



Society of Women Writers NSW Celebrating 95 Years in 2020 eNewsletter

April 2020
Issue 127

Please note changes to

Dates for your Diary 2020

📖 Society of Women Writers Book Awards 2020 Closes: 3rd July 2020

[See p 2 and last two pages of this eNewsletter for Entry Form]

📖 Society of Women Writers NSW 95th Anniversary Anthology

Call for Submissions

Leaping into the Future: protecting our wildlife through story [see p 4]

📖 New initiatives to keep us engaged

Keep a 'diary of the plague'

Submit a written "newsbite"

Join an online writing group for peer mentoring and support

Participate in a 'virtual' workshop

More in column 2 →

📖 Members' Bookshelf

New books by our SWW members for some excellent reading. [See p 6 & 7]

📖 The Historical Novel Society Australasia

\$30,000 Australasian literary prize celebrating historical fiction genre

Submissions open on 1 May and close on 30

June 2020. [See p 9]

📖 The State Library NSW has completely closed

but have recommended reading that their members can access online. Please visit their website.

SWW 95th Anniversary

16th September 2020

Jean Kittson,

Australian performer, writer and comedian
will present the Keynote talk.

watch this space for more announcements!

Announcement regarding the Coronavirus Pandemic

As a result of the coronavirus pandemic and the public health restrictions that now apply (including the temporary closure of venues such as the NSW State Library), the Committee has no option but to suspend the Society's face-to-face events for the time being. At this stage, we are suspending face-to-face workshops and luncheons from April 2020 up to and including July 2020, with the possibility that the suspension will need to be extended beyond July. The Committee will keep the situation under review and update you as appropriate.

However, there is some good news. There has never been a better time to be writing well and the Society has a number of exciting projects and activities for members to participate in.

📖 We are preparing an **Anthology for publication** in celebration of the Society's 95th Anniversary this year. All members are invited to submit short stories, articles and poems for school-aged children on the theme of protecting Australian wildlife. For further details, see p 4.

📖 Keep a **'diary of the plague'**. We are living through an historic event, the likes of which we have not seen for a century. Women's voices are often missing from the historical record. Don't let it happen this time. Tell your story for those who will wish to read about it in years to come – maybe your family, maybe others. Write about what you are seeing in the news, what your family and friends are doing, what is closed in your neighbourhood, city, state or country. We would like to create an archive of members' 'diaries of the plague', in further celebration of the Society's 95th Anniversary.

📖 Submit a **written 'newsbite'** (limit of **200 words**) about a current project, for publication in the May e-newsletter.

📖 Submit your published books for the Society of Women Writers **Book Awards**.

📖 Join an **online writing group** for peer mentoring and support. Let us know by sending an email to womenwritersnsw@gmail.com if you are interested in forming an online writing group with other members.

📖 Participate in a **'virtual' workshop**. Further details will follow in a later newsletter.

And remember that this too will pass.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I've had to completely rethink my report as the world endeavours to cope during this time of what will become a major event of our time. Notwithstanding disappointment at not being able to join one another at the Society's workshops and luncheons, I'm confident everyone understands the decision taken by your Committee to suspend these activities up to and including July - with ongoing review following government health guidelines as they evolve. No one knows when this disease will expend itself and allow us to resume our normal activities.

I have written to those Workshop presenters, Keynote and Member speakers affected by the immediate suspension. I'm delighted to report that they have all accepted to join us in that same month of 2021. Inside this e-newsletter you will find some **new and special activities** designed to keep everyone engaged and writing.

Congratulations to Sarah Pope on winning the 2020 Abbie Clancy Award. Sarah is in the final month of completing her PhD in Australian literature, specialising in girlhood studies at the University of NSW. We wish her well. Dr Hilarie Lindsay presented Sarah with her certificate and Dr Dorothy Keyworth was delighted to announce the winner and to read the judge's report which will be published, along with Sarah's talk, in the July Women's Ink! Unfortunately, the judge of the Award, Emerita Professor, Elizabeth Webby was unable to join us on the day. Elizabeth has been unwell and we wish her all the best as she recovers.

Both Sarah and our Keynote speaker, Jessica North spoke passionately about two remarkable women previously hidden in the shadows of history. Sarah told us of discovering Alice Jane Muskett and Jessica fascinated the audience with the life of Esther Abrahams who arrived as a First Fleet convict and became a prominent member of society and – albeit for a short time – the first lady of the colony.

