

January, February,  
April 2016

Welcome to the first OWC newsletter for 2016.



What a great year 2015 was for OWC members,  
Kudos to these members:

Ron Stevens  
Farewell  
Page 2

Writing Themes &  
Meeting Dates  
Page 2

Members' Writings  
Page 3 to 5

Membership Form  
Page 6

- Ken Windsor's short story *The Walk in the Wild* published in A Quick Read Aspiring Writers One Minute Stories From Around the World.
- Ron Stevens shortlisted in Gulgong Henry Lawson Poetry Competition and Second place in the Boldrewood Literary Awards.
- Elizabeth Macintosh Commended Boldrewood Literary Awards for her prose piece, *Clouds of War* and FreeXpressions article on Ron Stevens
- Kellie Jennar, *Kandy*, and Lee Robinson, *Shit Happens*, short plays produced in Snap Shorts, Central West Short Play Festival
- Kelly Jennar documentaries in One Eyed Film Festival: *Nurses of WW1*, *Tingira Boys*, *James Rhodes*, and *Cedric Grant*.
- Sally Hopkins short film, *The Customer Is Always Right and The Station*
- Marjorie Green self-published novellas: *An MP's Ungodly Power* and *Maree*. Stage play, *Rare Opportunity*. Book *Prose and Poems*.
- Pete Volkofsky's thought provoking *Beautiful Quest*.
- Pat Clarke *Return of the Fox: Further Adventures of a One-Eyed Chook*
- David Macintosh, *Francis Fukuyama's The End of History* published in the February/March 2015 issue of British magazine, *Philosophy Now*.
- Kerrie Phipps has burst onto the International speaking circuit following the 2014 publication of *Do Talk To Strangers*.
- Val Clark travel articles in Dubbo Photo News.

A small but competent team made *WestWords 2015* an exceptional event. Our second writers festival brought the best industry professionals to Dubbo to demystify the publication process, provide opportunities for writers to develop their prose and poetry craft, and meet and pitch to publishers, was a great success.

Coming up in 2016.

- Our monthly Saturday meeting will continue in the WPC Board Room on the first Saturday of the month from 10am-1pm.
- Writing for Wellness workshop July 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Presented by psychologist David Roland, author of *How I Rescued My Brain*. (Sponsored by Regional Arts via a Country Arts Support Grant.)
- WestWords 2016, September 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, promises to be bigger and better than 2015, providing access to publishers, panels, In Conversations with writers, and practical writing workshops. Please email OWC if you are interested in being part of the steering committee.



Outback Writers' Centre

For up to the minute information about events, opportunities for writers, and information about writing, join our facebook page.

## Meeting Dates

Meetings are held in the Board Room at the Western Plains Cultural Centre (WPCC)

**10am – 1pm**

6<sup>th</sup> February (Anzac / Heroes)

5<sup>th</sup> March (The way we were/ Entertainment)

2<sup>nd</sup> April (learning from the past / Civilization)

Write up to 300 words on the topic of the month in any style – from prose to poetry, essay to letter and bring it along for sharing and constructive feedback at the Saturday meetings.

President	Val Clark	<a href="mailto:outbackwriters@gmail.com">outbackwriters@gmail.com</a>
Vice President	Trevor Walder	<a href="mailto:t19544walder@yahoo.com">t19544walder@yahoo.com</a>
Secretary/Publicity	Elizabeth Macintosh	<a href="mailto:emacint@hotmail.com">emacint@hotmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Lee Cooper	<a href="mailto:leilacooper@bigpond.com">leilacooper@bigpond.com</a>
Newsletter	Lee Robinson	<a href="mailto:alexkidd@live.com.au">alexkidd@live.com.au</a>
MRL Contact	John Bayliss	<a href="mailto:john.bayliss@dubbo.nsw.gov.au">john.bayliss@dubbo.nsw.gov.au</a>
Website	Natalie Holmes	<a href="mailto:nat_holmes@hotmail.com">nat_holmes@hotmail.com</a>

## **To whom it may concern**

**By Elizabeth Macintosh**

I have no hesitation in recommending Ron Stevens for membership of any writers' group.

I have known Ron for three years and have always found him to be a gentleman with a quiet and dignified manner.

