



Volume 6, Issue 2 March 2011

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Meeting Dates

19 March
 16 April
 21 May
 18 June
 16 July
 20 August
 17 September

February 2011 Meeting

Saturday 19 March

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

Guest Speaker - Kerry Whitney

Kerry Whitney is an experienced primary school teacher and the founder of Literate Kids.

Kerry says: "One of the key roles of a teacher is to make each and every student feels valued and accepted, no matter who they are or where they come from. As an educator, it has been a privilege to have the opportunity to work with children from all walks of life and situations, and I'm proud to have been a part of their lives".

Her workshops have been created for parents who want to help their kids but are unsure...

Literate Kids workshops are a fun couple of hours filled with age-appropriate skills, strategies and rules with easily understood information and instructions. You will leave her course with ideas and strategies, a list of recommended resources as well as the knowledge and confidence to spot possible problems with your children's learning.

To find out more about Kerry's workshops you can access her website at: <http://literatekids.com.au/>

Book Launch - Anna Bonshek

Heniek is the heart-wrenching true story of a Polish boy born in the eastern Kresy region in the 1920s. Following Hitler's invasion of Poland in 1939, Stalin seizes Poland's eastern territory.





GCWA President,
Jeannie Barker

From the President

Greetings fellow writers

I have to say that Stephanie Dale's presentation at the February meeting was one of the most inspiring talks on writing I have ever heard. Stephanie had the audience spellbound as she shared her experiences and encouraged members to find their creative writing space and write for yourself. Write for yourself, not your audience, because they will interpret your writing in their own way, so you may as well simply write for you!



We hope to bring Stephanie back later this year to present a full day workshop. If you are interested in attending please make sure you add your name to the expression of interest form at the next meeting, or simply email GCWA to let us know that you would like to attend.

Upcoming Workshops

Our first workshop for this year will be held on 26 March at Fradgley Hall. This workshop will include three talks from GCWA members: Kathy Stewart, Leo Petrik and myself.

Writing a novel - Kathy Stewart

What is a story arc?

The essentials for creating a scene

Developing characters

Kathy Stewart owns and runs Authors' Ally, an editing service situated on the Gold Coast. She has always been passionate about the written word and has worked as a professional editor since 2004. Many of the books she has worked on are now selling in bookstores and online and many others are in the pipeline. She has written a number of full-length manuscripts herself and was lucky enough to have her first polished work shortlisted for the Debut Dagger Award in the UK in 2010.

Talking About Your Book - Leo Petrik

How to speak with confidence about your book and engage your audience.

Leo Petrik has been a professional speaker, trainer and business professional for over 33 years, specializing in the areas of Sales, Marketing and Business Development. Leo has also recently becoming a successful writer and author, publishing business articles on a number of sites and having his first book available soon.

Marketing Tools for Authors - Jeannie Barker

To get your book noticed and your name out there you need to utilise as many marketing tools as you can. We will cover print tools like giveaway bookmarks, postcards, business cards; also book reviews, launches, email signature files, websites and social media.

Jeannie Barker is a web developer, WordPress Consultant and Trainer who helps businesses and authors market their message to the world through online and print media.

Our second workshops will be held in May (dependent on a successful grant application). **Deborah Carlyon** will present a full day workshop on writing from

*"Here's the truth you
have to wrestle with:
the reason that art
(writing, engaging,
leading, all of it)
is valuable is precisely
why I can't tell you
how to do it.*

*If there were a map,
there'd be no art,
because art is the act
of navigating without
a map.*

*Don't you hate that?
I love that there's
no map."*

Seth Godin

the heart of your characters. This is sure to be a fabulous workshop and I encourage all novelists and non-fiction writers alike to participate if they can.

To book for either workshop (or both) please see a committee member at the March meeting. Cost for each workshop is \$25 for members and \$60 for non-members.

Look forward to seeing you at a meeting soon.

Jeannie Barker

Featured Member – Helga Glinatsis

The Perfume of Roses

Most of us know that German born Helga is an enthusiastic Australian and long-time GWCA member. Some of us might know that she is an accredited florist, but few will know that in the proudly cultural town of Magdeburg in former East Germany she was born the daughter of a rose grower. Every afternoon fields were inspected and the roses cut, after which they were packed into boxes with ice and sent by train to Cologne, Leipzig and even Czechoslovakia and Poland where they would be in the shops by the following morning.