I would like to thank Maria McDougall for the fabulous job she's done for over five years as Membership Secretary – not forgetting that at the beginning of that role Maria was also our prize draw co-ordinator and on the meet and greet team. Maria remains a valuable member of the Committee. Maria has now passed the membership secretary baton to Michele Bomford. I also thank Michele for her quick acceptance of the role. Maria has agreed to head up a sub-committee to plan for the Society's centenary celebrations.

Despite the uncertainty, Committee continue to plan for our 95th anniversary on 16 September. I am thrilled to report that Jean Kittson, Australian performer, writer and comedian will present the Keynote talk. Let's trust we are all able to be together again by then. Within these pages is news of an anthology project timed for completion by the 95th. Julie Thorndyke and Michele Bomford have worked unstintingly to prepare everything to make it a success. Thank you both for this amazing commitment to SWW.

To all our members and friends of the Society, I wish you and your loved ones all the best. These are extraordinary times so let's use the time for some extraordinary writing!

Jan Conway

THE SOCIETY OF WOMEN WRITERS NSW INC

2020 MEMBERS' BOOK AWARDS

Closing date: 3 JULY 2020

Entry Form at the end of this April eNewsletter.

www.womenwritersnsw.org

Giving Women Writers a Voice

Literary Luncheon

Wednesday 8 April 2020 now CANCELLED

Dixson Room State Library of NSW Macquarie Street, Sydney

Please note important CHANGES to our Programme

Program

Please see page 1 for details

New initiatives to keep us engaged

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The Historical Novel Society Australasia
\$30,000 Australasian literary prize

Membership Renewal

The Society of Women Writers NSW Inc
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2020

<https://womenwritersnsw.org/membership/>

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM
Inside March 2020 *Women's Ink!*

Annual fees for 2020-2021 are due on 1 July 2020

Please send Membership Renewal form to
GPO Box 1388 Sydney NSW 2001

www.womenwritersnsw.org

Workshop Co-ordinator: Pippa Kay
Mobile: 0407725747

**Society of Women Writers NSW
95th Anniversary Anthology
Call for Submissions**

Leaping into the Future: protecting our wildlife through story

To celebrate The SWW NSW 95th anniversary, we have an exciting writing project that looks outward and forward, not back. It is an education project targeted to children, to raise awareness of climate change and its effects on our environment, celebrate our unique animals, and support our natural landscape.

Blinky Bill, Dot and the Kangaroo, Snugglepup and Cuddlepie, The Muddle-headed Wombat; Edward the Emu; Koala Lu; Diary of Wombat; Uhu and many more. . . so many books in the canon of Australia Literature celebrate our unique flora and fauna.

Are you worried that your children and grandchildren may know koalas, platypus and wombats (and many others) only as storybook characters, never seeing one in real life?

Recent bushfire damage to the environment has pushed our wildlife to the brink of extinction. It is time to protect our precious Australian flora and fauna, sources of inspiration for so many classic Australian children's stories.

Call for submissions:

- SWWNSW members are invited to submit stories, information articles and poems **written for children** to be included in an anthology
- Suggested topics/themes: Australian native creatures of all kinds; native landscapes; climate change; weather; bushfire, flood, cyclones; human and natural resilience; marine environment and reefs; forests and trees . . .
- Stories and articles up to 1,000 words
- Poems up to 30 lines
- Previously published work on the theme may be submitted
- There is no payment for work accepted, no contributor copies and no fee to submit
- One-off rights are requested: copyright remains with the creator
- Electronic submissions to leapingintothefuture@gmail.com
- Submit with full name of author and story title in a Word doc 12 pt. Times New Roman, stories/poems should be double-spaced, poems single-paced
- **Submission deadline: 31st May 2020**

Invited guests may also be asked to contribute. A separate call for stories and illustrations by children will follow.

Target audience: primary school and early high school children, 8-12 yrs.

Copies of the anthology will be donated to fire-affected primary schools and sold to other readers. All proceeds from sales of the anthology to be donated to wildlife conservation.

Please join in this effort to celebrate and preserve Australia's unique wildlife!



The SWW Abbie Clancy Award 2020

Congratulations to **Sarah Pope**, Abbie Clancy 2020 Award winner.

Emerita Professor Elizabeth Webby judged the award.

The certificate was presented to Sarah Pope by Dr Hilarie Lindsay AO.



Dr Dorothy Keyworth kindly read the Judge's Report.