He is a champion poet who consistently wins competitions throughout Australia. His natural flair for rhythm, rhyme and storytelling enables Ron to capture and maintain an audience's interest. In fact, he is so highly regarded that he has been commissioned to write poems for special events such as Dubbo's observance of Anzac Day.

Ron regularly attends OWC's monthly meetings, bringing two examples of his own poetry or creative writing to share. He is always punctual, well dressed, friendly and polite. Additionally, Ron is thoughtful and considered in his evaluation of members' writing. He treats the work of others with respect, always making perceptive and worthwhile comments, which will enable writers to improve their creative piece, no matter what form or genre.

He participates in group discussions, listening intently to the contribution of others, whether they are the first or last person to share their ideas. He offers encouragement and when members are reading their work aloud, laughs in all the right places. Consequently, my own writing has been all the richer for his input.

At each meeting, Ron is willing to share resources freely and inform others of competitions and other opportunities. In addition, he is genuinely pleased to hear of the achievements of other authors.

He is a kind friend and much loved member of the OWC. In short, Ron is the perfect member of any writers' group. I wish him well in his future endeavours.

## **December 300 Word Challenge: Friendship & Love by M.A Bicket**

### **Why are friendship and love two exclusive concepts?**

We sat by the river with hot chips and a container of gravy. Our fingers were sticks and we licked them clean. Bundling up the package we shoved it back into the plastic bag. Hand in hand, my best friend and I. Laughing and grinning as we swung our arms, fingers entwined. We ignored the odd looks people give us as we walk. Our time together is far too short and soon I handed her back to her fiancé. My lady love.

### **I can love without being in love.**

With a smile she placed a feast of food before me, my stomach growled as the warm smell wafts through the room. Together we ate, a weekly ritual that I knew I would miss. With smiles and laughter we discussed our passions and scribbled ideas onto scraps of paper. My heart pounded against my chest as I passionately spilled my ideas on the table beside bread crumbs and sauce. Who else could I share my ideas with, but a friend I love?

### **For friends without love are acquaintances.**

I was covered in bruises and dirt, a small trickle of blood ran down my knee as I sat down at the table. A glass of cider is placed before me. Picking it up with I raised it looking to my friends with a grin, their lycra was not covered in dust and there was no blood on them. Next time, I thought to myself as our glasses clinked, next time I would be better. With a wince and a smile I bought the drink to my lips. There is nowhere else I would rather be than covered in blood, bruises and scratches drinking cider in the company of friends.

---

## **December 300 Word Challenge: What is love? by Lee Cooper**

I've thought about this for some time. I've decided that 'love' describes a situation, an object, quite often a person, that you feel happiest with. It could be a myriad of things. A holiday, a memory, a piece of music etc.

In my case at the moment, I think it best describes the music that I find so lovely when I am doing something around the house. I often stop whatever it is I am doing, to listen intently to some passage of a melody, be it from an instrument, singer or orchestra. Sometimes it evokes a memory of being somewhere one time and actually hearing that music at a theatre, a concert or wherever.

I love to be in the company of family. You can be yourself with them. They accept you for who you are, laughing at ridiculous incidents you have all been involved in, sympathising over other events and altogether sharing the moment.

Often I have come upon a beautiful object of art and fallen in love with it. I might desire to possess that lovely thing, but mostly it is tremendously expensive, so one can just gaze and drink in its beauty. Not all beautiful things are so out of reach. Occasionally it can be something for free – a scene, a seashell, even the taste of something on a meal plate.

Occasionally I happen to catch up with friends from our teenage years and reminisce about the clothes we made and wore, the dances we attended and the young people we 'hung out' with. I love to hear where these people ended up, especially if they have done well throughout their lives.

As a family, we especially loved camping holidays. Looking back I think we must have been mad, but we loved it!

That's love!

