

THE SOCIETY OF WOMEN WRITERS NSW INC.

Giving Women Writers a Voice

Welcome to our e-Newsletter

August 2020

Issue 131

President's Message

Jan Conway



Members will have received their 95th Anniversary *Women's Ink!* by now. What a swansong! I'm sure you all join me in congratulating Sharon for a stunning magazine and a lovely keepsake.

A big welcome to Jacqui Brown as the new editor for the Society of Women Writers NSW. Maria McDougall and I have been fortunate to meet with Jacqui who is excited about her new position and about what the Society offers its members.

Our July programme with Patti Miller, Cindy Broadbent and Ann Howard took us to exciting places – walking in wild beauty, to Iran, and the satisfaction of ordering our data with Ann Howard's workshop. Don't miss out on Narrelle Harris' 19 August workshop – a crime writing tutorial.

Join us on Zoom from wherever you are for these events ... it's easy. No personal details are required and there are two ways to book and pay – by credit card or direct deposit. See booking details on page 2.

Zoom offers a great opportunity for members who in the past have found it difficult to get to our 'live' events, and to those in regional or interstate locations to join us for a range of fabulous speakers and workshop presenters. A chance to hear women writers share their wealth of knowledge and experience.

Jan

Dates for your Diary

12 August 2020

Libby Hathorn &
Lisa Hathorn-Jarman

*Is it really possible to
create a book together?*

followed by the
AGM

19 August 2020

Narrelle M Harris

*Thinning the Plot: Crime
Writing Tutorial*

16 September 2020

95th Anniversary

with Jean Kittson

Speaker and Workshop Bookings

All bookings will receive instructions to log on through Zoom.

On the day of the event, you receive via email an invitation to join the meeting.

Wednesday 12 August 2020

Is it really possible to create a book together?

(followed by the AGM)

\$10 Members

\$15 Non-members

Click [here](#) to book.

Wednesday 19 August 2020

Thinning the Plot — Crime Writing Tutorial

\$10 Members

\$15 Non-members

Click [here](#) to book.

For payment by direct deposit (members only) see page 3.

August Programme

* Please note the change in order of events on Wednesday 12 August to allow non-member guests to attend the keynote speaker talk then leave before the AGM if they wish.

Wednesday 12 August 2020

Keynote speakers: Libby Hathorn & Lisa Hathorn-Jarman Is it really possible to create a book together?

Time: 12.40pm (via Zoom)

Join award-winning children's writer Libby Hathorn and her daughter Lisa Hathorn-Jarman as they talk about teaming up to create a wonderful new book.

Hear Libby and Lisa talk about the story-making process, choosing a publisher, agreeing on artwork, agonising over roughs, watching the work evolve, and much more!

Inspired by Libby's second daughter, Georgina, *No! Never! A Cautionary Tale* is about a little girl who drives her parents up the wall when she starts answering 'No! Never!' to all their requests. But what happens when the tables are turned?

Libby is the author of more than eighty books for children and young people with her work winning honours and awards in Australia and around the world. Lisa is a former executive online producer at Channel 7.

Find out more about Libby at: www.libbyhathorn.com.



Libby Hathorn

Wednesday 12 August 2020 2020 Annual General Meeting

Time: 1.20pm (via Zoom)

The next few years will be exciting for the Society of Women Writers NSW, with a focus on growing our membership, providing interesting and varied speakers and workshops, and working towards our centenary!

Formal Notice of the Annual General Meeting will be emailed to members on 27 July 2020.

Nomination forms can be downloaded [here](#) and emailed to womenwritersnsw@gmail.com no later than 31 July 2020.

Speaker and Workshop Bookings

For payment by
TryBooking (members and
non-members) see page 2.

Booking by Direct Debit (members only):

If unable to book and pay
through TryBooking,
payment by direct deposit
is an option.

1. Make your payment to:

The Society of Women
Writers NSW Inc

BSB: 062 018

Account: 00950433

Code:

VML (for Keynote Speakers)

VMW (for Workshop)

2. Email Amanda Mark:

amanda.mark@mintegrity.com.au

with your name, receipt
number and date of event.
This will enable your invite
to the Zoom event.

Workshop Co-Ordinator:

Pippa Kay

Mobile: 0407 725 747

August Programme

Wednesday 19 August 2020

Workshop Presenter: Narrelle M Harris

Thinning the Plot – Crime Writing Tutorial

Time: 10.00am - 11.45am (via Zoom)

We all admire a tricky crime plot, but while the mystery is revealed to the reader in stages, it is, generally speaking, already known to the writer – who must know what happened in order to seed clues and misdirection for the detective and the reader. This can be especially challenging when writing crime stories for detectives who specialise in the peculiar, such as Sherlock Holmes.

In **Thinning the Plot**, Narrelle M Harris will step you through a method of devising a crime and then working backwards, deconstructing and 'thinning out' the events to determine how the crime was done, so that the appropriate clues can be left.

