

## **Eastwood/Hills FAW Annual Literary Competition 2016**

### **Memoir Section Judges' Report**

Frances Moon and Anne Howard

For the purposes of this contest, memoir was defined as an incident from one's own life or experiences. There were 52 entries, covering a wide and varied range of subjects. The successful memoirs, and those short-listed, revealed effective story-telling skills that lifted the writing and gripped the readers' imagination.

They were characterised by engaging titles, a strong narrative voice, enticing beginnings, memorable characters, skilful use of language and, in most cases, dialogue. They progressed well to a satisfactory ending.

With regard to subject matter, if you choose to write about an obscure or arcane subject, remember that not every reader will find this interesting, and you will need to inject plenty of action into the work to hold their attention.

An important error to avoid is erroneously attributing historical or social events or movements to the period of the memoir. If your memory of these events is not clear, try to research and set them in the correct context in your memoir, or else leave them out if unsure. The judges found several such errors, for example stating that certain events occurred in one decade, when we suspected they had occurred earlier or later. Likewise some music and fashion trends were often wrongly attributed. It was very easy for us to check all these.

Endings often disappointed, and this caused us to reject some excellent entries. Many had silly or weak endings, where the issues raised in the memoir were not properly resolved. Some ended so abruptly that the judges found themselves looking for another page. It seemed as though the writers had reached the required word count and just stopped.

General presentation, and attention to spelling, punctuation and grammar was of a high standard. Please remember to double space.

The judges enjoyed reading your work, and we would like to thank you for entering our competition.

<b>Commended</b>	<b>Mrs Frank's Thistles - David Bentley</b>
<b>Commended</b>	<b>The Twenty Dollar Ceiling – Janeen Samuel</b>
<b>Commended</b>	<b>Guardians – David Bentley</b>
<b>Commended</b>	<b>The Paint is Still Wet – Carmel Lillis</b>
<b>Highly Commended</b>	<b>Colours of Childhood – Colleen Russell</b>
<b>Highly Commended</b>	<b>Promise – Jill Brew</b>
<b>Second Place</b>	<b>Tap Shoes – Marie Tucker</b>
<b>First Place</b>	<b>18 Keppochill Rd – Marie Tucker</b>