Full Judge's Report and speech from Sarah Pope will be published in the SWW July *Womens Ink!* Magazine.

Members' Bookshelf

Given restrictions on gatherings, the Members' Bookshelf may prove useful for spreading the word about new books. Here are our books for April. Enjoy reading!

Watching Through the Day, a picture book by Julie Thorndyke and Nandina Vines

Publisher, IP ISBN 9781922332073 (hardback); 9781922332080 (eBook)



This is the sequel to Julie Thorndyke's very popular picture book *Waiting for the Night*

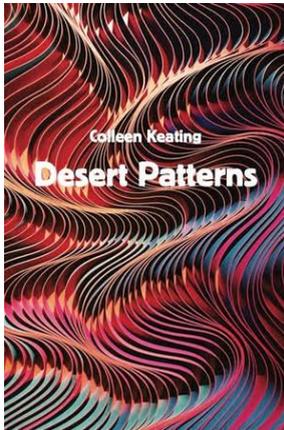
Soldier crabs ...
Pippis wiggling...
Jellyfish floating...
Pelicans gliding...

These are just some of the things you can photograph when you're out and about during the day. What photos of native creatures have you taken lately?

More information at: <http://bit.ly/2sUzhgY>

Desert Patterns Colleen Keating

Ginninderra Press, South Australia



When we listen, this land sings to us, holds us, nurtures us. This land is the common ground that we share. This small blue planet is the common world of our existence.

Desert Patterns is a collection of poetry that touches the membrane between two worlds with the breath of wildness and our inland journeys. In its striking imagery, we have a revelation of the significance of the land and of the burden of our Australian history.

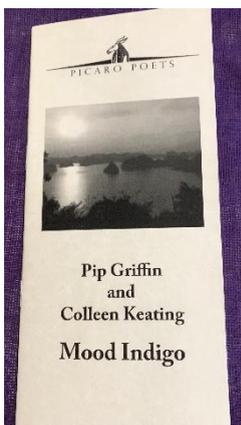
'Colleen's poetic journey invokes the deep spirituality of our landscape. She immerses us in "a multitude of gorgeous images" as we stand in Tunnel Creek remembering Jandamarra, marvel with Monet at Kakadu's "blazing-blue lilies" and dream with cicadas:

"is it a place the gods keep/to seduce the lost like me?"

Every step of the way, *Desert Patterns* will entrance you.' - Pip Griffin

Mood indigo Pip Griffin and Colleen Keating, shared poetry collection

Picaro Press an imprint of Ginninderra Press 2020



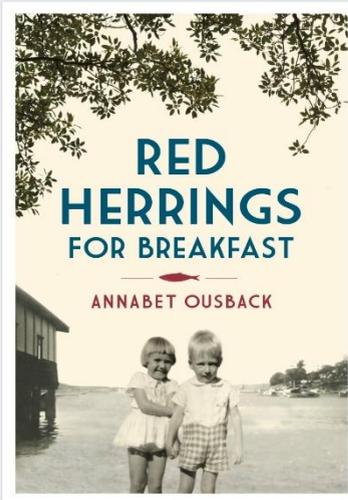
In days of uncertainty *mood Indigo* with its 24 succinct and lyrical poems gives the reader time to retreat to a pocket-sized poetry book with an inner covenant of peace.

Members' Bookshelf

Red Herrings for Breakfast

Annabet Ousback

April 2020 Bad Apple Press



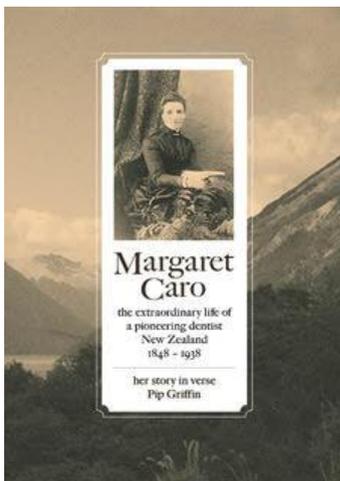
Annabet and her brother Anders grew up in the original boatshed at Balmoral. They survived a harsh upbringing, and while Annabet found her way to success through her own fashion label, Anders, of course, went on to become one of Sydney and Melbourne's most respected chefs and restaurateurs.

The story begins with the shock of Anders' tragic suicide and the finding of his diaries by Annabet after his death. In a way brother and sister have written this book together, with segments of his diary entries throughout the book. Despite their success they remained close and supportive of each other their whole lives. This is a story which touches on many areas of day-to-day struggles within families that still occur but are rarely discussed, even today.