Narrelle writes crime, horror, fantasy, romance and erotica. Her 30+ novels and short stories have been published in Australia, US and the UK. Narrelle has taught English, dabbled in theatre, and is an experienced public speaker delivering talks and workshops for libraries, festivals and writing groups throughout the year. Find out more about Narrelle, her many books and awards at www.narrellemharris.com.



Booking details are on page 2.

Quote of the Month:

"The oak fought the wind and was broken, the
willow bent when it must and survived."
(Robert Jordan, *The Fires of Heaven*)

Member
Newsbites:
we need
you!

From your favourite quote or your favourite book, to your best tips for new writers, excerpts from a piece of work, or anything you'd like to share in the e-newsletter, please email me at jacqui.brown@panachecat.com.

Suggestions for what you'd like to read in the e-newsletter are welcome!

Deadline for the September issue is Thursday 20 August.

95th Anniversary Celebration with Jean Kittson

16 September 2020

Planning is underway for a joint live event and Zoom video conference to celebrate our 95th anniversary. The live event will take place at The Women's Club in Sydney.

Jean Kittson, comedian, author, and passionate advocate for women's and youth health, will be joining us as the keynote speaker for the event.

Reserve the date in your diary!



2020 Members' Book Awards Ceremony postponed till February 2021

Member books entered into the 2020 Book Awards are now in the hands of the category judges. Congratulations to everyone who entered.

Due to the uncertainties created by the COVID-19 pandemic, we have decided that the 2020 Book Awards Ceremony, which were scheduled to be held at the State Library of NSW on 14 October 2020, will be postponed.

These are prestigious awards, and the Committee feels it is important to present these in person. **The announcement and presentation ceremony will take place on Wednesday 10 February 2021.** All entrants have been advised. With the Di Yerbury Residency recipient for 2021 also being announced at the February meeting, the day will hopefully be a celebratory return to normality.

Di Yerbury Residency 2021

Applications for the 2021 Di Yerbury Residency are now open!

While Cindy Broadbent, the 2020 recipient, has had to defer her residency till 2021 due to COVID-19, *don't be deterred*. Professor Yerbury has generously declared her Barnstaple apartment available for both residencies to be taken up in the one year.

Find out more information by clicking [here](#).

Member Newsbites:

COVID-19 and the Sale of a House—An Excerpt By Maria McDougall

To move our furniture, we found 2 Men and a Truck. The young lads were Portuguese speaking here on working visas from Brazil. They were happy to help as they were ineligible for Job Keeper benefits from the Australian Government. They were very obliging and agreed to take left over furniture to Newcastle to the houses of both our son and daughter.

We drove there as well as it gave us the chance to see our grandchildren being home schooled at the time. Our usual greeting with hugs and kisses was replaced with a wink, much more fun than the advised elbow bump or foot tap.

Before the trip back to Sydney, one of the men asked to use the bathroom. We all stood horrified as we heard the youngest grandson knock on the powder room door.

'Yes?' came the reply from inside.

'Don't forget to wash your hands,' yelled the five-year-old.

Thanks to Maria for sharing an excerpt from an upcoming anthology by her writers' group. The excerpt is taken from a short story she wrote about selling her house during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Members' Bookshelf

new book releases by our members

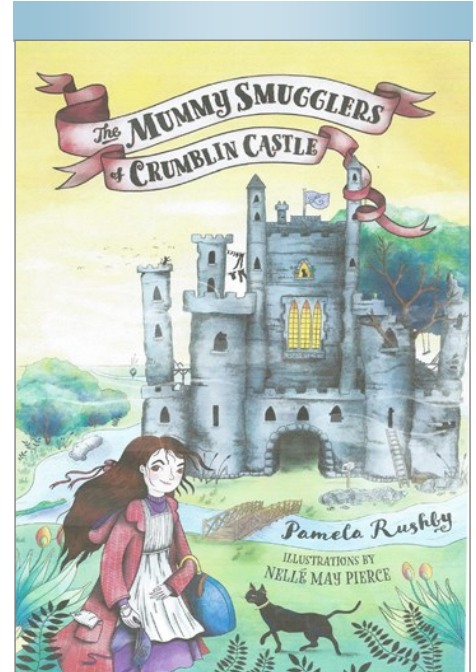
The Mummy Smugglers of Crumblin Castle by Pamela Rushby (Winner of the 2016 Di Yerbury Residency)

The Mummy Smugglers of Crumblin Castle by Pamela Rushby is a thrilling tale of an orphaned heroine, a mysterious mist-shrouded castle in the Fens, mummy unwrapping parties, a family of house-keeping cats, and a thousand-mile journey up the Nile in (illegal) search of ancient Egyptian mummies.

