

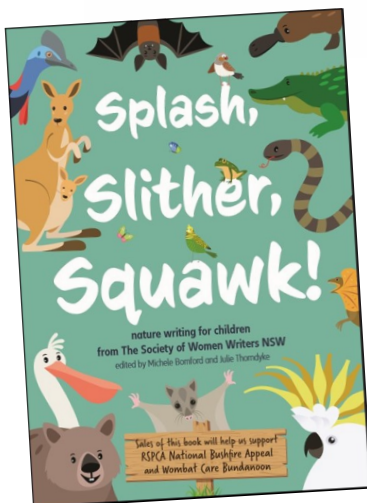


THE SOCIETY OF WOMEN WRITERS NSW INC.

Giving Women Writers a Voice

Welcome to our e-Newsletter
September 2020, Issue 132

We're
celebrating
our
95th Birthday
with
Jean Kittson
and
*you're
invited!*



Be there as Jean launches
our new anthology,
Splash, Slither, Squawk!

Details on pages 3 & 4!

Dates for your Diary

9 September 2020

[Jacqui Winn](#) Workshop
Character: the Heart of
the Story

16 September 2020

95th Birthday
Celebrations
with

[Jean Kittson](#)
and [Gwen Wilson](#)

14 October 2020

[Dorothy Keyworth](#) on
poet Grace Perry
[Louise Allan](#)
Second Book Syndrome

21 October 2020

[Dr Ella Jeffery](#) Workshop
The Self in the World:
Poetry and Place

Speaker and Workshop Bookings

All bookings will receive instructions to log on through Zoom.

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

**Wednesday
9 September 2020**

**Workshop - Character:
the Heart of the Story**

\$10 Members

\$15 Non-members

Click [here](#) to book.

**Wednesday
16 September 2020**

**95th Birthday
Celebrations with
Jean Kittson and
Gwen Wilson**

\$10 Members

\$15 Non-members

Click [here](#) to book.

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

Membership Matters

Ladies, this is the **FINAL CALL for membership renewals** for the 2020-21 financial year. If you have not yet renewed, please do so by 30 September and stay connected to the Society's vibrant writing community. Renewal forms are available on the website or by emailing me at michele.cb@bigpond.com.

This month we welcome new member **Denise MacKenzie**. From the Southern Highlands, Denise is an aspiring writer who is undertaking a creative writing course through Curtin University. She is interested in poetry, short story, and fiction.

Take care everyone,

Michele

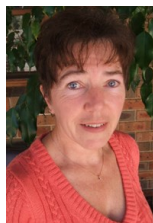
September Workshop

Wednesday 9 September 2020

Presenter Jacqui Winn

Character: the Heart of the Story

Time: 10am–11.45am (via Zoom)



As readers we hook into character more than any other aspect of story. But how can you create a

compelling main character that breathes life into the plot and keep your readers' interest for the entire story?

Now you can learn directly from author Jacqui Winn in this

wonderful workshop, **Character: the Heart of the Story** as she takes you through the process of how to set up your main *and* secondary characters with depth and authenticity.

Jacqui has two collections of short stories published by Ginninderra Press and available for purchase on her website at jacquelinewinn.com.

Please follow us on [Facebook](#) and remember to Like and Share our posts and events with your friends!

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

95th Birthday Celebration and launch of Splash, Slither, Squawk! with Jean Kittson

Wednesday 16 September 2020
Time: 12.40pm – 2pm (via Zoom)

Keynote Speaker: Jean Kittson

We are excited to welcome Jean Kittson as our Keynote Speaker for this event!

Whether you've loved her comedy, read her books, or heard her speak, Jean Kittson is always informative, funny and accessible.

Jean is a performer and scriptwriter for stage, television, radio, magazines and newspapers. She is also a wife, mother, daughter, and an advocate for women's health issues.

Join us for a unique presentation tailored especially for us to celebrate the 95th birthday of a society of extraordinary women writers. Book your ticket now!

More information is available [here](#).



