author. FAWQ reserves the right to publish winning/commended entries in

Send entries to: **Lovers of Good Writing Short Story Competition
Convenor FAWQ PO Box 6338, Upper Mt Gravatt, 4122**

Writing Competitions

The CALEB Prize for *faith-inspired* writing by Australasian writers is now open!

1 Jan - 30 Jun, 2011: 3 main sections: fiction, non-fiction, poetry (also unpublished manuscript)

Top Prize: \$1000 + other monetary prizes, vouchers and trophies +reviews available on all books

Entry forms and full details: at Omega Writers Inc - 'words with wings': Omega Writers Inc, PO Box 492, Corinda Qld 4075 Australia or download from their website: www.omegawriters.com

BrightonCow (The COW stands for Community of Writers)

We will run four short story competitions in 2011. The deadlines will be the end of February, May, August and November. Our main writing competitions have an open theme with a 3,000 word limit.

There are three prizes to the top three winning writers of £100, £50 and £25. There will also be the opportunity for the stories to be published on our website as well as being recorded for broadcast on Brighton's Coastway Hospital Radio, which provides music and entertainment to a network of Brighton hospitals.

The competition is just four pounds to enter, via PayPal or cheque, and the competition is open to writers worldwide. Stories can be submitted online along with payment or by post with a cheque. We will notify all entrants of receipt of their story. Each entry will be judged impartially and be read at least twice in full before judging decisions are made.

Thank you

Name: Andrew Campbell-Kearsey

Email: Andrew.Kearsey@ntlworld.com

Website: www.brightoncow.co.uk

Seminars/ Workshops

The committee have been busy planning the workshop schedule for 2011 and I can share with you a glimpse of some of the fabulous opportunities coming your way soon.

Editing, Publishing and Talking About Your Book – Kathy Stewart, Andy McDermott, Leo Petrik

Writing from the heart of your characters – Deborah Carlyon

Song of the Soul, answering the call to write – Stephanie Dale

Brainstorming Your Book – Kerry Brown

Keep an eye out for confirmation of dates and venues and add your name to the expression of interest form at the next meeting.





*Inside every fat book
there is a thin book
trying to get out.*

- Unknown



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Special Offer to Members

Writers' Festivals

Varuna Programs for 2011

Information about Varuna selective programs for 2011 is now up on the website - [What We Offer Writers Http://varuna.com.au](http://varuna.com.au)

Writing for stage and screen professional development residency 2011

CRIME WEEK with Marele Day 2011

Important dates: Applications sought February 1 - 28. Successful applicants will be announced on the website 30 March. Residencies (four writers in each) to take place Monday August 29 – Sunday September 4, and Monday October 17 – Sunday October 23.

Costs to applicant: Application fee is \$55. Residency fee for successful applicants is \$300. Masterclass is \$100. For full details, click [here](#).

Published Members

Dianne Baker
Hazel Barker
Anna Bonshek
Pam Cameron-Clarke
John Clark
Margaret Cornwell
Stella Davey
Pat Ferguson
Tony Ferrers
Caroline Glen
Darryl Greer
Patricia Huckle
Frances Johnson
George Lewis
John Litchen
Marion Martineer
Andrew McDermott
John Millett

Dianne Morris
Elena Ornig
Sue Pearson
Audie-Marie Pennefather
Lynette Reilly
Debbie Renner
Kev Roberts
Nonie Sinclair
Jill Smith
Joan Songaila
Terry Spring
Lindy Standage
Kathy Stewart
Jean Thompson
Kerry Lown Whalen
Dylyn Wheeler
Robert Young

Support Groups

The All Genres

Includes crime, life writing and nonfiction

Meetings are held on the first Saturday of each month at the Broadbeach Library in Sunshine Boulevard, opposite Pacific Fair, at 12:30pm.

