



NEWSLETTER – March 2019

Message from our Patron:

Each year the Elyne Mitchell Writing Award gives me the chance to read some wonderful stories. The great thing about writing a newsletter is that it is an opportunity before a wider audience to thank our writers, judges, sponsors and administrators. Our congratulations go to all our writers and we hope that you have enjoyed and found a sense of achievement and fulfilment in your entry. Our special congratulations go to our shortlisted writers and the Award winners – John Jenkins, Felicity McDonald & Jillian Sullivan.

The photography Award has been an exciting edition to the Elyne Mitchell Writing Awards. We trialled it as a local category in 2018 and the response was so positive, that it is now an open photo story Award, combining an image and 100 words on what the photo means to you. For Elyne, photography was creative, and it complemented and helped inform her writing. It makes sense to include photography in the Awards and we are now looking forward to this year's entries!

The Elyne Mitchell Writing Award would not exist without the generous sponsorship of Snowy Hydro, Dymocks and Camera House in Albury, Smiths Office Solutions and the Corryong Neighbourhood Centre and its team. A special thank you to everyone involved.

Time and again I have skied or walked out to the Ramsheads from Thredbo in an effort to find the key to Elyne's inspiration. I look forward to telling you more about Elyne's connection to the rural landscape and her interests and legacy in future newsletter editions.

Honor Auchinleck, EMWA Patron

Publicity:

Much of our time and effort through the year is spent spreading the word about the Awards to those interested in writing. We are always thrilled to receive positive responses such this recent reply from NZ..

"Kia ora Honor

Thanks very much for this: I'm forwarding it to the NZ Society of Authors, which has many hundreds of members, and will no doubt list the contest in its next e-newsletter.

I don't generally promote overseas contests to my students that involve an entry fee, but I'll post the link on our U of Auckland creative writing Facebook page. Many alums look at this, and may be interested."

Entries from NZ are increasing every year and we look forward to more stories and images from across the ditch in 2019

Please help us spread word of the Award by liking us on Facebook and sharing our posts or directing others to our website www.elynemitchell.com.au

Looking for inspiration of your own? You can read the shortlisted stories from previous years' Awards.

Order by phone or email from the CNC for \$15 plus \$3 postage 10 years of stories available



The Man from Snowy River Bush Festival (4-7 April 2019):

This popular Bush Festival held in Corryong each year is the very stuff of stories and it is a time when stories are told and an ideal opportunity for photographs. When you go home, don't forget to pick your best photograph, write down what inspired you to take the picture and enter it into the photo story category. Yours might just be the winner! Enjoy!

Important Award Dates:

Entries close at 5.00pm, Thursday 22nd August 2019 :::: Shortlist Announced 23rd September 2019 ::::
Winners announced at the Award Presentation event 13th October 2019

New Beginnings - the 2019 Elyne Mitchell Writing Award theme:

In her own way, Elyne wrote about 'New Beginnings' in *The Silver Brumby*:

'Once there was a dark, stormy night in spring, when, deep down in their holes, the wombats knew not to come out, when the possums stayed quiet in their hollow limbs, when the great black flying phallangers that live in the mountain forests never stirred. On this night, Bel Bel, the cream brumby mare, gave birth to a cold foal, pale like herself, or paler in the wild, black storm.'

The opening paragraph of *The Silver Brumby* set the context for Thowra's birth, the beginning of his story and Elyne's career as a children's author. Different writers write about new beginnings differently, yet the opening paragraph of *The Silver Brumby* captures the reader. The 2019 Elyne Mitchell Writing Award's theme 'New Beginnings' challenges you to do just that in your own story.



Elyne at her desk
(Photo permission Border Mail)