

THE SOCIETY OF WOMEN WRITERS NSW INC.



Welcome to our e-Newsletter October 2020 | Issue 133

*Hello. The air is salty, the magpies are swooping, spring is here!
With new events for October, the Members Book Awards shortlist, two new member book releases, and our anthology now available, this month's e-newsletter is jam packed!
Hope you enjoy it, Jacqui*

October Literary Speaker Event



Keynote Speaker: Louise Allan **Second Novel Syndrome**

What is second novel syndrome, what causes it, what are its symptoms, and how can you treat it if it strikes?

After a successful début novel, author and former doctor, Louise Allan, author of *The Sisters' Song*, thought it would be easy to write a second book—after all, she'd done it once before. But that wasn't the case.

Frustrated and annoyed, she wondered if she had another novel in her, and almost gave up writing altogether.

Now with her second novel close to completion, Louise explains how publication can affect your writing and creativity, how getting annoyed at yourself isn't the answer, and how you can find joy in writing again. For more about Louise, follow the link: <https://louiseallan.com/the-sisters-song/>



SWW Speaker: Dorothy Keyworth **on Grace Perry, Publisher of Poetry Australia Magazine**

Join us to hear Dorothy Keyworth talk about Australian poet Grace Perry's remarkable life and work.

Wednesday 14 October 2020

12.40pm - 2.00pm online (via Zoom)

\$10 Members

\$15 Non-members

Click to book [here](#).

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. If you prefer to pay by direct debit (members only) please see bottom of the newsletter.

October Workshop

Ella Jeffery

The Self in the World: Poetry & Place

Where are you right now? What do you notice about our surroundings? So often, we don't pay much attention to the places we move through every day. In this workshop, you'll learn how to bring the world around you into the space of your poems.



Poems about travel, about landscape, about memory, about home — they all require a close attention to place, and in this workshop you will develop some practical skills to help focus your attention on place, bringing depth and detail to your poetry.

With award winning poet Ella Jeffery, you'll learn new ways to make places – both familiar and unfamiliar, real and imagined – come alive in your poetry, and make the reader feel as if they're really there.

www.ellajeffery.com

Wednesday 21 October 2020

10.00am - 11.45am online (via Zoom)

\$10 Members

\$15 Non-members

Click [here](#) to book.

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. If you prefer to pay by direct debit (members only) please see bottom of the newsletter.

Workshop Co-ordinator:

Pippa Kay.

Mobile: 0407 725 747

Coronavirus Update

Due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, and in consultation with the State Library of NSW, the Society's November and December 2020 events will be held on Zoom. As a consequence, Susanne Gervay's workshop will now be held on 18 November. Stripping the Love Scene Down Workshop moves to 10 February 2021 and will not be replaced due to the proximity of Christmas.

We share your disappointment and fervently hope that we will be together in the Dixon Room, Mitchell Wing of the State Library on 10 February 2021.

***Splash, Slither, Squawk!* has arrived. Get your copy now!**



This book is absolutely gorgeous!

Splash, Slither, Squawk!

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

With contributions from renowned women writers Libby Hathorn, poet Beverley George, Sophie Masson, Susanne Gervay, Pamela Rushby and many more, and delightful illustrations from the children of NSW, this is definitely a book you want to own.

Plus, sales support the [RSPCA National Bushfire Appeal](#) and [Wombat Care Bundanoon](#).

Order your copy [HERE!](#)

President's Message

What a treat it was for those who zoomed in for our 95th anniversary celebrations. The inimitable Jean Kittson both entertained and inspired us before officially launching *Splash, Slither, Squawk!* into the wide world. Gwen Wilson unraveled the threads of a complicated and somewhat racy family. A host of well-wishers sent messages reflecting on the past, acknowledging the Society's achievements, writing of hope and wishing us well for our future endeavours.

It is now the turn of current members to take the baton from those many women who, over the last 95 years, advocated for women's voices to be heard, women who supported and carried the Society forward. The future is ours to shape.

You may have noticed that September's eNewsletter came in both digitally and as a pdf. We're delighted that from November, our *Women's Ink!* magazine will be published in both printed and digital format, with the digital format able to be viewed in full colour. Be assured, the *Women's Ink!* will still arrive in your mailbox. However, some of you may prefer only to receive information via your computer, phone or tablet screen, so after a trial period, those members wishing to only receive the digital magazine will have the option to do so.

