



October 2019

Issue No. 122



Jan Conway



Annabet Ousback

Co-Presidents

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Hello and welcome to the October edition of the SWW eNewsletter. Since taking over from Gwen Bitti, we have been busy establishing our new roles and would like to thank everyone who has assisted us during this transition phase.

We acknowledge and congratulate two members who have taken up vital roles left vacant after the Annual General Meeting – Kylie Day as Vice President and Rita Shaw as Secretary.

After 32 years as a member of the Society, Jo Fisher has reluctantly decided she is unable to attend our monthly literary luncheons. Jo has been a constant at our lunches, sharing her knowledge and friendship. She will be missed and we wish her well.

Another stalwart, Joy Williams has passed the photography baton to Rita Shaw and Meg Dunn who will share that role. Our sincere thanks go to Joy for all the great photos and memories she has captured over many years.

There was a spring vibe at our September literary luncheon.

Writing Emotion, Robyn McWilliam's workshop was well attended. From all accounts it was an energetic and informative session.

Susan Steggall's latest novel, *'tis the doing, not the deed* was so fresh from the press that she hadn't seen her finished book until publisher, Cath Brinkley arrived. Susan went on to give a lively talk about her story spanning two countries and almost a century.

With images, Ceridwen Dovey's insights and stories of Pompeii captured our imaginations. Ceridwen spoke of Pompeii's influence on writers, artists, anthropologists and on the writing of her latest book *In the Garden of the Fugitives*.

We look forward to seeing you at the October literary luncheon when we'll welcome Cathy Perkins, Editor of the State Library of NSW as Keynote speaker, Member speaker, Susan Ramage and Workshop presenter, Manisha Amin.

A reminder to book now for the evening workshop with Meenakshi Bharat on 23 October at The Women's Club. An event not to be missed.

Further information on our October lineup is inside.

Happy Writing

Annabet Ousback and Jan Conway

Dates for your Diary 2019

9 October:

Workshop—**Dr Manisha Amin** NEW!

Member Speaker—**Susan Ramage**

Keynote Speaker—**Cathy Perkins**

23 October:

Evening Workshop—**Dr Meenakshi Bharat**

13 November:

Workshop—**Sarah Luke**

NATIONAL WRITING COMPETITION

Announcement of winners in the three National Writing Competition categories. Reports and acceptance speeches.

11 December: Christmas Luncheon

Workshop—**Susanne Gervay OAM**

Member Speaker—**Ramah Juta**

Keynote Speaker—**Katie M Little**

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>

Thank you to our generous 2019 SWW National Writing Competition Sponsors

Ginninderra Press sponsor, Winner – *Poetry*.

Decima Wraxall sponsor, Commended – *Poetry*.

Libby Hathorn sponsor Commended – *Fiction*.

Caroline Baum sponsor Commended – *Non Fiction*.

Robyn Elliott sponsor, Highly Commended – *Poetry*.

Dr Susan Steggall sponsor, Highly Commended – *Fiction*.

Literary Luncheon Wednesday 9 October 2019

Dixon Room State Library of NSW Macquarie Street, Sydney

Program

10.00–11.45 am:

Workshop

How to Write for a Multicultural
Reading Audience

DR MANISHA AMIN

NB: New presenter

12.00–12.20 pm: Arrival &
Registration

12.20–12.45 pm: Luncheon

12.50 pm:

Member Speaker

A Powerful Story of Our Times

SUSAN RAMAGE

1.05–1.35 pm:

Keynote Speaker

The Shelf Life of Zora Cross

CATHY PERKINS EDITOR,
SLNSW

Workshop Co-ordinator: Pippa Kay
Mobile: 0407725747

Our Monthly Luncheons are now
shown on: Whats On City of
Sydney; Sydney Talks and Facebook.

Luncheon and/or Workshop

DON'T MISS OUT - BOOK EARLY:

Email swwlunchbooking@gmail.com

or [CLICK HERE for more details](#)

**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)

EVENING WORKSHOP

Members \$40. Non Members \$50.

Includes pre workshop nibbles.

please book at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-importance-of-presenting-with-meetakshi-bharat-tickets-70416081395>

Or the SWW NSW Website at:

<https://womenwritersnsw.org/events/evening-workshop-the-importance-of-presenting-with-meetakshi-bharat>

Welcome New Members

Rosalind Winterton, a member of Toastmasters, is a mentor for HSC students. Her articles and letters are published widely.

October Workshop

How to write for a Multicultural Reading audience

DR MANISHA AMIN



In the context of globalisation and the subsequent rise of multicultural societies, such as those of Australia and India, the act of writing has become increasingly more demanding. Writers have to keep in mind the idea of a multicultural readership without losing touch with their own cultural background. In this workshop, through the examples we create during our writing exercise, we shall examine the particular issues and problems of writing for multicultural audiences, and together, identify how to address them.

Manisha Jolie Amin was born in Kenya and moved to Australia with her family when she was five. Sydney is her home, although she travels frequently to both India and England to visit family. Manisha lives with her husband, son and cat. When not writing, she works for an inclusive design charity. In 2011 Manisha received a PhD from the University of Technology, Sydney. *Dancing to the Flute* is her first novel. She has since written a number of short stories and has run workshops, worked as a writing coach and supported the Nautanki Theatre.

