

THE SOCIETY OF WOMEN WRITERS NSW INC.

Welcome to our e-Newsletter | November 2020 | Issue 134

Hello everyone. November is a busy month, with an exciting speaker and workshop programme, the Spring/Summer Women's Ink! on its way, and our new LinkedIn page.

Wishing you a wonderful month, Jacqui

November Literary Speaker Event

Wednesday 11 November 2020

12.40pm - 2.00pm

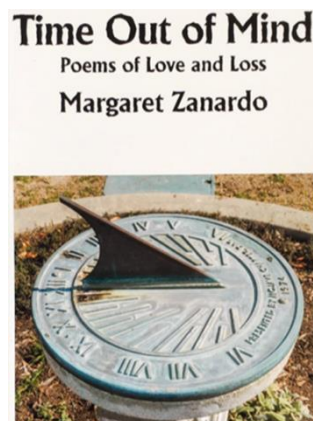
Story Matters with Susanne Gervay

"You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view... Until you climb inside of his skin and walk around in it." Atticus Finch. — page 114 Chapter 16 in Being Jack (extract taken from Harper Lee's, To Kill a Mockingbird).

Stories that reach young people as well as adults can be the conduit to values of inclusion, the environment, racism, disability, bullying, peace, family, mental health, gender, the great issues that impact our lives and the world. Books such as Narnia, To Kill A Mockingbird, Anne Frank, Catcher in the Rye become the midwives of powerful ideas delivering stories that matter to young people and society.

Find out more about Susanne and her work here: www.sgervay.com

An Accidental Love Affair with Poetry with Margaret Zanardo



Margaret Zanardo is a Sydney poet, writer and graphic designer. She has a background in languages, art and English literature. After working as a graphic

designer Margaret decided, on a whim, to take a writing course. She began with writing short stories but one day, at a SWW workshop, realised that poetry was something she would also like to try. She joined the Harbourside Poets and... unexpectedly fell in love with poetry.

Margaret has since written many mythology poems, humorous, children's and contemplative poems and, of course, love poems. Her work has been published in a number of poetry journals, however she still feels, in a way, that she is an 'accidental poet'.

How to Book for the Literary Speaker Event:

Book at www.trybooking.com/BMJBR

\$10 Members

\$15 Non-members

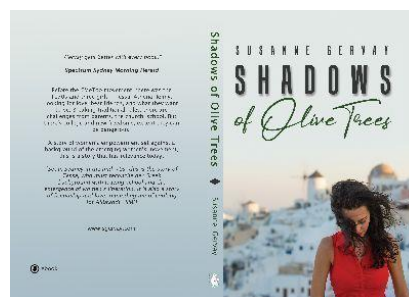
All bookings will receive instructions to log on through Zoom. On the day of the event, you will receive an email with the invitation to join the meeting. If you prefer to pay by direct debit (members only) please see bottom of the newsletter.

November Workshop

Wednesday 18 November 2020

10am - 11.45am

Writing Story that Matters with Susanne Gervay



So, you want to write about inclusion, the environment, racism, disability, bullying, peace, family breakup, mental health, gender, gun violence and/or issues that matter to you. How do you write these stories without being didactic? What are the secrets of creating story that matters to you and the reader?

How to Book for the November Workshop:

Book at www.trybooking.com/BMJBI

\$10 Members

\$15 Non-members

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.

President's Message by Jan Conway



Your **Spring/Summer Women's Ink!** is on its way. For the first time your magazine will arrive both in the mail and digitally via your favourite device. Its content is rich with member news and stories, interviews, articles of interest from within the writing industry together with old favourites. Congratulations Jacqui Brown as editor of your first Society of Women Writers NSW magazine.

Our 2021 events calendar is filling with speakers and workshops covering a variety of interesting topics across all genres. There are just two **Member Speaker spots remaining** - 14 April and 8 December. Are you the member to take up this 10-minute opportunity to share your recent or upcoming project? If so, please email me on swwpresident@gmail.com. With just two vacancies they will go to the first received. The May Newsbites will also offer five members the chance to speak of their personal writing stories. Speakers are selected on the day.

Promotion of events is high on your committee's priorities. Planning is underway to update and revitalise the website with a view to it being ready for the start of the new year. A postcard introducing The Society of Women Writers NSW and displaying an event calendar is being developed. As well as our **Facebook Page**, you can find us on **LinkedIn**, and each month our events are featured on *Sydney Talks* and *What's on Sydney*. Don't forget that you too can promote the Society and its events by liking and sharing through your own social media platforms.