Margaret Caro, the extraordinary life of a pioneering dentist in New Zealand, 1848-1938: her story in verse

Pip Griffin

Published January 2020, Pohutukawa Press.



Margaret Caro was unusual among New Zealand middle-class women reformers of her time in that during her married life she worked continually and with financial success in a male-dominated occupation.

The poet Les Wicks writes:

'This is a truly astonishing book with its depth of scholarship...(showing) a profound understanding of the family history (and) a picture of late 19th century and early 20th century New Zealand culture, dentistry processes, Adventist rites, dress and Western and Maori medical techniques. There is something for everyone in this book.'

\$25.00 plus postage, **available from the author, pipgriffin8@gmail.com**

SWW NSW eNewsletter is searchable on the internet. To include your new book.

Please send to swweditor@gmail.com in the following format. Email heading: SWW New Books.

In the body of the email, please include: Book Title, Author's Name, Publisher + 1 paragraph synopsis and book cover image.

The Historical Novel Society Australasia (HNSA) New \$30,000 Australasian literary prize celebrating historical fiction genre

Submissions open on 1 May and close on 30 June 2020

Announcing a new major literary prize, set to award \$30,000 to an outstanding historical novelist.

The new ARA Historical Novel Prize gives Australian and New Zealand historical novelists the chance to be recognised in a class of their own, with the most significant prize money for any genre-based prize in Australasia. Applications are open to all authors — whether traditionally or self-published — who are **residents or citizens of Australia or New Zealand, with books published between 1 January 2019 and 30 June 2020**. Historical fiction will be defined as a novel written at least 50 years after the events described, or by an author not alive at the time of the events described, who therefore must approach those events only through research. Entries may be submitted by authors, publishers and agents. More information at www.hnsa.org.au/ara-historical-novel-prize

Lifelong learning at State Library NSW

Bookings are essential for all programs and payment is required at the time of booking.

Due to current restraints on gatherings, please check with the State Library NSW to see if they will go ahead.

www.sl.nsw.gov.au/learning/lifelong-learners Wheelchair access Enquiries: learning.library@sl.nsw.gov.au or (02) 9273 1778

DISCOVER THE STATE LIBRARY

Dates: 7 May and 3 September and 29 October 2020 Time: 10.30 to 11.30 am. Meet in the Macquarie St foyer. Free (bookings essential) For the first-time user. Learn about the fantastic services and collections available at the State Library and how to get started.

SPECIAL BACK OF HOUSE TOUR

20 Aug 2020. Time: 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. Meet in the Macquarie St foyer \$60 (bookings essential)

Have you ever wondered what goes on in the backrooms and stacks of the State Library? Be one of the few to enjoy a 'limited-edition' tour of the Library's hidden spaces and locked places. Hear fascinating tales of librarians past, and the mysteries of Mr Mitchell. See what happens behind the scenes in Australia's oldest library. Good walking shoes are required — there will be lots of stairs and tight spaces to climb into. Very limited numbers.

Industrial Sydney - NEW

Date: 18 June 2020 Time: 10 am to 4.30pm Price: General Admission: \$60.00, State Library Friends Members: \$50.00

Discover how to research Sydney's industrial past, using a range of resources from the Library's collections, including company records, maps & plans, oral histories and photographs. Explore the early days of industrial Sydney.

Family History Insights - NEW

Date: 6 August 2020 Time: 10 am to 3.45 pm Price: General Admission: \$60.00, State Library Friends Members: \$50.00

Know the basics and ready to take your research further? Join us for this new National Family History Month event. Find out how to locate UK records from the Australian Joint Copying Project online collection, hear how oral histories can be used for family history, explore how to overcome your research roadblocks and learn the fundamentals of writing to help shape your research into an engaging narrative that your family will enjoy reading.

Using Maps for Historical Research

Date: 15 October 2020 Time: 10 am to 4.30 pm Price: General Admission: \$60.00, State Library Friends Members: \$50.00

If you are a map novice, come along to hear about what they can show you, how to find them at the Library and be inspired by some of our favourites. You will view early maps reflecting Indigenous history and culture, maps showing the development of the Sydney CBD, subdivision plans and more.