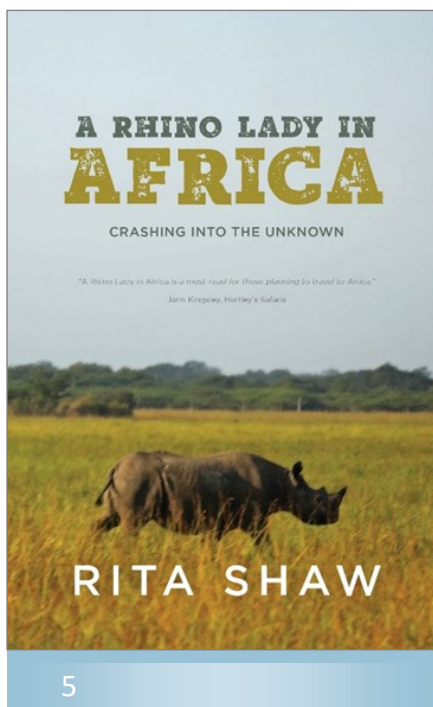
Pamela researched and wrote this middle-grade fiction while on the Di Yerbury Residency in England. Her adventures included visiting the British Museum Egyptian mummy room!

The Mummy Smugglers of Crumblin Castle by Pamela Rushby is available in bookstores now.

You can find out more about Pamela by clicking [here](#).



A Rhino Lady in Africa: Crashing into the Unknown by Rita Shaw



Rita Shaw is passionate about nature and all things living, and loves being able to photograph extraordinary moments in an animal's day-to-day life, particularly interactions between individuals and groups of animals.

Rita regularly travels to Africa, India and other countries, where she specialises in wildlife photography. Game drives provide her an opportunity to step into the personal space of rhinos, lions, leopards, elephants, cheetahs and other animals, and to capture those special moments in the otherwise secret lives of these amazing creatures.

A Rhino Lady from Africa: Crashing into the Unknown is a précis of 12 trips Rita took to Africa between 2008 and 2014. As if exchanging stories around a campfire in the African bush, Rita talks about her affinity with individual African countries, and her love for some of the people she has met and her many special experiences with animals, particularly rhinos.

A Rhino Lady from Africa: Crashing Into the Unknown is available from Berkelouw Mona Vale Bookshop or direct from Rita via email at rhinoservices@iinet.net.au or her [Facebook](#) page.

Membership Matters

Membership Renewals

Hello everyone,

Membership renewals for 2020-2021 were due on 1 July. The form can be downloaded [here](#) or found in your March edition of *Women's Ink!*

All the benefits of membership, except for our literary luncheons, are still in place, so I would urge those who have not already done so to renew and stay connected!

If paying by direct debit, please email your completed form and/or receipt to michele.cb@bigpond.com.

If paying through TryBooking, I will be notified of your renewal.

Cheques and/or forms sent to our PO Box may take a little longer to process at this time.

Welcome to New Members

The Society welcomes four **new members**.

Jacqui Brown is our new editor for the e-News and *Women's Ink!* She is interested in YA and middle grade fiction.

Jill Forster has published five books and is interested in short story, fiction, poetry and memoir.

Tricia Dearborn is a writer, editor, published poet and the recipient of a number of awards.

Gabriella Kelly-Davies is a writer of biography and memoir and is the founder of the life story writing business *Share Your Life Story*.

Keep well and stay safe in this ever-evolving situation! Michele

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When contributing your work to our publications:

- Please ensure you hold the publishing rights to your written work.
- Previously published stories need copyright clearance and may also need acknowledgement of prior publication.
- Contributors should add written permission to publish their work in the Society of Women Writers NSW e-newsletter.
- The Society of Women Writers NSW Inc requires a non-exclusive licence to publish your work in the e-newsletter.
- Copyright remains with the author.
- Contributions of fiction and nonfiction should be non-defamatory.

For more information please visit the Australian Copyright Council information sheets [click here](#).

Mentor Service for Authors, Writers and Editors

If you are serious about developing your writing, getting published, or tuning your craft, the society offers mentor services with two outstanding editors:



Carolyn Beaumont



Sharon Rundle

For more information on both Carolyn and Sharon, please [click here](#).

To enquire about the services, rates and availability use the [contact form](#).

Committee and Team

Executive Committee:

Jan Conway | President
Kylie Day | Vice President
Amanda Mark | Treasurer
Rita Shaw | Secretary
Michelle Bomford | Membership Secretary
Julie Thorndyke | Publicity
Maria McDougall | Committee Member



e-Newsletter and *Women's Ink!* team

Jacqui Brown | e-Newsletter Editor
Jacqui Brown | Women's INK! Editor
Valerie Pybus | Mailout
Judith O'Connor | Book Review Editor
Rita Shaw, Meg Dunn | Photographers
Decima Wraxall | Proofreader
Ace Print & Design | Printer

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Lindsay Lewis | Website Manager and Marketing
Susanne Gervay OAM | Facebook Manager
Gwen Wilson swwlunchbooking@gmail.com | Front Desk/Lunch Booking Officer
Pippa Kay | Workshop Co-ordinator
Julie Thorndyke | Prize Draw
Dr Hilarie Lindsay MBE OAM | Public Officer
Emerita Professor Di Yerbury AO | Patron

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