Guest Speaker: Gwen Wilson

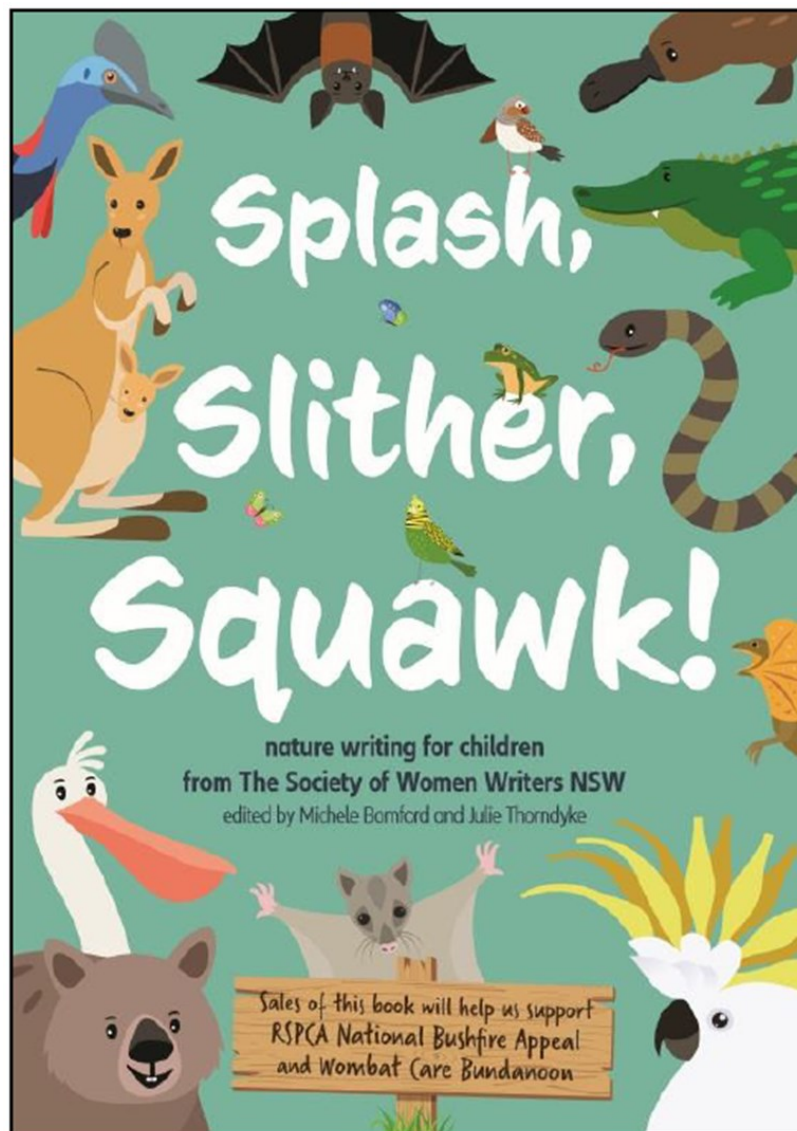
The Search for Belonging: from Memoir to Historical Fiction

Gwen Wilson's debut memoir **I Belong to No One** is a gritty tale of being raised the illegitimate, fatherless, daughter of a "mad" mother. A rebellious teenager in the 70s, Gwen became a mother in the Forced Adoption era. But was her life predestined by her great-grandmother, Louisa, whose 1892 divorce created mayhem for the following generations? It's a dramatic story – but how to turn it into a page-turner?

[*I Belong to No One*](#) is available from bookstores and online from Booktopia, Angus & Robertson, Amazon, Kobo, and Book Depository, in paperback, eBook, and audio (narrated by Gwen).



For only \$20 purchase your own copy of this wonderful anthology. With sales supporting the [RSPCA National Bushfire Appeal](#) and [Wombat Care Bundanoon](#), why not order a second copy for a friend!



Nature writing for children from
The Society of Women Writers NSW Inc.
Edited by Michele Bomford and Julie Thorndyke

Reviews for Splash, Slither, Squawk!

'Do we have heads so cockatoos have something to rest on? Are lyrebirds really trying to fool us? Why do we have Easter bilbies not bunnies? How are our coral reefs changing? What do birds pray for? Do you like poems and stories about the bush? I'd be surprised if you didn't. Get yourself a copy of this book – if necessary, find an adult to do it for you – and find somewhere cosy to sit. You won't regret it.' *Dr John Yalance, NSW State Librarian*

'An important anthology by women writers to inspire young people to care about our natural world.'