SWW Queensland, **the Alice Award** hosts for 2020, have regretfully postponed the award presentation ceremony till early in 2021 (possibly March). Difficulties with travel restrictions, the receipt of nominations from some sister societies who have just reconvened their meetings, subsequent planning of the voting timeframe, and the wish to be fully inclusive, have impacted their decision. Dr Hilarie Lindsay MBE OAM, the SWW NSW nominee has been advised of the delay.

Applications for the **Di Yerbury Residency** close in just a few days. Applications must be received by email or postmarked by 5pm on Friday 30 October.

The festive season is fast approaching and while, like most things in 2020, it will be different, that doesn't mean we can't enjoy our special Christmas programme together. We're in for a treat. Member, Liz Newton will share her story of *The Firing*

Line and Keynote Speaker, Di Solomon will entertain us with her view of *Eeking Out a Living in Showbusiness*. Di is described as *a highly sought-after entertainer blessed with a voice that soars through so many different kinds of music. She sounds lush and clear singing sweet ballads alone at the baby grand in a dark cocktail bar, or kicks the big dance songs with her enormous and powerful range at a huge stage gig.*

As the Society's Christmas gift to you, the 9 December event is free. The event will be an open Zoom enabling us to 'see and chat'. Bookings are still required to enable your Zoom link.

This year has been a lonely one for many. As we all know, writing can be a solitary affair so come and share this final event of the year with friends as we look to 2021 with the hope of being back in the Dixson Room swapping experiences, telling our stories and enjoying the support of each other. ***Sharing will enrich everyone with more knowledge*** - Ana Monnar

Upcoming Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 9 December 2020

**Keynote: *Eeking Out a Living in Show Biz* with *Di Solomon*
plus *Liz Newton on The Firing Line - A Memoir of a Family Ablaze***

** This is a free Christmas event for all members and non-members. Please book to receive log in details. Book at www.trybooking.com/BMJCD **

In lieu of a December workshop due to proximity to Christmas, watch this space for a writing prompt!

Membership Matters

It's been a bit of a Southern Highlands/South Coast coup this month! Four of the Society's five new members are from Moss Vale, Burradoo, Wildes Meadow and Berry. We welcome **Luisa Hall**, **Kathryn Smith**, **Simone Joseph** and **Alex Warner**. Luisa and Simone write play scripts and short stories, while Kathryn and Alex are aspiring writers. Our fifth new member, **Narelle Hunter**, lives at Young and is a freelance writer.

Ladies, if your details – name, address, phone number, email – change, please let me know so I can update our records and keep you connected!

All the best

Michele

michele.cb@bigpond.com

Farewelling October

If you missed us in October, here's what happened!

Louise Allan spoke genuinely and openly about second novel syndrome about the voices in our heads that get in our way, and leaving us with the message: Write for joy. There's no point in writing otherwise. **Dorothy Keyworth** brought to life Australian poet Grace Perry's remarkable work. **Ella Jeffery** led an exquisite workshop on bringing the world around us into the space of our poems and have place come alive in our poetry.

Stop Press! SWW Luncheon in the Southern Highlands with Kate Forsyth and Belinda Murrell

Well-known authors, Kate Forsyth and Belinda Murrell, will be the guest speakers at an SWW luncheon in the Southern Highlands on Wednesday 25th November.

The Society is keen to engage more with regional members and the function is an opportunity for members in the Highlands and adjacent districts to socialise and discuss their work. The event will be hosted by member Kinchem Hegedus at her beautiful retreat centre *Springfield Farm* 20 minutes from of Bowral (www.lifeatspringfield.com). Much of the produce in the two-course meal is grown on the farm. Cost is \$40 with BYO.

Sisters Kate Forsyth and Belinda Murrell are direct descendants of early colonial writers Charlotte and Louisa Atkinson of *Oldbury*, Sutton Forest. They will talk about their new book *Searching for Charlotte* due for release next month.

Numbers are limited. Contact Ann Beaumont on abeaumon6@bigpond.com for bookings and more information.

Competitions

[Calibre Essay Prize](#) worth \$7,500 open until 15 January 2021

If you know of other writing competitions you'd like to share with members via the e-newsletter, please email me at jacqui.brown@panachecat.com

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 a wonderful November!

If you have anything you'd like to include in the e-Newletter, please

contact me at jacqui.brown@panachecat.com.

Don't forget to like us on Facebook!

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Pippa Kay | Workshop Co-ordinator
Julie Thorndyke | Prize Draw

Special Thanks to

Dr Hilarie Lindsay MBE OAM | Public Officer
Emerita Professor Di Yerbury AO | Patron