Over the last couple of days, I've had the enjoyable task of sending letters to members who have had their entries in the Members' Book Award 2020 shortlisted. The Award announcement ceremony has been postponed and is now scheduled for Wednesday 10 February 2021 along with the announcement of

the Di Yerbury Residency for 2021. Our hopes are for a celebratory return to the Dixon Room. Please join me in offering congratulations to all those on the shortlist below.

As we live through the Covid-19 pandemic and work towards our centenary, I share with you words from the Lord Mayor, Right Honourable Clover Moore's message (inter alia):

'You are our record-keepers, our story tellers, our critics and our conscience. You help us look at our world, and at ourselves, to see what we are and to imagine what we could be ... you foster the talents of generations of new writers and encourage the love of words and stories as you will do with the launch of your new book for children. Congratulations to you all on your fantastic work. As you reflect today on all that has been achieved over the past 95 years, let it inspire you to keep that tradition alive well into the future. We need our writers more than ever!'

Jan Conway



Announcing the Members' Book Awards 2020 Shortlist

We're delighted to announce the shortlist for the Members' Book Awards 2020. Congratulations to all the authors involved and thank you to our judges.

Authors are listed alphabetically in each category.

POETRY – JUDGED BY MARGARET BRADSTOCK

P.S. Cottier Monstrous

Tricia Dearborn Autobiocchemistry

Pip Griffin Margaret Caro

Colleen Keating Desert Patterns

Colleen Keating Hildegard of Bingen

FICTION – JUDGED BY CAROLYN BEAUMONT

Nicole Alexander Stone Country

Diane Armstrong The Collaborator

Carmel Bendon Grasping at Water

Cindy Broadbent The Revolutionary's Cousin

Christine Sykes The Changing Room

Julie Thorndyke Mrs Rickaby's Lullaby

NON FICTION – JUDGED BY JUDITH O'CONNOR

Colleen Keating Hildegard of Bingen

Liz Newton The Firing Line

Jessica North Esther

Jo Oliver Jessie Traill – a Biography

Annabet Ousback Red Herrings for Breakfast

Gill Shaddick The Hong Kong Letters

CHILDREN – JUDGED BY PAUL McDONALD

Georgina Donaghey In the Shadow of an Elephant

Susanne Gervay The Boy in the Blue Glasses

Libby Hathorn Miss Franklin

YOUNG ADULT – JUDGED BY PAUL McDONALD

No prizes will be awarded in this category

The Abbie Clancy Award for 2021 now open!

The Abbie Clancy Award is open to female honours and post-graduate students attending university in New South Wales. Entrants submit an abstract of an unpublished research paper on the published or unpublished work(s) of fiction or non-fiction of an Australian woman writer, journalist, playwright or poet.

The winner receives \$1,000 in prize money. Entries close [5pm on Friday 27 November 2020](#).

Find out more on The Society of Women Writers [website](#)

The Di Yerbury UK Residency 2021 Closing Soon!

Applications are open for The Di Yerbury UK Residency 2021!

The successful applicant will be offered a residency in Barnstaple, North Devon, for three months to focus on researching or writing a fiction or non-fiction manuscript whose main focus is in the UK.

Applications close at [5pm on 30 October 2020](#) with the winner announced in February 2021. For more details and competition conditions, click [here](#)

Upcoming Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 11 November 2020

Keynote Speaker [Susanne Gervay OAM](#)

Story Matters

plus

SWW Speaker [Margaret Zanardo](#)

An Accidental Love Affair with Poetry

Wednesday 18 November 2020

Workshop with [Susanne Gervay OAM](#)

Writing Story That Matters

Members' Bookshelf: New Releases by our Members

WATCHING THROUGH THE DAY

by Julie Thorndyke

We're thrilled for Julie Thorndyke on the release of her new picture book, *Watching Through the Day*, already receiving fabulous reviews.

Watching Through the Day is an exquisite closer look at all that flies, creeps, weaves and floats about the Australian bush, backyard and seaside, a visual sensual feast that satisfies both nature-lovers and those with a fondness for detail.

