

A brief history of the Fellowship of Australian Writers Queensland.

In 1921 a group of eighteen men and women met in Brisbane to discuss and prepare the ground for a society to be formed of authors and artists¹. The society was named Queensland Authors and Artists Association (QAAA). At a second meeting, in July 1921, the office bearers were elected as follows: President J.J. Stable; Vice Presidents Mrs Mabel Forrest, A.H. Davis (known as Steele Rudd) and P.J. McDermott; Secretary E. Colclough; Treasurer E. Ashton Murphy. In addition, nine committee members were elected.

In 1928 a group of people, mostly from NSW, but including QAAA vice president Steele Rudd, met in Sydney with the intention of forming a national writers' group². The outcome was the Fellowship of Australian Writers. The QAAA became the Fellowship's Queensland Branch.

During 1949 the QAAA began a long campaign for a cultural centre to be built in Brisbane².

At a special general meeting in Brisbane on the 18th November 1958, a motion was passed which saw the Queensland Authors and Artists Association officially re-named the Fellowship of Australian Writers, Queensland Section².

The Redcliffe Branch of the FAW came into being in 1960³. The driving forces behind its formation were Mr. J.E.G. Channon and Mr. F.C. Francis. These two gentlemen became the Branch's first President and Treasurer/Secretary respectively.

In March of 1970, a decision was made to engage in discussion with the Brisbane Writers' Group, with a view to amalgamation. As a consequence, BWG found itself a part of FAWQ. The BWG newsletter *Scope* became, and still is the FAWQ's magazine².

In 1968 FAWQ took over the running of the Warana Writers' Conventions, which later became the Brisbane Writers' Festival⁴.

In the latter 1980s, the cultural centre that had been proposed by QAAA in 1949, and which had been the subject of much campaigning over the years by the QAAA and then by the FAWQ, finally became a reality. The Centre, comprising The Queensland Art Gallery, Performing Arts Centre, Museum and State Library opened in 1988.

In the late 1980s FAWQ was represented on the nine-member steering committee that led to the establishment of the Queensland Writers' Centre, which opened in January 1991⁵.

Bibliography:

1. Authors and Artists: The story of the Queensland Authors and Artists Association — 1921 to 1944, being a paper read before the Queensland Authors and Artists Association on Tuesday, 16th October, 1945, by its author, Norman K. Harvey. (Document held at the State Library, Vic.).
2. Fox, L. (editor). *Dream at a graveside*. Published by The Fellowship of Australian Writers, Sydney. (This work includes a short account of FAWQ's history, by Pauline Smith, who has also written articles on J.J. Stable and Steele Rudd, for *Scope*).

3. *Redcliffe Writing*. An anthology of the writings of the members of the Fellowship of Australian Writers, Redcliffe Branch. Imprint by the Fellowship of Australian Writers, Redcliffe, 1969.
4. Simmons, (Mrs) Maida. *The genesis of the Warana Writers' Conventions*, undated, University of Queensland — Fryer Library manuscript. (Source located by Jim Higgins).
5. QWC website (History; from an article, *From the beginning*, by Honorary Life member, Helen Horton, printed in the March, 1999 issue of WQ Magazine—via link on the website).