After WW2 Helga's father was forced to 'voluntarily' give up his land. Thus began a slow decline in the rose grower's health, culminating in his death. Helga's mother and her two girls then moved to Cologne where Helga worked as a window dresser with an international ceramics retailer, filling each of the twelve windows with roses in fine vases.

The path to Australia began when she and a Greek Australian met on holiday in Greece. Three months later she was a working wife in the Bistro of Tweed Heads Golf Club serving – you guessed it – coffee and tea!

A son and two years later she ventured into her own business as a florist. Romantic idealism lost her a \$200 order the day someone requested she write 'Happy Birthday you old tart.'

'I am not sending this with my beautiful flowers!' declared Helga.

Being gregarious by nature, she became involved in various community organisations including toastmasters and GCWA. Awards for speaking are displayed on her wall along with commendations for writing competitions. At the 2010 GCWA Christmas party she read a moving and much applauded short piece on Childhood Christmas in Germany which is reproduced below. A book about her fascinating life and childhood is also in the making.

A Childhood Christmas Memory from Germany

Grey clouds unloaded millions of fluffy snowflakes. An icy wind carried them howling along the street and around every house corner. Frost bit straight through my garments.

I couldn't stop shivering so I hurried faster and faster, as quickly as my little legs could go to reach my Grandmother's house. I slowly opened the heavy door. Aromas of freshly baked ginger bread and pine arose; cosy warmth enveloped me.

Grandma was eagerly waiting. She loved preparing for my weekly visits.

'Only few days, then the Jesus Baby will be born again. It's such a great mystery! Not everyone has the privilege of seeing him!' she whispered and lit the fourth bees-wax candle in an arrangement of pine branches and glittery bulbs.

'Why, Omi?'

'You really have to believe, close your eyes and wish for it, then you will be reborn in the spirit and feel young again.'

Oh! No! Omi,' I cried. 'I don't want to be younger than eight. I want to get older very soon!'

Nutty ginger bread with chocolate started to melt on my tongue. I felt in heaven already - inhaling all the fragrances, closing my eyes, still waiting for a miracle to happen.

Well, I got my wish and got older. But each year I close my eyes, remembering the Prince of Peace and Light, expecting the rebirth of my spirit, soul and mind again and know eternity is written on my heart forever.

Helga Glinatsis © 2010

Special Announcement – New Newsletter Format

In an effort to streamline the newsletter production, make it easier to read the newsletter online, and enable you, the reader, to choose your own preferences, we will be trialling a new system next month.

For those who prefer to read the content of the newsletter online, you may sign up for a login to the online version here:

www.goldcoastwriters.org/newsletter/wp-login.php?action=register

If you prefer to receive a PDF version that you can save to your computer, please subscribe here: www.goldcoastwriters.org/newsletter/subscribe-pdf-newsletter/

If you have any feedback please email your comments to:

info@goldcoastwriters.org.au

Upcoming Meetings

April 16

Mini Book Promo – Gay Mackay

Book Launch – Elena Ornic

Guest Speaker – Kerry Brown

May 21

Mini Book Promo – Pat Ferguson

Book Launch – Julie Baythorpe

Guest Speaker – Tiffany Bond

June 18

Mini Book Promo – Martin Line

Book Launch – David Byerley

Guest Speaker – Katherine Howell

*“Write to be understood,
speak to be heard,
read to grow...”*

*Lawrence Clark
Powell*

Book Reviews

By Jill Smith ©February 2011



Title: Fraser Island Dingo
Author: Caroline Glen
Publisher: Self published – Publicious P/L

As my fellow Gold Coast Writers know, Caroline is a passionate person which reflects in her award winning poetry.

She writes lovingly about nature and her wonderful poem Fraser Island Dingo is a tale of a mother dingo teaching her offsprings life's lessons.

We are then treated to more wonderful poems in this slim volume.

I particularly liked 'Balcony Butcher Bird', the imagery of the bird waiting for it's scrap of meat is wonderful. 'Walking the Beach' a friendship lesson. 'Moored Boats, Hope Island, Gold Coast' a contemplation and reflective comparison of life and learning.

I especially liked 'Pandanus Burleigh Headland' which is one of my favourite parts of the world. The poem is evocative in its image of renewal after distruction. Here is a small excerpt to show you her powerful words.

From path, from sea and sky we watch
the pandanus grow.

We too have known flames that have stripped our hopes,
Seared disappointments into our blood,
but nature, wordless and unhurried, from its unceasing tenure of healing,
from its palette of colour,
shows up that through we burn, new shoots wait.