Susanne Gervay OAM

'Splash, Slither, Squawk!' is full of magic.' *Jan Conway, President, SWW NSW Inc*

'Enjoy this timely collection for children on our precious environment which is so much at the heart of Australian literature.' *Libby Hathorn, Writer and Poet*

Competitions

Buzz Words Short Story Prize is open!

Submit your best short story for kids into this annual prize, awarded to recognise excellence in short story writing for children. The word limit is 1,500 words, and first prize is a nifty \$1,000!

For more information and to download the entry form, click [here](#).

The Robyn Mathison Poetry Prize 2020 wants you!

Calling all poets! The Robyn Mathison Poetry Prize is a competition for original, previously unpublished poetry, with this year's theme being flora or fauna. First prize is \$200 straight into your pocket.

More information is available [here](#).

Newsbites

Susanna de Vries' new biography! NELL: The Australian Heiress who Saved her Husband from Stalin and the Nazis

Congratulations to Susanna de Vries, winner of the 2012 Alice Award, on the release of her new biography **Nell: The Australian Heiress who Saved her Husband from Stalin and the Nazis**.

Susanna has received a wonderful response to her book, including a fascinating interview with Phillip Adams on ABC radio, which you can listen to here: [Susanna de Vries Interview with Phillip Adams](#). A highly recommended and worthwhile listen!

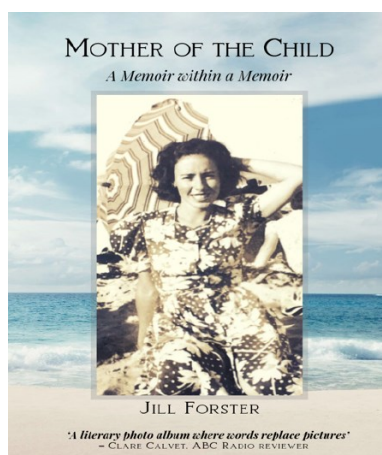
We are delighted that Susanna is our guest speaker for April 2021. In the meantime, find out more about Susanna and her new book on her website [here](#).

Members' Bookshelf

MOTHER OF THE CHILD A Memoir within a Memoir by Jill Forster

Jill Forster's extraordinary new book MOTHER OF THE CHILD was released in April by Origin Imprint and has already received many positive reviews.

Using a valuable tool of harmonising poetry and prose memoir, Jill Forster takes the reader into a lyrical time warp — a disordering of time and place, of there and then to understand the here and now. Vignettes from her mother's life are reflected through the child's eyes and reveal memories that are light and dark, joyful and sad, wistful and filled with tension.



'Evocative and surreal and somehow very familiar. This book is a treasure trove of beautifully crafted word paintings. Intriguing descriptions of time and place tumble off the page, each one as cleverly written as the next. This story feels like you've lived it yourself, such is the deftness and depth of the writing.' *Jenny Morris, singer-songwriter, OAM, MNZM*

'A laser-like focus on things that are not only nostalgia triggers, but are in fact full of symbolism. I particularly

liked the way the narrative and the poems fitted together, erudite and deceptively simple. It put me in mind of Tim Winton's *Island Home* and the English writer Ted Walker's *The High Path*.' *Phil Donnelly, poet and critic*

MOTHER OF THE CHILD is available from [Origin Imprint](#), Dymocks, Booktopia, and from the national distributor [Woodslane](#). You can follow Jill on [Facebook](#).

President's Message

Jan Conway

On 12 August 2020 the Society of Women Writers NSW held its Annual General Meeting via Zoom. Thank you for putting your trust in me for a second year as president. You can read the President's Annual Report at the end of this newsletter.

I am delighted to welcome two new committee members, Jacqui Brown and Ann Beaumont, who join the returning 2019-2020 members. This revitalised committee has already met and I look forward to the year ahead working with women eager to grow and strengthen our unique Society while maintaining its values and traditions.

encourage participation. We provide qualified and interesting speakers and workshops, presenting a diverse range of subjects but these are not attracting the audience they deserve. In order to promote these events in today's digital world, we need to enhance our social media presence. **Do you have an on-line presence?** A Facebook page, a blog or do you Twitter? Perhaps you have your own website. Please share a link to all our events. This is one of the ways **you can support and help the Society grow** ensuring that it will still be nourishing the lives of women writers in the future.

"We are all custodians of this distinguished society of women writers."