Coordinator: Dianne Baker
Phone: 5538 3568

The Ten Penners

Adults writing for children

Meetings are held on the 1st Saturday of each month at Broadbeach library or a cafe from 9:30 to 11:30am. Phone Marion to confirm venue details.

Coordinator: Marion Martineer
Phone: 0416 027 016

Southern Short Story Group

Meetings are held on the second and fourth Saturdays at 10:00am at Joan's unit in Coolangatta.

Coordinator: Joan Songaila
Phone: 5599 2581
Email: joanmay@connexus.net.au

Writers Force – Young Writers

Meetings are held on the third Thursday each month at the meeting room at Robina Library from 5:30 to 6:30pm.

Coordinator: Marion Martineer
Phone: 0416 027 016

Writing Goals for 2011



Ceresse Audas Gardner
Editor

At the January meeting you were presented an activity on writing goals for writers. As promised, by Angelika and Jeannie, here is the article expanding on the topic they shared at the meeting.

Creating Goals

SMART, FUN Goals are:

S - specific, special, stimulating, shared, success oriented, strengthening

M - measurable, motivating, must have

A - achievable, attainable, accountable, appealing

R - realistic, refreshing, reasonable, researched

T - tangible, true to you, tempting

F - fun, fabulous, finite, feasible, fulfilling

U - ultimate, uplifting, urgent, up-to-date

N - nurturing, natural, numinous

A major aspect of setting any goal is to ensure it is your own, something **you** really want, not something you feel you should do or that someone else has set for you, no matter how well meant.

Maintain a realistic approach, while continually stretching yourself beyond where you have been before. Make it exciting and fun. Have a start date and a completion date. See yourself having achieved the perfect end result.

Write your goals down. Putting your goals in writing makes you accountable to yourself, sharing your goals with someone else makes you accountable to the world. You will be amazed at the help that is available to you when you open yourself to the possibilities.

Break down your big goals into smaller ones and each time you achieve a milestone, stop and celebrate your success. So often we forget to congratulate ourselves on an achievement, too busy moving on to the next goal and the next. Even the smallest reward for success is an acknowledgement that allows us to gain confidence and determination towards attaining the next step, the next goal.

The most achievable goals are the ones that excite you, are fun and give you the most joy. Ensure that you monitor the path to your goal to keep it on track and relevant to your needs. Although a goal is something that is tangible with an end result, it is important to remember that it can be adapted to best remain within the realms of what you desire and are capable of achieving - still ensuring you stretch yourself.

If you find that you are on the path towards a goal, have given it your best and decide it really isn't for you after all, there is no shame in letting go. See the journey as a learning experience and cherish it, then create your new goal according to what is relevant to you.

On a final note, before re-adjusting or reconsidering any goal, be aware that you may just be at the eleventh hour, with success only a moment away.

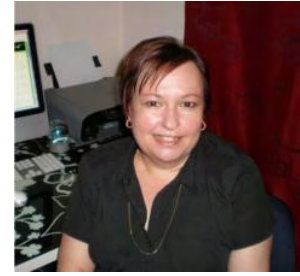
Wishing you much success with all your goals.

Angelika Heurich www.angelikaheurich.com



Writing Goals for Writers

Have you written out your writing goals for 2011? Do you have a specific plan for achieving your writing dreams this year or do you just have a vague intent to finish your current book?



If you want to achieve more this year sit down and think about where you would really like to go with your writing in 2011; then write out some specific goals that will help you get from where you are now to where you want to be by the end of 2011.

If you have a major goal of writing a book, consider what is involved in that and break it down to small, achievable goals. For example you might write a goal like the following:

Complete my 80,000 word novel 'Bart's Bridge' by 30 July 2011.

In order to help you achieve that goal you could write some smaller goals:

Write for 3 hours each morning, 8:00-11:00am, five days per week.

Complete 20,000 words each month from Feb-June 2011.

Source and select an editor by 30 May 2011.

Complete editing process by 30 July 2011.

