

Eastern Writers Group Newsletter January 2010

Our Christmas festivities were highlighted this year by two major events: the launch of Gwayne's second book in the Ferenghi Quartet, *Banners of the Sun*, and the reading by Marie Parkins (with Bob Dalvean on the assist as one of the two voices) of her Biggest Little first-prize winning entry, *Crazy or Not*. You will find Marie's story with those of the other prize-winners on our website <http://www.wordsatwork.com.au>

As well as Marie, we also welcomed newcomers Sue, Daniel, and Julian. Apologies if I have left someone out, but if so I will catch up next month. Some photos are attached of Marie and Bob reading, as well as Gwayne and friends.

Bob did most of the speechmaking for the launch of *Banners of the Sun*, commenting on the quality of the writing and the authentic Indian atmosphere, Gwayne having lived in that country for many years. Bob also acknowledged on behalf of Gwayne the considerable contribution made by Pat Larkin in preparation of the manuscript. Gwayne, no doubt, thanks many others for their encouragement and support of her endeavors as an author. Gwayne and *Banners* were toasted with bubbly and Bob declared the book officially well and truly launched.

Gwayne was then kept busy with the sale of copies of her book, and in autographing and endorsing them with personal messages which make the books all the more valued by her many friends

Our next meeting is at 1.30pm on Sunday, 17 January when we will be back in our normal readings format. That is, members are invited to read samples of their writing (poetry included) so that we may offer some hopefully tactful and constructive suggestions on how we think it may be improved.

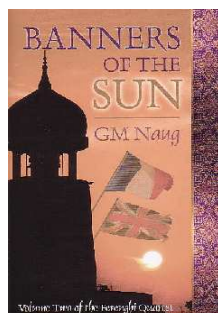
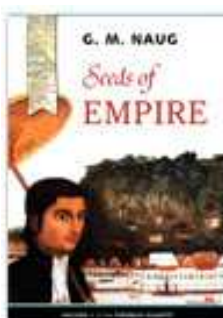
Authors need another ear (or many ears in our case) to determine whether or not what they have written is correctly interpreted by readers. For myself, I intend to read my short story Brunswick Bound 2005. I wrote this in 2002, looking forward a mere three years as to how the people living in Brunswick may change, inspired by a couple of newspaper reports. Does my story still have relevance, or have further changes in the last five years taken the sting out of my social commentary? Be there to offer your opinion.

Those who are published

Both Clive and Gwayne have published their books using the services of Palmer Higgs Books who are conveniently located for those of us who live in the Box Hill area. Contact details for Palmer Higgs Books Online are 975 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill 3128, Victoria Australia (between Station St and Watts St on the north side)

General bookstore enquiries: (03) 8892 4410

Author enquiries: (03) 8892 4422



I have just checked out the Palmer Higgs website, and the number of books published by them is burgeoning. Gwayne's latest book isn't on their website yet, but you will find *Seeds of Empire* at <http://www.palmerhiggsbooks.com.au/seeds-of-empire-p-8.html> and Clive's *Lighter than Air* at <http://www.palmerhiggsbooks.com.au/lighter-than-air-p-4.html>

Our Bob Dalvean has this to say:

No doubt by now you know that our longest-serving member (if that's the correct way of putting it) Gwayne Naug has now released *Banners of the Sun* the second volume of The Ferenghi Quartet. Gwayne's work is a four-part novel based on the life of Claude Martin, a Frenchman who strongly influenced the educational development of India in the 18th Century (He died in 1800). If you are among the fortunate few (soon, we hope, to be the fortunate many) who have read the first two books of Gwayne's quartet, you might like to visit the Wikipedia website and familiarise yourself with the man himself, Claude Martin. The benefit for readers of the Ferenghi Quartet is that the site contains contemporary illustrations and paintings of such places as Lucknow, where Martin lived and worked, and personages he dealt with, such as the Nawab of Oudh, Asaf au-Daula – as well, of course, as portraits of Martin. The site to visit is: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Claude_Martin.

Thanks for that valuable input, Bob, and I would like to invite any of our members to send articles and commentaries to me at easternwritersgroup@hotmail.com for inclusion in a future newsletter. There are so many websites that we need advice such as Bob's to point us in the right direction on matters of interest to our members.

Gwayne's first novel in The Ferenghi Quartet, *Seeds of Empire*, has been reviewed by *Historical Novels Review*.

Go to <http://www.historicalnovelsociety.org/hnr-online.htm> and have a read.

Notes from Bob our treasurer, webmaster, anthologist and prime worker of our Biggest Little Short Story competition

Our website is <http://www.wordsatwork.com.au/> and there you will find all the details of the winners of the Biggest Little 2009.

Also featured is a selection of poems and stories from our members, but

WE NEED MORE!

Members, and only members, should send their shorter pieces of writing to rdalvean@bigpond.com for publication on our website. While you are waiting for a major print publisher to recognise the merit of your work, on-line publication is your sure-fire way of giving your writing global exposure.

E.W.G. 