One of the biggest challenges we have as a committee, working on behalf of members, is to develop and grow this wonderful society and to attract and involve established and new members, and the wider writing community of women in fresh and exciting ways.

While the Covid-19 pandemic has wreaked social havoc throughout Australia and on the world's economy it has forced us – a 95-year old Society – to look outward, to embrace all forms of technology. Without technology (in this case Zoom) the society would have been, for the first time in its history, in a hiatus.

We are all custodians of this distinguished society of women writers. The Society's competitions and awards, offered to both members and non-members,

Droughts, floods, bleaching coral reefs and Australia's devastating summer of fires heighten our awareness of our fragile environment. It was these sentiments that nurtured *Splash, Slither, Squawk!* the Society's 95th anniversary anthology of nature writing for children. This delightful book, written by our members and invited guest writers, illustrated beautifully by children, will be launched by Jean Kittson on 16 September. Please join us on that day to celebrate The Society of



Women Writers New South Wales' longevity, and toast its future.

Jan Conway

The beginning is always today.
Mary Shelley.

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
Anne Beaumont | Committee Member
Jacqui Brown | Committee Member



e-Newsletter & Women's Ink!

Jacqui Brown | e-Newsletter & 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

Website

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

Contact Information

The Society of Women Writers NSW Inc.

Correspondence:

Secretary
Society of Women Writers NSW Inc.
GPO Box 1388
Sydney NSW 2001

Email: womenwritersnsw@gmail.com

Website: www.womenwritersnsw.org

Facebook: To follow us on Facebook [click here](#).

Society of Women Writers NSW Inc. COPYRIGHT NOTICE

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](#).

SOCIETY OF WOMEN WRITERS NSW Inc
PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT
AGM 12 August 2020

The last year has been an extraordinary one. My sincere thanks to all those who have supported me as president and, in so doing, this wonderful society of women writers which in a month's time will celebrate 95 years of '*Giving Women Writers a Voice*'.

The Society of Women Writers NSW is unique. Over the years it has continued to meet and provide support to women writers despite economic depressions and wars. The recent months have tested us all. Australia's *Black Summer* of 2019/2020 ravaged swathes of the New South Wales countryside impacting a number of our members, some forced to evacuate their homes but all having to remain vigilant to ensure the safety of their properties.

And then came the coronavirus pandemic. The health and safety of our members was paramount. By mid-March the decision was made to cancel the Society's literary luncheon events for the foreseeable future. It was difficult to see where that future might be and it was important to not let the Society wither while members were in mandatory isolation. To ensure members could remain engaged with their friends and fellow writers the Society of Women Writers embraced new technologies and introduced our speakers and workshops via Zoom. To further that engagement, members were encouraged to submit *Isolated Thoughts* and Newsbites to the monthly eNewsletter.

Throughout the year – whether face to face or via Zoom – we have heard from exceptional Keynote speakers who shared their experiences which covered a wide variety of subjects and genres. Workshop presenters imparted their expert knowledge and member speakers shared their writing journeys with us. What a privilege!

Successes have been celebrated and enjoyed. In October the Society recognised the winners of the 2019 National Writing Competition. The 2020 Di Yerbury Residency was awarded to Cindy Broadbent in February and the Alice Award went to Sarah Pope from the University of NSW in March.

I would like to thank National Writing Competition judges Judith Beveridge, Dr Maria Hill and Dr Sharon Rundle, Di Yerbury Residency judges Coleen Keating and Dr Sharon Rundle, and for judging the Abbie Clancy Award, Emerita Professor Elizabeth Webby.

The forty-four entries in the 2020 Members' Book Awards are now with their respective judges. I wish all entrants the best of luck.

Applications for the 2021 Di Yerbury Residency close on 30 October 2020. The Society is indebted to our Patron, Emerita Professor Di Yerbury for this gift of a 3-month, UK residency. Cindy Broadbent has had to postpone her residency due to Covid-19. Dependent on the coronavirus outcomes worldwide, Cindy will take up her residency in July 2021. Professor Yerbury has generously offered her Barnstaple apartment for two residencies in 2021.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT Continued

Traditionally, the winners of the Members' Book Awards are announced in October but this has been postponed. Instead only the shortlisted will be announced at that time. It is hoped that February 2021 will see us 'live' in the Dixon Room when the day can be one of celebration with the announcement of the Book Award winners and the Di Yerbury Residency winner.