Land Records in NSW - NEW

Date: 19 November 2020 Time: 10 am to 4.30 pm Price: General Admission: \$60.00, State Library Friends Members: \$50.00

Want to explore the history of a parcel of land in NSW since 1788? We'll show you how to get started through this series of practical sessions and presentations. Get a hands-on introduction to searching the online Historical Land Records Viewer (HLRV) and discover how other Library collection items can enhance your research, including pastoral directories and real estate company records.

Online at the Library

ERESOURCES IN DEPTH: EBSCO & GALE Date: 2 July 2020 Time: 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. Meet in the Macquarie St foyer \$20 (bookings essential)

This hands-on workshop will help you get the most out of EBSCO and Gale databases, accessible from anywhere with your Library card. Intermediate computing skills are required.

ERESOURCES IN DEPTH: ONLINE NEWSPAPERS Date: 22 Oct 2020 Time: 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. Meet in the Macquarie St foyer \$20 (bookings essential)

Using the Library's substantial range of eresources, learn how to locate and use historical and current online newspapers from a variety of sources including Trove, ProQuest and Gale.

TREASURES OF TROVE Date: 24 September 2020 Time: 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. Meet in the Macquarie St foyer \$20 (bookings essential)

This hands-on workshop will introduce you to the unrivalled repository of Australian and online resources available from the Trove website. Search for books, images, maps, music, archives and more. Learn how to access digitised newspapers and local history information on Trove and how to sign up and add comments, edit text and tag articles. Basic computer skills are required.

Family history

STARTING FAMILY RESEARCH AT THE STATE LIBRARY Date: 4 June and 26 November Time: 10.30 am to 12 noon. Meet in the Macquarie St foyer \$20 (bookings essential). In this session librarians will introduce you to the State Library's diverse family history collections.

SPECIAL EVENT – HOUSE TALKS 2020

Date: 4 August 2020 Time: 5 to 7 pm. Jubilee Room at the Parliament of NSW Entry via the Parliament Guardhouse on Macquarie St.

Free (bookings essential Ph: (02) 9230 2047 or email: dps.education@parliament.nsw.gov.au) Don't miss this opportunity to see the chambers in session, hear a talk on the constitution and view 'Successive Stages of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia 1891' from the papers of Samuel Griffith.

SOCIETY OF WOMEN WRITERS NSW INC. Mentor Service for Authors, Writers and Editors.

Please book at <https://womenwritersnsw.org/>

Mentoring for writing and editing Carolyn Beaumont

A mentor is a supporter of writers but never a dictator.

With quiet encouragement and gentle suggestion, a mentor can assist a writer to complete a poem, short story, novel, play, family history or biography.

A mentor can assist with mental blocks. There are solutions.

A mentor can discuss characters, dialogues, plots, settings and themes.

A mentor can be a sounding wall for a writer to bounce off ideas, sentence structures, chapter sequences, legal and ethical issues.

The corporate or self-publishing processes require manuscripts to be thoroughly edited and then proofread at printing stage.

A mentor can offer an objective view of structural balance and a fresh eye on line (or copy) editing of the text.

A mentor can advise on communications between authors and publishers/printers and discuss changes that may be advised.

A mentor can guide an author through the proofreading stage to final publication.

An effective mentor knows that the final decision must always be the author's decision.

Please contact me via the **Society of Women Writers NSW Inc website** for more information, fees and bookings. Please use the Contact Form at <https://womenwritersnsw.org/contact/>

Sharon Rundle Book Doctor Mentor Service for writing and editing

A limited number of manuscripts are accepted, so your service is personalised.

Regular feedback at mutually agreed deadlines. *Please note bookings are now full until July 2020.*

Mentor Service includes:

- Working with an author or editor to **develop a narrative fiction or non fiction memoir**, incorporating input from author.
- Working with an author or editor on **Substantive/Structural Editing**.
- Clarifying or reorganising a manuscript for content and structure.
- Does **not** include research or writing original material.
- Please contact me via the **Society of Women Writers NSW Inc website** for more information, fees, and bookings. Please use the Contact Form at <https://womenwritersnsw.org/contact/>

Committee and Team for 2019 – 2020

Executive Committee:

Jan Conway—**President**

Kylie Day—**Vice President**

Amanda Mark—**Treasurer**

Rita Shaw—**Secretary**

Michele Bomford—**Membership Secretary**

Gwen Wilson—**Bookings** swwlunchbooking@gmail.com

Julie Thorndyke—**Publicity**

Committee members

Maria McDougall

Decima Wraxall.

