

# The Write Stuff

Monthly Newsletter of the Helensvale Writers Group – November 2023

## This month's speakers: Kellie Cox and Lily Arthur

This month will be with a psychological flavour. Those members who have been with the group for a while, would have met **Lily Arthur** (picture right) several times. Last year, Lily published her '[Dirty Laundry](#)' book. It outlines the story of her decades long battle with the authorities who, immediately upon her giving birth, took her son away. Her subject will be '**The Power of the Written Word**'.



**Kellie Cox**, who joined our group a few months ago, has qualifications in psychology, writes fiction about the human condition and vulnerability of the psyche. And she runs a publishing and production company, she is a therapist, clinical trainer. (Ask her what she does in her spare time...) Her subject will be '**Using Psychology in Your Writing**'.

In between, the usual member's contributions, outlining what we have done, and we'll read (or sing...) our parodies, spoofs, poems (those who did submit something – so far: none!). Yes, remember: it's different this month. Based on any subject, deployed in any type of poetry. More below.

## Last month's speaker: Livia York, Stacey King

"I've done everything: from dress maker to mechanic..." was Livia's opening remark. Wasn't that a meeting with a difference we had at Helensvale Writers Group yesterday? And we provided all the entertainment ourselves! The main theme of the morning: **Poetry**.

To start with, Livia gave a sometimes quite emotional presentation of some poems she had written and published herself. "I woke up one morning, just one word on my mind, and within 30 minutes I wrote a poem..." she said. *[Me too, I woke up one morning with the idea of writing a poem, then after hammering my keyboard for 30 HOURS, it was still lumpy... 😊 Ed.]* Sorry folks, you should have been there, some emotions cannot be transposed



into words. Unless... you truly are a poet! Livia gave me permission to share the poems she read with our members. See PDF attached.

The second session brought us back to earth with a thump: **Stacey King** led a general discussion on how to get some financial rewards for all that hard work. **How can you get people to know you even exist?** Well, if you go to her website <https://www.banabanvision.com/stacey-m-king>, you get an idea... One of several points Stacey made is **cross-promotion**. For example, you'll see on her website several links to YouTube videos.

One of the places you really need to get familiar with: **Vocal Media**. Note: the link is <https://vocal.media/> (NOT vocal.com). There

you'll find well over a dozen posts from her. But the major attraction of this organisation is that **you get paid per read**. Come on! Click on the link and check it out, then go and register. If you click on 'Learn more...' on the home page, there is a whole tutorial behind it.

## Why you all should have been there yourselves:

In addition to our two main speakers, we enjoyed those poets among us (that is those who did submit one) recite their work. Great fun and emotions! No, I didn't take a video recording. You should have been there yourself, indeed! Ralph Mayn, with his work titled 'Alice' scored the bottle of Shiraz. Last month, on 20th October, I sent out a PDF with all the poems that were submitted. Drop me a line if you didn't get it or want a copy.

## This month's competition: Parody, Spoof, Satire:

Think of a well known song. Any song, bush ballad, rock, pop, classical. But it must be well known, so people other than you recognise the tune and can try to sing your (twisted) lyrics. Then write a it: a parody, a spoof or a piece of satire that can be sung to that tune. See an example on the right I found on the internet. (If you were born before 1960, you'd definitely know it. But who doesn't know Elvis Presley's "[Are you lonesome tonight?](#)") Of course, you'll retain copyright (of your spoof, not of the tune!)

*(I apologise in advance to anyone who is offended by the sample. It's meant to be humorous, not serious! Ed.)*

And Grahame is again offering a nice **bottle of red for the best entry**. [Email it to me](#) and we'll put up a separate document (accessible by members only).

Are you lonesome tonight  
Is your brastrap too tight  
Are your corsets just drifting apart  
Have you got a big chest  
Making holes in your vest  
Does your spare tyre  
Reach into the night  
Are your stockings all laddered  
Are you wearing them thin  
Do you hold up your knickers  
With a big safety pin  
Are your false teeth all worn  
Do they drop when you yawn  
Well it's no wonder your lonesome  
tonight..

I bet you sang it 😊😊

## John Griffiths is published... in India!



Well, some of us can brag that we were published. Some were published internationally, won awards etc. But who has been published in India, competing against 1.4 Billion Indians? **John Griffiths** submitted his story to an organisation named 'WriteFluence'.

"When I read it now, it comes over as a little corny but what the hell" he commented. I agree, but then, have you ever watched a 'Bollywood' movie? In a Calcutta cinema? John gave me permission to send a copy to our members - see attached.

## Can you improve on that?

*Half buried in the sand, uprooted stalks of kelp are like splashes of dark blood against the white quartzite, ground fine as talc. Tendrils of kelp flounce lazily in translucent shallows that gradually deepen to turquoise, turning Prussian blue to the horizon.* Cassandra Pybus - opening paragraph of 'Truganini'

I'm not necessarily suggesting that you to write a better sentence yourself (if you do have one, please let me have it!) but if you come across a sentence you catch yourself re-reading again and again... I'm a sucker for it. Share it! Take a photo with your smartphone and **send**

your entry as a photo, text, email or doc to [helensvalewriters@gmail.com](mailto:helensvalewriters@gmail.com) (or simply reply to the email with which I sent you this newsletter).

## Upcoming Writers Competitions

- a) [Hawkeye Books Manuscript Development Prize 2024](#) - this is a big one: 80,000 words. Strong commercial fiction. Closes 15<sup>th</sup> December (yes, you can write 80,000 words in 6 weeks, can't you? 😊) Prize: a \$3,500 publishing package.
- b) [Australian Book Review 'Calibre Essay Prize'](#) 2,000 - 5,000 words. Winner takes \$10,000. Closes 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024
- c) There are another 583 (last time I looked) competitions on [reedsy.com](https://reedsy.com) – There must be one or two which suit you!

## Christmas Luncheon Party



Our convenor Grahame Moore has booked tables at the [Saltwater Creek Hotel](#), for our Xmas extravaganza. (Some of you may recall: we were there in 2021).

Set the date in your diary now: **Friday the 15th of December 2023, from 11:30**. It's a sumptuous buffet, so all tastes and dietary requirements are catered for. And most importantly: we are splurging most of what's left in our kitty from the \$10.00 contributions we each pay per meeting to pay for the rent, coffee & biscuits, gifts and other overheads. **For members and their partners: the luncheon is free!** (Unless we run out of money, in which case it is "first booked, first served".)

Please reply to this email and advise whether you will attend, and whether you'll bring your partner along. We need to advise the venue of numbers by 10<sup>th</sup> December.

## This month's meeting

The November meeting will be on **16<sup>th</sup> November 2023**. Usual place and time: ground floor meeting room at the Helensvale Library, 10:00 am. See you there!

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