The new year brought changes. The cost of membership and our literary events increased. To counter this increase membership concession was offered to regional members and a credit card payment option was made available through Trybooking. This method of payment also streamlined the booking process. A buffet lunch was provided with a vegetarian, dairy free option available to those with special dietary needs.

I welcome all our new members and look forward to the day we can all be together sharing our writing moments over a light lunch. Membership has remained steady with 21 new members this financial year. Committee were developing a programme to reach out to universities, tertiary places of learning, to libraries and festivals but these plans are on hold and ready to proceed when restrictions are lifted. The need to grow the Society while providing a valuable, and modern, resource for women writers is our challenge.

There are many people to thank.

1. Dr Sharon Rundle resigned after three years as editor of the eNewsletter and the Women's Ink! The July WI! – Sharon's swansong – was a beautiful 95th anniversary keepsake. My thanks go to Sharon for her generous support of the Society. I must also thank Natasha Sommer who, for a year helped Sharon by taking on the role of sub-editor.
2. Decima Wraxall – for her support. Decima has resigned from committee but will continue as proof-reader for the newsletter and Women's Ink!
3. The Society could not operate without the invaluable work done by Pippa Kay as Workshop Convenor, Gwen Wilson our Lunch and Front Desk co-ordinator, Lindsay Lewis for the website, Judith O'Connor – Book Review Editor, Susanne Gervay for maintaining our Facebook page. My thanks to Hilarie Lindsay, our Queensland. Now in its third reprint, a feat we can all aspire to ... and our heartfelt thanks to our Patron, Emerita Professor Di Yerbury for her support and generosity.
4. To the State Library of New South Wales for their support and generosity. Dr John Vallance, NSW State Librarian and Mr Richard Neville, Mitchell Librarian - thank you.
5. I wish to thank Elizabeth and the Woollahra Bookshop for their support in providing a point-of-sale for members' books at our luncheon events.
6. There are many who support and give generously quietly behind the scenes. You know who you are ... thank you.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT Continued

7. I wish to welcome Jacqui Brown, who has taken on the role of editor and has already made her mark with the August eNewsletter produced to match the style of our website.

And to the Society's fabulous committee. We began the year without a Vice President or a Secretary. Within the first week Kylie Day had accepted the role of Vice President and Rita Shaw – at her very first SWW meeting - took on the role of Secretary and photographer. Amanda Mark, for keeping the accounts up to date, for managing the new Trybooking system. Julie Thorndyke for managing the prize draws. Michele Bomford took over the role of Membership Secretary from Maria McDougall. Maria is now the SWW representative attending the Mitchell Library Consultative Committee. Thank you all for your commitment to the Society and for supporting me in my role as president.

The recent increase in positive cases of coronavirus in Victoria, and to a lesser extent in NSW, is an unfortunate reminder that we continue to live with Covid-19.

Nevertheless, the Society of Women Writers NSW has much to look forward to.

Planning for the Society's 100th is under way. A centenary committee has been formed under the leadership of Maria McDougall. Two exciting centenary projects have been set in motion. One – to commission a sculpture to be located in a public place in Sydney ... perhaps a bit of Possum Magic or a mischievous Blinky Bill in the Botanical Gardens? The other, to gain permission to place a commemorative, footpath plaque celebrating The Society of Women Writers NSW – maybe outside the Mitchell Library. To bring these ideas to fruition will take time. Permissions need to be gained, quotes received, funds raised and possibly grant monies sought. Please support Maria wherever possible.

But before we get there ...

On the 16 September – at our 95th anniversary celebration event - a fabulous addition to the Society's anthology library will be launched by Jean Kittson. Jean is a comedian, writer and passionate advocate for women's and youth health. This anthology, written for children, about Australia's flora and fauna is written by members, invited guests and is illustrated delightfully by children. In response to the devastating summer bushfires, the book was the brainchild of Julie Thorndyke. In just six months, Julie and Michele Bomford have promoted, called for submissions, collated, edited and had designed a book you will all want to share with child and adult alike. *Splash, Slither, Squawk!* is pure magic. Please join me in congratulating Julie and Michele.

Thank you all for your support.

Jan Conway
12 August 2020