

The Write Stuff

Monthly Newsletter of the Helensvale Writers Group – November 2025

This month's guest speaker:

Liv Lorkin

Liv is an author, illustrator, podcast producer, blogger and Graphic Design consultant. She also is a member of the Gold Coast Writers Association. Her lead-motive: 'Heart-led design', thoughtful and intentional practices. She will tell us about her earlier experiences, and her talk will include slides relating to various different subjects.

With such a wide range of skills and knowledge, come to learn something from a professional!



In lieu of our 'Under the Spotlight' segment, **Rochelle Miller, the President of the Gold Coast Writers Association** will outline the concept of our alliance, primarily for the purpose of insurance cover. But there are lots of other benefits we can derive from each other, while we remain largely autonomous. Rochelle also will elaborate on the various programs GWA runs and answer any questions you may have.

By now, **you should have subscribed to become a member** of the Gold Coast Writers Association (GWA). The principal reason is insurance cover. Details of why etc have been published in the last two newsletters. Please feel free to contact me if you require further clarification. **It is essential that, if you are a member of our group, to also be registered as a member of GWA.** You can fill in a form and pay the \$45.00 annual fee at our next meeting, or go to an online membership application form: <https://www.goldcoastwriters.org/membership>.

Last month's guest speaker: Brian Falkner

One should try to avoid Hyperbole, so the theory goes. But every now and then, they are justified. *"Exceptionally interesting, humorous, instructional, never boring..."* I wrote in the brief summary that I sent out after the meeting. I should also have added "simply plain fun". Here is an author who titled one of his works 'the most boring book in the world' and not only got away with it, but it is a bestseller!

"Dreams are not meant to be easy" Brian pronounced. OK, some of us, the so-called 'Boomers', might recall the saying that stuck on former Prime Minister

Malcolm Fraser, when, in the 1970's, he badly mangled a quote by George Bernard Shaw: "Life wasn't meant to be easy...", without mentioning the rest "... my child; but take courage, for it can be delightful".



Brian Faulkner with Stacey King

Somehow, Brian was able to compress a three-day training course he runs into just one hour, AND not lose context. So here are just a few of the many tips he expanded on:

- Write every day, to keep up the momentum. Even if it's just an entry into your diary. This also releases mental pressure.
- The secrets to keep them turning the pages, is SUSPENSE. And SURPRISE, and 'FLY FISHING'. Fly Fishing? Yes. Or NARRATIVE HOOK – to pose a question, but don't answer it just yet. have a shocking start, but don't answer the question just yet...

Sorry peeps, you should have been there! And if you were there, I hope you took notes. Follow his instructions and might find that your dream (as did Brian's) of making a good living from writing, might come true. But, be assured, it's not going to be easy. Visit Brian's website at <https://www.brianfalkner.com/>

"Out of the darkness" Challenge

Closing 21st November

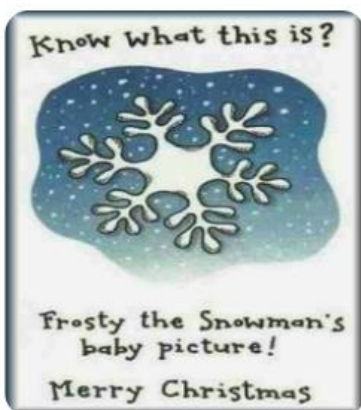
Well, dig out your old Franz Kafka titles! The Trial, Metamorphosis... On the other hand, if you want to write on a brighter note: in my home country, a popular folk song is about the experience of entering a tunnel (in a train) and coming out at the other end: "*wenn me uusechunnt, wird's hell*" (when you exit, it gets bright). Or anything in-between, stretch it, knead it, knit it into anything that meets the topic, either physically, relating to mental status or metaphorically. The usual conditions: Fiction, or "**creative non-fiction**" ([click here for definition](#)), 1000 words maximum (including title), deadline is 21st November 2025, and no late entries accepted. All entries will feature in our Christmas compilation book.

Note: the title **MUST** be 'Out of the Darkness'. If you want to, you may have a subtitle.

Note 2: **Copyright remains with the author.** This is a private, group-internal competition, and thus does not preclude you from submitting your story to any open competition, nor, as our end-of-year compilation cannot be purchased on the market, it thus does not constitute as "having been published before".



Christmas Luncheon – Thursday 18th December



Our convenor **Grahame Moore** has again booked the 'Glass Room' at **Club Helensvale** (where we were last year), for a buffet luncheon, commencing at 12-Midday. **For registered current members** of the Helensvale Writers Group, **the luncheon is free**, and you are welcome to bring along partners, family or guests, at a cost of \$30.00 per person. Drinks can be purchased at the bar just outside the room. We'll need to advise firm numbers one week before. Vegetarian options are available. I'll ask for specifics in early December. For the moment, just put it into your diary!

Competition story compilation, overall winners and

trophies: On that occasion, Grahame will again present each one of the authors who have submitted a booklet with a compilation of all the stories received throughout the year. The winners of various categories will be announced, and trophies will be presented.

Upcoming Writers Competitions

- a) [Wergle Flomp Humor Poetry Contest](#) – so you can write humorous poems? This is for you! And **entry is free**. \$2,000 first prize, plus various gift vouchers. Deadline is 1st April 2026
- b) Deadline 26th February 2026: [Next Generation Short Story Awards](#). **What? You're not 'Next Generation'?** Look closer. They have categories for 'Seniors 60 – 69 years' and 'Seniors 70 years and above'. Some of our group's members qualify for these...
- c) There are another 280 (last time I looked) competitions on [reedsy.com](#) – There must be one or two that suit you!

Can you improve on that?

*... held another newborn baby boy and stared into those sad wise eyes. All babies had that same wise look, as if they'd just come from another realm where they'd learned some beautiful truth they couldn't share. **Liane Moriarty – 'Nine Perfect Strangers'**.*

Got anything to brag about?

Well, let's hear it! Don't be shy if you have won an award, or even if your story got published! Your fellow members would like to know about it. Send me an email.

New (temporary) meeting location

This month's meeting is on the **usual day, third Thursday of the month, 20th November 2025, BUT NOT AT THE LIBRARY**: Due to renovations at the Helensvale Library, we are meeting at the **Helensvale Community Centre**, 31 – 37 Discovery Drive, Helensvale (just a bit further up on Discovery Drive on the right side, opposite Club Helensvale – same as last month. Look for signs. **The meeting will start at 10:15** – Grahame and I will be there at 10:00 am to set up. **Please be a little bit early** so we can start right on time – we need to stack the chairs and tables again by 1:00 pm.

Best wishes,
Franz Huber
Helensvale Writers Group
[helensvalewriters@ gmail.com](mailto:helensvalewriters@gmail.com)

**To kill a French vampire,
you need to drive a baguette
through his heart.
Sound easy, but the process
is pain staking.**

*[Unless you know a little bit of
French, you mightn't find this
making much sense... Ed.]*



*"How could you just walk out on me like this?
And, by the way, 'nit-picking' has a hyphen."*