Member Speaker

A Powerful Story of Our Times

SUSAN RAMAGE



Susan will share both the inspiration and the perspiration for her second book, *The Urban Escapees* which invites questions about urbanisation and its impact on nature and biodiversity: The lives and habitat of a possum family are threatened by urban creep. What will happen to them? Where will they go? An enchanting story of the relationship between a wildlife-loving boy and a brushtail possum family, *The Urban Escapees* is a powerful story of our times about increasing urbanisation and its impact on the natural world.

Keynote Speaker

The Shelf Life of Zora Cross

CATHY PERKINS EDITOR, SLNSW



Cathy Perkins is the author of an upcoming biography of Zora Cross, an Australian writer best-known for her 1917 poetry collection *Songs of Love and Life*. Cathy is an editor at the State Library of NSW, and came across her biography subject while working on an exhibition at the library. She has spent the past ten years researching the life of this fascinating Sydney and Blue Mountains-based writer. Cathy will speak about Zora Cross's encounters with famous literary figures in her early writing career, and her engaging interviews with women writers in the 1920s and 30s.

■ October

Evening Workshop

23 October 2019 5:30 – 7:30 pm

The Women's Club

Level 4, 179 Elizabeth Street, Sydney.

NB: Evening Workshops fee is \$40 (MWS) \$50 (NMWS), includes pre workshop nibbles.

The Importance of Presenting: Point of View in Fiction

DR MEENAKSHI BHARAT

Who doesn't love a good story! But often, our immersion in the act of 'listening,' keeps us from actively registering 'who' is telling the story to us and from whose 'point of view' we are getting the story, partly because the author has skillfully and unobtrusively 'managed' to hide this. There are other times when the author willfully 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 to impact the dissemination and reception 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?' or 'Whose voice is directing the narrative?' As conscious creative writers, we need to take control of 'perspective' to maximise narrative impact, and to achieve the intended result. To mark the importance of this impulse, we will endeavour to appreciate, through individual and combined exercises, 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 teaches in the University of Delhi and is especially interested 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 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>

PLEASE BOOK AT: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-importance-of-presenting-with-meenakshi-bharat-tickets-70416081395>



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. <https://www.westwords.com.au>

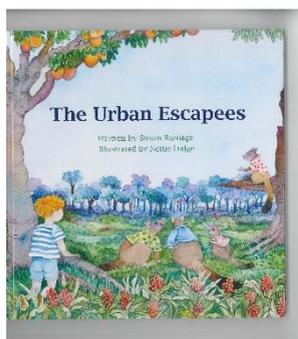
Members Bookshelf

by SWW NSW Members

The Urban Escapees

Picture Book

Susan Ramage



The Urban Escapees

Susan Ramage

Green Olive Press

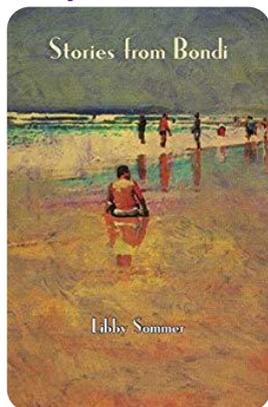
'A family of possums' lives and habitat are threatened by urban creep. What will happen to them? Where will they go?

An enchanting story of the relationship between a wildlife-loving boy and a brushtail possum family. ***The Urban Escapees*** is also a powerful story of our times: about increasing urbanisation and its impact on the natural world.' *The Urban Escapees* picture book is featured in the October 2019 journal of *ABC Gardening Australia*.

Stories from Bondi

Short Stories

Libby Sommer



Stories from Bondi

Libby Sommer

Ginninderra Press

'Libby Sommer's sensitively-drawn characters live and breathe within the echoes of the everyday. *Stories from Bondi* centre on women—their joys, doubts, loves and realisations. The foibles of human nature, with all their pathos and humour, are laid bare for the reader. "From the opening story 'Art and the Mermaid', to a moving piece set in a health retreat that closes the collection, these stories beautifully capture the intimacies of women. Like *My Year With Sammy* and *The Crystal Ballroom*, this is classic Sommer." – Susanne Gervay OAM, author

'Tis The Doing Not the Deed

Dr Susan Steggall



'Tis the Doing Not the Deed'

Dr Susan Steggall

Shooting Star Press

Set in Haute-Savoie (France), this is a story about a 'doing' for noble reasons that results in a 'deed' that has repercussions across generations in several French-Australian families.

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 [Books](#)

A limited number of manuscripts are accepted, so your service is personalised.
Regular feedback is given at mutually agreed deadlines. *Please note bookings are now full until June 2020.*

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 co-ordination

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/>

Committee and Team for 2019 – 2020

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

Kylie Day—**Vice President**

Amanda Mark—**Treasurer**

Rita Shaw—**Secretary**

Committee:

Maria McDougall—**Membership Secretary**

Julie Thorndyke—**Publicity**

Decima Wraxall and Michele Bomford—**Committee Members.**

eNewsletter team:

Dr Sharon Rundle—Editor SWWEditor@gmail.com

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 Co-ordinator—Pippa Kay

Book Review Editor—Judith O'Connor

Photography—Rita Shaw and Meg Dunn

Prize Draw —Julie Thorndyke

Public Officer —Dr Hilarie Lindsay MBE OAM

Patron—Emerita Professor Di Yerbury AO

Thank you, Joy!

Our sincere thanks to **Joy Williams** for her sterling service at SWW NSW as Official Photographer for countless years. Joy's terrific photos taken at SWW luncheons and events have enhanced our eNewsletters and *Women's Ink!* magazines. Joy is taking a well earned rest.



Thank you to Rita Shaw and Meg Dunn for accepting the role of SWW photographers.

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