## Warning to travellers – Pat Clarke

Our wildlife is cute and cuddly  
koalas and suchlike abound  
you're safe in the bush  
as long as there's water  
and stick to the tracks  
and do as you oughter

It's different though overseas  
for the animals there aren't nice  
so I'm putting to rhyme  
my thoughts on this matter  
and hope you take my advice

In Africa and India  
and other far flung places  
lots of hungry animals  
attack and leave no traces  
like lions and tigers  
whose only desire  
is to chomp and chew  
until you expire

Imagine how gruesome  
being part of a twosome  
if the others' a boa-constrictor  
who'll have no objection  
to swallow you whole  
and then take a week to digest ya

Because of its size, I wouldn't advise  
That you stand, toe to toe, with a hippo  
And it's not very smart  
To give cheek to a cheetah,  
'cause he'll be very happy  
to kill ya and eat ya

Gorillas are killers in the wild  
So you'd best not annoy one, or get him riled  
For an angry ape's a scary sight  
You wouldn't wish to see  
My advice is to run, if you trespass upon  
A monkey's territ'ry

Bongos, buffalos and bisons  
Are inclined to stampede and trample  
Bears will maul you  
Rhinos will gore you  
And that's only a few examples

So it's best that you stay home in Aussie  
The home of the fly and mozzie  
Where goannas won't bite you  
Echidnas won't spike you  
And emus will just run away  
There's just the mosquito, determined to eat you  
And he's easily killed with a spray

## Members Websites

Outback Writers' Centre - <http://outbackwriters.weebly.com>

M.A Bicket - <http://www.mabicket.com>

Lee Chiong - <https://leepreece.wordpress.com>

Kerrie Phipps - <http://www.kerriehipps.com>

Peter Volkofsky -  
<http://www.wanderingbookseller.com.au/products/962867?barcode=9780994194183&title=BeautifulQuest>

Chris Walker - <http://chriswalkerbooks.weebly.com/>

## Extracts from Sidney Sheldon's *The Other Side of Midnight*

Members enjoyed a workshop hosted by Val recently at one of our OWC meetings. Everyone received a different page from the novel *The Other Side of Midnight* and re-worked it into a poem by removing text.

### **Lee R**

She looked beautiful  
Her beauty a asset  
Good figure  
Pretty face  
Gown estimated to cost two thousand  
Walking down the stairs  
On the arm of a fat, middle-aged man  
"Finished already?"

### **M.A Bicket**

"Can you cook?"  
"Yes,"  
"Good," he said, "Then we will make love. How does that sound?"  
"Wonderful!"  
"You belong to me now. You make me feel young. I will give you a wonderful life,"  
She looked away from him.  
"is something wrong?"  
"No,"

### **Val**

The train pulls in  
Paris  
Early travellers just arrived  
Deafening din  
Shouted greetings  
Tearful farewells  
Rude pushing  
Shoving  
Drink in the noise  
Crowds  
Excitement  
Where to?  
Home

### **Helen**

She looked around a means of escape. A voice said in her ear, "let's go,"  
A few moments later she and the American were out the door into the cool night air.  
They could not find a taxi, so they walked.  
She studied the American.  
She never felt this happy before.  
They talked about everything. Noelle did not care what he talked about, so long as he kept talking.  
"Where are you living?" he asked.  
"No where," she told him.  
He was a rarity. He was opened warm and alive.  
How very nice.

### **Bob**

"Pardon Mademoiselle?"  
Noelle turned her head to look up.  
A detective, "Is mademoiselle waiting for someone?"  
"Yes," she replied trying to keep her voice steady, "I'm waiting for a friend," actly aware of her wrinkled dress.  
"Is your friend a guest of this hotel?"  
Panic. "Err- not exactly,"  
He studied her, "May I see your identification?"  
"I-I don't have it with me,"  
"Perhaps mademoiselle will come with me?"  
She rose to her feet.  
But at that moment someone took her arm. A man, "Sorry I'm late Cherie,"  
She swung around in astonishment, a tall man in an unfamiliar uniform.

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Outback Writers' Association Incorporated

**1st July to 30th June - \$25**  
**(\$10 full-time student or under 18)**

I, \_\_\_\_\_  
(full name of applicant)

of, \_\_\_\_\_  
(address)

herby apply to become a member of the above named incorporated association. In the event of my admission as a member, I agree to be bound by the constitution of the association for the time being in force

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I, \_\_\_\_\_  
(full name)  
a member of the association nominate the applicant for membership of the association

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of proposer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I, \_\_\_\_\_  
(full name)  
a member of the association, second the nomination of the applicant for membership

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of proposer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



Some of our OWC members posing for a photo shoot in sponsors' Dubbo Photo News.