– **Dimity Powell**, Managing Editor, *Kids Book Review*

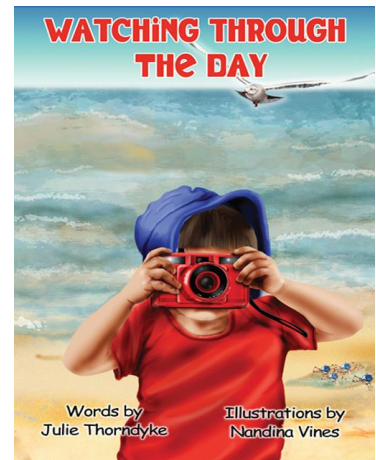
Follow the journey of a budding photographer as he captures the antics of our beloved fauna going about their day. Soldier crabs run in the hot sun. Wagtail dances chirps and prances. Full colour spreads give a close-up view of each wonderful creature with the story being told in simple rhyming text. A lovely introduction to the wonders of our land.

– **Jackie Hosking**, Editor, *Pass It On*

Watching through the Day captures Australia's wildlife at play. You'll find pippis poking out of the sand; a magpie feeding its baby, and much more. The artwork by Nandina Vines is so sweet, refreshing and dreamy, picking up the beauty and colours in Nature that Australians are so lucky to enjoy.

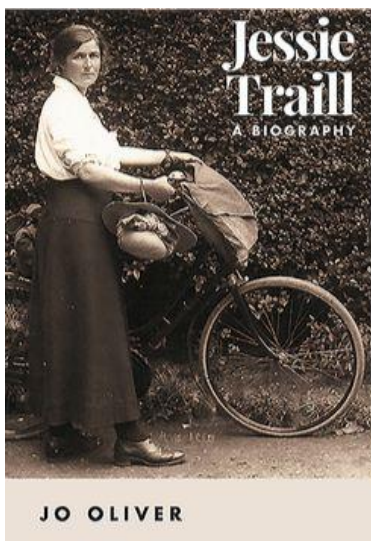
– **Veronica Chapman**, *Teachezy*

Find out more on Julie's website www.juliethorndyke.com.



JESSIE TRAILL: A BIOGRAPHY

by Jo Oliver



Jessie Trill was one of Australia's most outstanding etchers, working in a field uncommon for women of her time.

This biography by Jo Oliver explores her remarkable life – as artist, traveler, humanitarian and independent spirit. From the ten-year-old who first met Tom Roberts painting on the shores of Port Phillip Bay, to a student of Frederick McCubbin and etchers John Mather and Frank Brangwyn, Jessie developed her professional skills. She interrupted her career to work as a voluntary nurse in France during WWI, later raising funds for and revisiting war-torn Europe. Through diary extracts, descriptions of her world travels and personal letters we hear her voice and see through her eyes, beauty, humour and the joys of simple living. Congratulations to Jo on this fascinating book.

Remember to send your new book release to me for inclusion in the next newsletter at jacqui.brown@panachecat.com

Newsbites

If you have kids, you'll love this free event!

On Tuesday 29 September 2020 (1pm – 1:45pm) our loved member and celebrated children's author Libby Hathorn along with her daughter Lisa Hathorn-Jarman have teamed up for this fun writing workshop.

Why not get some inter-generational magic happening at your house and get together to write a story about someone in your family! All you need is a pencil and paper.

Suitable for kids 5 - 8 years, plus the kids can ask questions on Zoom too!

<https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/events/author-workshop-libby-and-lisa>

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.

Entries close 31 October 2020!

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

The Robyn Mathison Poetry Prize 2020 is calling all poets!

This year's theme is flora and fauna with first prize a tidy \$200!

Competition closes 31 October 2020.

More information is available [here](#).

Farewelling September

If you weren't able to join us in September, here's what you missed:

Keynote speaker Jean Kittson at our 95th Birthday event was an inspiration, delightfully honest and as always, funny! And so relatable, especially when she said 'I seem only able to write under threat when there's a deadline about to strangle me.'

Guest speaker Gwen Wilson gave a raw, personal and fascinating talk about her family history as she weaves it together into her new book.

Finally, we received wonderful feedback on the **Workshop by Jacqui Winn** on Character: The Heart of the Story, examining the essential story elements of main character and conflict. With imagination

exercises about overheard conversations in cafes, Jacqui showed how conflict raises curiosity, and how to build characters of depth.

Thank you to our contributors for a brilliant September programme! Here's a snap of Jean on Zoom launching *Splash, Slither, Squawk!*



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 and 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](#).

Booking via Direct Debit (members only)

If you are 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.

Wishing you an October filled with of reading, writing and happiness.
If you have anything you'd like to include in the e-Newsletter, please contact me at
jacqui.brown@panachecat.com