Title: From MORRIS EIGHT to MERCEDES BENZ
(A Modicum of Motoring Down Under)
Author: John G Clark
Publisher: Self published – Assegai Books

I enjoyed this quirky diary of John's life through his cars. The pictures throughout make this and the stories relating to John's link with them make it a fascinating journey.

This could be a coffee table book for those who just love the 'pick-up' and read quickly one of the adventures or misadventures of John's journey through life and his cars.

It also reflects loss of innocence, through purchasing what some might unkindly refer to as 'lemons' to the sheer and simple joy of owning some remarkable and unique part of automotive history.

John concludes in his final summation of the book by saying:

Hopefully this book, non-technical though it may be, has refreshed the memory of some readers as to the particular vehicles that they may have driven in their younger and possibly better days. Or it may have inspired some of you to join a classic car club, where you can enjoy the feeling of real cars again, burning oil, leaking radiators, compulsory tow-rope in the boot, a notable absence of acronyms, and the splendid company of like-minded enthusiasts.

Support Group Report



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

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

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

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

The All Genres

At our February meeting we discussed how to start writing a novel.

Sometimes people have lots of ideas but don't know where to begin. Ask yourself, 'What do I want to say to the reader? What is the story I want to tell?'

Write a brief general outline of the story then make a note of each character and their particulars as they enter.

Choose your setting carefully and visualise each scene as if it were a movie running through your mind. Make a timeline recording the sequence of major events.

However, your first draft is not set in stone and you may wish to alter some things for dramatic effect.

Your choice of viewpoint will be crucial to the story. P.D. James, in her book, 'Talking About Detective Fiction,' says, 'One of the first decisions any novelist has to make, of equal importance to the choice of setting, is viewpoint. Through whose mind, eyes and ears should we, the readers, participate in the plot?'

... 'My own choice of viewpoint is partly authorial, a detached recorder of events, and partly to move into the minds of the different characters, seeing with their eyes, expressing their emotions, hearing their words.' It is usually best for first time authors to adopt the omniscient viewpoint, ie. looking down in a Godlike way and recording all the events. If the author assumes the viewpoint of one character only he must appear to be in the dark regarding the motives of the rest. If he assumes the viewpoint of three or four characters, he should stick to one per chapter; otherwise it becomes too confusing for the reader.

The All Genres meet on the first Saturday of each month at the Broadbeach Library, adjacent to Pacific Fair, at 12.15 for a 12.30 start. Newcomers welcome.

Di Baker

Writing Competitions

GCWA 2011 Children's Writing Competition



Entry is free and open to children aged 7-17 living in Australia. Submission of entries is by online submission at

goldcoastwritersassociation.submishmash.com/Submit

Member Opportunities



Andy McDermott
Director of Publicious

Business Directory

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.)

Business Display

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

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.

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.

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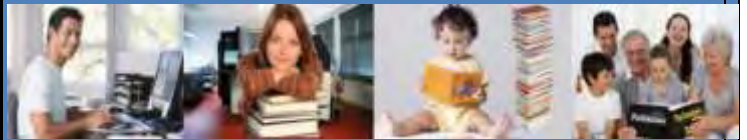
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“If you cannot say what you mean, you will never mean what you say”

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.

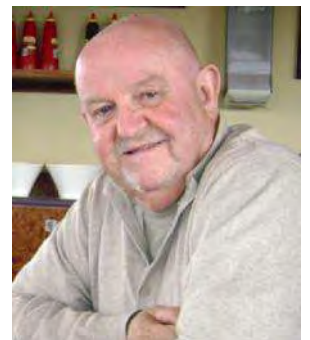
Communication involves the ability of the author to relate essential facts and ideas to the reading audience in a manner that the reader is able to understand and then, if needed, act upon. Writing style should convey this ability to communicate; indeed it is the hallmark of anyone in the teaching, research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

- Volume, manuscript and copy editing
- Manuscript development
- Assistance with theses and dissertations
- Corporate presentations, manuals and reports
- Tutoring and course presentations —effective writing
- Staff creativity and productivity training



For a no-obligation discussion and quotation please e-mail Mike at thecreativegenie@gmail.com or skype: MikeClancy2

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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

Submissions must reach the editor four weeks prior to publishing date (first of the month). Please contact the editor directly if you are unable to meet this deadline for any reason. Submission is not a guarantee of publication. Some submissions may be rejected or held over to another month. Submissions are to be emailed to gcwa.editor@gmail.com or posted to PO Box 441, Pacific Fair QLD 4218.

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