eNewsletter and *Women's Ink!* team:

eNewsletter Editor—Natasha Sommer SWWnatasha@gmail.com

***Women's Ink!* Editor**—Sharon Rundle SWWEditor@gmail.com

***Women's Ink!* Co-editor** Natasha Sommer

Book Review Editor—Judith O'Connor

Photographers—Rita Shaw and Meg Dunn

Proofreader—Decima Wraxall

***Women's Ink!* Mail out**—Valerie Pybus

Printer—Ace Print & Design

eNewsletter Distributor—Lindsay Lewis

Website Manager and Marketing—Lindsay Lewis

Facebook Manager—Susanne Gervay OAM

Front Desk/Lunch Booking Officer—Gwen Wilson

Workshop Co-ordinator—Pippa Kay

Prize Draw—Julie Thorndyke

Public Officer—Dr Hilarie Lindsay MBE OAM

Patron—Emerita Professor Di Yerbury AO

Please send copy for the eNewsletter to Sharon Rundle at SWWeditor@gmail.com

Deadline 1st of the month for the following issue, eg: 1st April for May issue.

Please format in:
Calibri 11 pt Font,
single line spacing.

Thank you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Website: www.womenwritersnsw.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/The-Society-of-Women-Writers-NSW-Inc-1491708781046746/>



THE SOCIETY OF WOMEN WRITERS NSW INC

www.womenwritersnsw.org

Giving Women Writers a Voice

2020 MEMBERS' BOOK AWARDS

Closing date: 3 JULY 2020

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1. Entrants must be members of the Society of Women Writers NSW Inc.
2. A separate entry form must accompany each book.
3. All entries must be bound books. No e-books.
4. Self-published books will be accepted. No group anthologies.
5. Publication dates accepted for Books entered: **1 July 2018 to 30 June 2020**. Dates strictly observed.
6. No entries will be returned.
7. Prizes will be awarded as follows: Winner Trophy and Certificate; Two (2) Highly Commended Certificates; One (1) Commended Certificate.
8. The judge's decision will be final. **No** correspondence will be entered into.
9. The winners will be announced at the Society's Literary Luncheon Meeting in the Dixson Room of The State Library of NSW on **Wednesday, 14 October 2020**.
10. **No** entries postmarked after 3 July 2020, or received without payment, will be accepted or returned.
11. **Fee:** \$30.00 per entry.

Payment Methods:

EFT Preferred: Please **INCLUDE A COPY OF PAYMENT WITH YOUR ENTRY**.

THE SOCIETY OF WOMEN WRITERS NSW INC.

BSB 062-018 A/C NUMBER 00950433

For EFT payments Include the initial of your given name, last name and entry category code (refer below) eg Jane Smith, FICTION: JSmith FIC

Or: Cheques and money orders should be sent with your entry and made payable to:
THE SOCIETY OF WOMEN WRITERS NSW INC.

Send Entries to:

- **Receiving Officer for: FICTION (CODE: FIC) AND NON FICTION (CODE: NF) CATEGORIES**

Ms Julie Thorndyke
3 Forest Knoll
CASTLE HILL NSW 2154

- **Receiving Officer for: CHILDREN (CODE: CHILD) AND YOUNG ADULT (CODE: YA) CATEGORIES**

Ms Michele Bomford
18 William Street
BUNDANOON NSW 2578

- **Receiving Officer for: POETRY (CODE: POET)**

Ms Decima Wraxall
3 Hart Street
DUNDAS VALLEY NSW 2117



THE SOCIETY OF WOMEN WRITERS NSW INC

www.womenwritersnsw.org

Giving Women Writers a Voice

2020 MEMBERS' BOOK AWARDS

ENTRY FORM

Closing date: 3 JULY 2020

PLEASE PRINT

NAME OF AUTHOR(S):

NAME OF MEMBER (if different)

YOUR POSTAL ADDRESS:

EMAIL:

Tel: (H) MOBILE :

CATEGORY ENTERED: (Separate form for each book being entered)

CIRCLE ONE: **FICTION** NON FICTION **CHILDREN** YOUNG ADULT **POETRY**

BOOK TITLE:

PUBLISHER:

ISBN:

PLACE OF PUBLICATION:

DATE OF PUBLICATION:

I HAVE INCLUDED ALL INFORMATION AND PAYMENT OR PROOF OF EFT

I UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Print Name:

Signature: Date: