



September 2019

Issue No. 121



Jan Conway



Annabet Ousback

Co-Presidents

## Dates for your Diary 2019

### 11 September:

Workshop—**Robyn McWilliam**

Member Speaker—**Dr Susan Steggall**

Keynote Speaker—**Ceridwen Dovey**

### 9 October:

Workshop—**Dr Manisha Amin**

Member Speaker—**Susan Ramage**

Keynote Speaker— **Cathy Perkins**

### 23 October:

Evening Workshop—**Dr Meenakshi Bharat**

### 13 November:

Workshop—**Sarah Luke**

### NATIONAL WRITING COMPETITION

Winning and Placed Entries Announced

Judges' Reports

## PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Greetings everyone and welcome to our first newsletter as Co-presidents of The Society of Women Writers NSW Inc. We would like to express our gratitude and thanks to the outgoing President, Gwen Bitti, for her dedication and contribution during the past two years. Our commitment is to follow the example she set, and we believe we'll be able to achieve this with the newly elected committee who has shown us their overwhelming support. Thank you from both of us for your words of encouragement and we look forward to forming a cohesive committee dedicated to the best interests of our fellow SWW members.

Beatriz Copello's workshop, *Into the Depth of Modern Poetry*, was well attended and received. We thank Beatriz for her enthusiasm and the time she gave to the Society.

Following the Annual General Meeting and the election of office bearers and new committee members we had the pleasure of introducing Nicole Alexander as Keynote Speaker. Nicole, author of nine Australian historical novels is a fourth generation grazier and business manager of her family's rural holding.

Nicole introduced her latest bestseller *Stone Country* and spoke entertainingly about her childhood growing up in the outback. Nicole is a gifted story-teller, drawing on her own family experiences, and other bush stories for her books. Nicole held her audience captive with the background to her latest novel. A lively conversation followed with some members sharing their own bush experiences.

We look forward to welcoming Robyn McWilliam, Dr Susan Steggall and Ceridwen Dovey as our September presenters and speakers. Meenashki Bharat will present an October evening workshop at The Women's Club. See page 4 for details.

The Inaugural Writers' Grant judge, Moya Simons, in awarding the Grant, acknowledged the high standard of entries. Congratulations go to the winner, Julie Thorndyke.

**Jan Conway and Annabet Ousback.**

SWW NSW presents  
Medal for  
Outstanding Leadership  
to outgoing President,  
Gwen Bitti.



## Thank you to our generous 2019 SWW National Writing Competition Sponsors

**Ginninderra Press** sponsor, Winner – *Poetry*. **Robyn Elliott** sponsor, Highly Commended – *Poetry*.  
**Decima Wraxall** sponsor, Commended – *Poetry*. **Libby Hathorn** sponsor, Commended – *Short Story Fiction*.  
**Caroline Baum** sponsor, Commended – *Short Story Non Fiction*.  
**Dr Susan Steggall** sponsor, Highly Commended – *Short Story Fiction*.

## Literary Luncheon Wednesday 11 September 2019

Dixon Room State Library of NSW Macquarie Street, Sydney

### Program

10.00–11.45 am:

### Workshop

Writing Emotion

ROBYN MCWILLIAM

12.00–12.20 pm: Arrival &  
Registration

12.20–12.45 pm: Luncheon

12.50 pm:

### Member Speaker

‘Tis the Doing Not the  
Deed’

DR SUSAN STEGGALL

1.05–1.35pm:

### Keynote Speaker

Imagining Pompeii—using  
the ancient ruins of Pompeii  
as artistic inspiration

CERIDWEN DOVEY

Workshop Coordinator: Pippa Kay  
Mobile: 0407725747

Our Monthly Luncheons are now  
shown on: Whatson City of  
Sydney, Sydney Talks, Writing  
NSW Monthly and Facebook.

### Luncheon and/or Workshop

**DON'T MISS OUT - BOOK EARLY:**  
Email [swwlunchbooking@gmail.com](mailto:swwlunchbooking@gmail.com)

**IMPORTANT MESSAGE: BOOKING  
DEADLINE is Monday prior to  
luncheon** before 10am please.

Pay by **DIRECT DEPOSIT** into the SWW  
bank account by **FRIDAY prior to  
meeting**.

For Direct Deposit please use the **codes** listed  
**BELOW** in Description for online deposits

**The Society of Women Writers' NSW Inc**  
**BSB: 062 018 A/C: 00950433**

Members:	Non Members/Guests:
Luncheon \$45 (ML)	Luncheon \$50 (NML)
Workshop \$30 (MWS)	Workshop \$40 (NMWS)
Luncheon & Workshop \$68 (MLW)	Luncheon & Workshop \$83 (NMLW)

**Congratulations to the Winner  
of our Inaugural Writers' Grant  
Julie Thorndyke**

### Welcome to New Members

**Maureen Smith** has published four short stories and two  
non fiction works. She has just completed a novel.

## September

### Workshop Writing Emotion

ROBYN MCWILLIAM



Robyn taught Creative Writing on the Northern Beaches for 23 years and has just retired from working for the Willoughby Writers' Group for five and a half years. She has published two crime novels and won awards for both memoir and short stories.

Robyn tells us that emotions underpin every thought and action. They are the driving force behind your characters' behaviour. She will show you techniques to do this effectively incorporating writing exercises.

### Member Speaker

#### “Tis the Doing Not the Deed’

DR SUSAN STEGGALL



My new novel, *“Tis the Doing Not the Deed’*, set in Haute-Savoie (France), is a story about a ‘doing’ for noble reasons that results in a ‘deed’ that has repercussions across generations in several French-Australian families.

Susan Steggall writes fiction and art history—often combining both. Publications include: *Alpine Beach: A Family Adventure*, novels, *Forget Me Not and It Happened Tomorrow*, plus art-related articles, book and exhibition reviews, book chapters and essays. *A Most Generous Scholar: Joan Kerr, Art and Architectural Historian* was a non fiction winner in the 2013 SWW’s Biennial Book Awards. Susan has edited anthologies for the Society and was Co-President (2015-2016), then President of SWW (2016-2017).

### Keynote Speaker

#### Imagining Pompeii—using the ancient ruins of Pompeii as artistic inspiration

CERIDWEN DOVEY



Ceridwen is a Sydney-based author. Her debut novel, *Blood Kin*, was selected for the U.S. National Book Foundation’s “5 Under 35” honours list. Her second book, *Only the Animals*, won the inaugural 2014 Readings New Australian Writing Award and the Steele Rudd Award for a short story collection in the Queensland Literary Awards. Her short non fiction book, *On J.M. Coetzee: Writers on Writers*, was published in late 2018 as part of the acclaimed “Writers on Writers” series by Black Inc. Books. Ceridwen regularly contributes creative non fiction to [newyorker.com](http://newyorker.com), the *Monthly* magazine, and *WIRED*. She will be talking about some of the research she did for her most recent novel, *In the Garden of the Fugitives*, which is partially set in the ruins of Pompeii, and the inspiration artists and writers have long taken from this complex and fascinating ancient site.

**October****Evening Workshop**

23 October 2019

5:30 – 7:30 pm

The Women's Club

Elizabeth Street, Sydney.

**The Importance of Presenting: Point of View in Fiction****DR MEENAKSHI BHARAT**

Who doesn't love a good story! But quite often, our immersion in the act of 'listening', keeps us from actively registering 'who' is telling it to us and from whose 'point of view' we are getting the story, partly because the author has skillfully hidden the mechanics of this. There are other times when the author emphasises the 'narrative perspective.'

In this workshop, recognising that the narrative point of view, hidden or overt, is one of the most important stylistic aspects of fiction, we will turn our attention to the importance of the two basic questions: 'Who am I listening to when a story is narrated to me?' (hidden) or 'Whose voice is directing the narrative?' (overt). As conscious creative writers, we need 'perspective' to maximise narrative impact, and to achieve the intended result. We will work through individual and combined exercises, to appreciate how and why these narratorial choices are made. Not only will this enhance the overall reading experience and the underlying creative process but it will set us on the path to writing with 'effect.'

**Meenakshi Bharat** is a writer, translator, reviewer and critic. She is Associate Professor at the University of Delhi, and is an expert in cultural, postcolonial and English studies, children's literature, women's fiction and film studies—areas which she has extensively researched and written about. Her publications include *The Ultimate Colony* (2003), *Desert in Bloom* (2004), *Filming the Line of Control* (2008), *Rushdie the Novelist* (2009), *A House for Mr Biswas: Critical Perspectives* (2012), four volumes of Indo-Australian stories entitled *Glass Walls* (2019), *Fear Factor* (2009), *Alien Shores* (2012) and *Only Connect* (2014), and a children's book, *Little Elephant Throws a Party* (2014). *Troubled Testimonies: Terrorism and the English Novel in India*, (2016). She is President of the International Federation of Modern Languages and Literatures (FILLM, UNESCO) 2014-2017; Special Bureau Member, FILLM; Executive Member, Indian Association for the Study of Australia (IASA) 2016 onwards. Treasurer, 2012-2016; Bureau Member International Council of Philosophy and the Human Sciences (CIPSH, UNESCO); Life Member Association for British Scholars; Member Asia Pacific Writers and Translators. <http://www.routledge.com/products/9781138962576>

**Australian Short Story Festival 2019**

an annual celebration of short stories in written and spoken forms.

**Swinburne University Melbourne****Friday 18 – Sunday 20 October 2019.**

The Festival brings together local, national and international short story authors and oral storytellers in a culturally diverse and vibrant celebration of storytelling in the shorter form

<https://australianshortstoryfestival.com/>



**WestWords** is dedicated to celebrating and championing the stories of the people, places and cultures that comprise the heart of Western Sydney. WestWords Centre for Writing is based in Parramatta. A guiding philosophy of WestWords is a belief in the power of literature and literacy (written, oral and visual), self-expression and creativity to change lives and the experience of communities. With a strategic focus on children and young people and through a comprehensive program of workshops, residencies, fellowships and support for writers we offer professional opportunities for the growth of distinctive voices.

## 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

[www.sharonrundle.com](http://www.sharonrundle.com) [Books](#)

A limited number of manuscripts are accepted, so your service is personalised.  
Regular feedback is given at mutually agreed deadlines.

Mentor Service includes:

Working with an author or editor to **develop a narrative fiction or non fiction memoir**, incorporating input from author.

Does **not** include the following

- budgeting
- design supervision
- production coordination

Working with an author or editor on **Substantive/Structural Editing**.

Clarifying or reorganising a manuscript for content and structure.

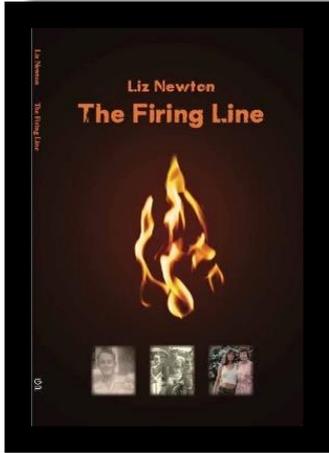
Does **not** include the following:

- research
- 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/>

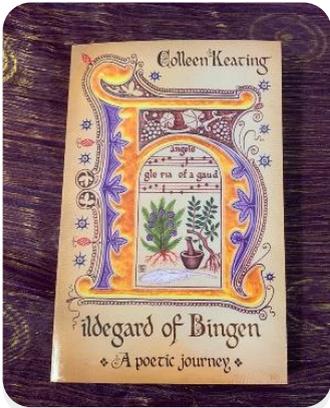
## New Books by SWW NSW Members

### *The Firing Line*



Memoir  
Liz Newton.  
Ginninderra Press  
*The Firing Line* is the compelling true story of a girl growing up with her family from the mid-1950s. The ensuing few decades become a time when everyday life for her mother, brother and sister, and herself, changed when their father became mentally ill.

### *Hildegard of Bingen*



Poetic Journey  
Colleen Keating.  
Ginninderra Press  
*Hildegard of Bingen* was a woman of extraordinary creative expression and this book approaches her wisdom through the gift of poetry which allows us to move into a more intuitive space.

It is a book to slow us down, ... to ponder, and ... to follow Hildegard towards a growing greenness in our lives.' - Christine Valters Paintner, PhD, REACE, Abbey of the Arts.

*Women's Ink!* magazine has limited space of 24 pages and a great deal of copy to go in every issue. We would love to give more coverage to members' new books in our magazine, but we rarely have the space.

Our eNewsletter, however, can be expanded and book cover images can be shown in colour.

if your book has been published during 2019 and you would like it to be included in future issues of SWW NSW eNewsletter: Please send to [swweditor@gmail.com](mailto: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, book cover image, and weblink if available.**

## Di Yerbury Residency 2020

Submission deadline

**30 October 2019.**

Entry form inside July issue of

***Women's Ink!***

Or at

<https://womenwritersnsw.org/events/the-di-yerbury-society-of-women-writers-uk-residency-2017>

## 2019 Membership

RENEWAL DUE

<https://womenwritersnsw.org/membership>

**Please note Direct Debit is available.**

You have the opportunity to **register your name and website** on our

**Member Directory for display on our**

**Society of Women Writers NSW Inc. public website**

<https://womenwritersnsw.org>

**Please complete your details on your 2019 Membership Renewal Form which you can download from the [SWW Website](#)**

## Literary Events

**1 SEPTEMBER (closing): Poetry on Planes Anthology.** 99 poets selected from around the world for a 2020 Irish-produced anthology. Email submissions, paid. See <https://poetryonplanes.com/> for further details.

**10 SEPTEMBER (closing): The Ian Potter Cultural Trust Grants: Round 3, 2019.** Grants up to \$10,000 to help emerging and early career artists with international development opportunities. <https://www.ianpotterculturaltrust.org.au/apply-for-a-grant/>

## Welcome to our Committee 2019-2020

### The Society of Women Writers NSW Inc. Committee and Team for 2019–2020

#### Committee:

Annabet Ousback & Jan Conway—**Co-Presidents**

Amanda Mark—**Treasurer**

Rita Shaw—**Secretary**

Maria McDougall—**Membership Secretary**

Julie Thorndyke—**Publicity**

Decima Wraxall, Michele Bomford and Kylie Day.

#### eNewsletter team:

Dr Sharon Rundle—Editor [SWWEditor@gmail.com](mailto:SWWEditor@gmail.com)

Nina Rundle—Sub editor

Decima Wraxall—Proof reader

Lindsay Lewis—Distributor

**Website Manager and Marketing**—Lindsay Lewis

**FaceBook Manager**—Susanne Gervay OAM

**Front Desk/Lunch Booking Officer**—Gwen Wilson

**Workshop Coordinator**—Pippa Kay

**Book Review Editor**—Judith O'Connor

**Photographer**—Joy Williams

**Prize Draw** —Julie Thorndyke

**Public Officer** —Dr Hilarie Lindsay MBE OAM

**Patron**—Emerita Professor Di Yerbury AO



**2019-2020 SWWNSW Committee.**

(L to R back row) Decima Wraxall, Jan Conway, Annabet Ousback, Kylie Day, Maria McDougall, (front row) Michele Bomford, (and Workshop Coordinator Pippa Kay).



Jan Conway, Rita Shaw, Annabet Ousback

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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