Those are your basic writing goals to complete the book but you could easily expand on them or break them down even further into smaller goals / steps.

You also need consider your publishing goals and incorporate those, eg. research self-publishing options, hire an agent, submit proposals to potential publishers, etc.

If you plan to sell your book you will also need to create some marketing goals, eg. create a website / blogsite, create print promo materials, set up social media profiles, hire a publicist, write a media release, engage a distributor, etc.

Taking it further

- You can create your writer's goal list as a simple ordered checklist and tick the individual goals off as you achieve them – this gives you a great sense of achievement.
- You can make your writer's goal list into an inspirational list, printing it out on coloured or decorative paper and hanging it up in front of your desk.
- You can create a visual writer's goals list with a 'vision board' using imagery to represent the individual smaller goals that make up your main goal, eg. a photo or illustration of you in your favourite bookstore holding your published book up with the words 'book launch Nov 16' printed across it.
- You could expand your writer's goals list into a more formal 'writer's business plan' – a simple one-page document highlighting your vision, mission, objectives, strategies and plans; or a longer, highly detailed plan if you wish.

The important thing is to use your goal list to continuously inspire you and help you keep on track to achieving your writing goals for 2011.

Jeannie Barker www.jeanniebarker.com

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“If you cannot say what you mean, you will never mean what you say”

The origins of the above quote are obscure but it proved to be one of the most memorable lines from the movie epic, *The Last Emperor*. In writing for any audience, it is a good maxim to keep in mind.

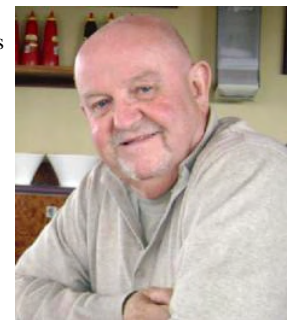
Communication involves the ability of the author to relate essential facts and ideas to the reading audience in a manner that the reader is able to understand and then, if needed, act upon. Writing style should convey this ability to communicate; indeed it is the hallmark of anyone in the teaching, research or knowledge management professions.

Dr. Michael Clancy is a published author, freelance writer, researcher and editor who has lived and worked in Asia for more than 30 years. He has now returned to Australia and has his home on the Queensland Gold Coast. He travels between Australia, the Middle East and Asia undertaking research and editing assignments for the ILO, various UN bodies and the Asian Development Bank.

As an editor, Mike believes that the best output can be obtained when writers, researchers and editors work closely together in the development and delivery of the final product. Mike firmly believes that an important role for the editor to play is that of “author’s advocate” who, while staying true to the author’s intent, looks at any piece as would a general reader. His suggestions to author’s are often made with this role in mind.

Mike is always available to assist writers and researchers with any queries they may have. Prices are reasonable, professionalism is assured.

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- Tutoring and course presentations —effective writing
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Advertising

Members are welcome to advertise in e-Writeabout. If you would like to advertise your product or service the following rates apply:

Full page	\$20.00	Half page	\$10.00
Quarter page	\$ 7.50	Eighth of a page	\$ 5.00

Rates for non-members are as follows:

Full page	\$40.00	Half page	\$20.00
Quarter page	\$14.00	Eighth of a page	\$10.00

Copy or images can be forwarded to the editor at: gcwa.editor@gmail.com
Payment must be made in advance by cheque or direct deposit.

Members' Achievements

If you have any achievements that you'd like to share please forward any details to the editor at gcwa.editor@gmail.com or mail to:

The Editor
Gold Coast Writers' Association Inc.
PO Box 441
Pacific Fair QLD 4218

e-Writeabout Submission Guidelines

Copy is to be submitted in 12pt font, Times New Roman, by email attachment or by CD and no more than 300 words in length. Please ensure that all graphics are jpegs. The management committee, the editor, and the voluntary staff accept no responsibility for the return of work. Work will not be returned to the author unless prior arrangements are made.

Contribution Deadline

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