



Seasons Greetings

E-Newsletter

December 2019

Society of Women Writers NSW

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Congratulations to all winners of the SWW National Writing Competition 2019. Thank you to the women writers from all over Australia who entered the competition ensuring it was a great success. At the award presentation luncheon on 13 November, the Dixon Room was lively with conversation as our members, our shortlisted finalists and their guests met and got to know each other. It was a delight to have you with us.

Behind the scenes of these competitions is a competent team of SWW women – receiving entries, liaising with judges, producing certificates, ensuring the winners receive their prize money – to all of you – thank you.

It is good to see women doing well in writing awards generally. Both the NSW Premier's and the Prime Minister's Literary Awards had a high proportion of women in the winning lineup. Congratulations to Judith Beveridge, our NWC Poetry judge, for her Prime Minister's Award for Poetry.

SWWV's Nance Donkin award, for which we nominated Susanne Gervay, went to Dianne Wolfer of WA.

The evening workshop with Meenakshi Bharat was a success. Everyone was keen to speak with Meenakshi at the end of the session and left with new approaches to identifying 'voice'.

Cheryl O'Byrne, recipient of last year's Abbie Clancy award has turned her abstract about Drusilla Modjeska's *Poppy* into a full-length article – available here:

<http://www.philamentjournal.com/issues/revisions/>

... and **now to Christmas and our 11 December meeting.** We have a great programme of learning and fun. There's our Kris Kringle book swap, extra prizes in the draws, a gold-coin donation will see you take home one of the SWW's fabulous anthologies and there's more!

Our keynote speaker is Katie Little. In the spirit of fun and the festive season, consider wearing something 'a little bit Jeanne Little' – colourful or perhaps zany.

Our lunch will be served buffet style. This will be a trial for 2020 in order to better facilitate the even distribution of sandwiches with the needs of those with medical dietary requirements.

My sincere thanks to all those supporting me through committee and beyond. To all our SWW members and to their loved ones – a happy and safe festive season. I look forward to seeing you at the first of our literary workshops and luncheons on **12 February 2020.**

Enjoy your writing.
Jan Conway

Dates for your Diary 2019-2020

11 December: Christmas Luncheon

Workshop—**Susanne Gervay OAM**

Member Speaker—**Ramah Juta**

Keynote Speaker—**Katie Little**

12 February 2020:

Workshop—**Dr Sukhmani Khorana**

Di Yerbury Residency 2020 Award announced.

Keynote Speaker—**Dr Sukhmani Khorana**

11 March

Workshop—**Felicity Pulman**

ABBIE CLANCY AWARD 2020

WINNER ANNOUNCED

And the Award Winner's Response.

Keynote Speaker—**Jessica North**

Our next eNewsletter will be February 2020

There is no January issue.



Christmas Literary Luncheon Wednesday 11 December 2019

Dixon Room State Library of NSW Macquarie Street, Sydney

Program

10.00–11.45 am:

Workshop

The Power of Dialogue

SUSANNE GERVAY

12.00–12.20 pm: Arrival &
Registration

12.20–12.45 pm:

Luncheon

12.50 pm:

Member Speaker

One Woman's Journey

RAMAH JUTA

1.05–1.35pm:

Keynote Speaker

It's A Long Way To The Top!
– 'Writing & Staying Sane in
the Digital Age'

KATIE LITTLE

Workshop Co-ordinator: Pippa
Kay Mobile: 0407725747

Our Monthly Luncheons
are now shown on:

What's On City of
Sydney: Sydney Talks and
Facebook.

Luncheon and/or Workshop

DON'T MISS OUT - BOOK EARLY:

Email 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:

****Christmas Luncheon**
\$50 (ML)
Workshop \$30 (MWS)
Luncheon & Workshop
\$73 (MLW)

Non Members/Guests:

****Christmas Luncheon**
\$60 (NML)
Workshop \$40 (NMWS)
Luncheon & Workshop
\$90 (NMLW)

Cancellation Policy:

Literary Luncheon: Cancellations must be received no later than
10 am on the Monday prior to the event. Cancellation after this
deadline will require payment in full.

Workshop pre-payment: If you are unable to attend on the day, a
credit will be held for future use.

Other Events: Cancellations must be received 48 hours prior to
the event. Cancellations after this deadline will require payment
in full

****11 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**

Members: Christmas Luncheon includes a glass of
wine (choice of red or white) for members and
guests. Please note this means a \$5 increase.





*Seasons
greetings*

Please come and enjoy

The Society of Women Writers NSW

11 December Literary Luncheon

Dixson Room, Mitchell Wing, State Library of NSW

*Merriment to be had with Kris Kringle book swap,
prize draws, and much more.*

Programme:

10 am: Workshop 'The Power of Dialogue'

with Susanne Gervay

12 noon for 12.15: Enjoy a light luncheon and glass of juice or wine

Ramah Jutta will take us on 'One Woman's Journey'

Katie Little will guide us to 'It's a Long Way to the Top! -

Writing & Staying Sane in the Digital Age'

*Members: Christmas Luncheon \$50 (ML), Workshop \$30 (MWS), Luncheon + Workshop \$73 (MLW)
Non Members: Christmas Luncheon \$60 (NML), Workshop \$40 (NMWS), Luncheon + Workshop \$90 (NMLW)*

Email swwlunchbooking@gmail.com

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



December

Workshop

The Power of Dialogue

SUSANNE GERVAY OAM

'Think like a wise man but communicate in the language of the people.' - William Butler Yeats

Dialogue is a core way to write story that resonates with the reader. It is a way to create voice, character, advance story, hold emotional content. It contains the spirit of the story. While it shadows daily dialogue, it has a greater purpose than mimicking every day speech. In this hands-on workshop, we explore the power of dialogue to communicate story.

You'll find Susanne planting 3000 mangroves in Kiribati; in Istanbul sharing her *I Am Jack* books and *NO Bullying*; in remote indigenous communities sharing story with elders and children; invited to speak at World Burn Conference in New York on her novel *Butterflies*; in Goa at the Indian Association for the Study of Australia Conference about the Indian-Australian anthologies which feature her short stories along with David Malouf and Sir Salman Rushdie. Awarded the Lifetime Social Justice Literature Award by the International Literacy Association, a nominee for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award with an Order of Australia, Susanne Gervay is recognised for her award winning short stories and youth literature. www.sgervay.com

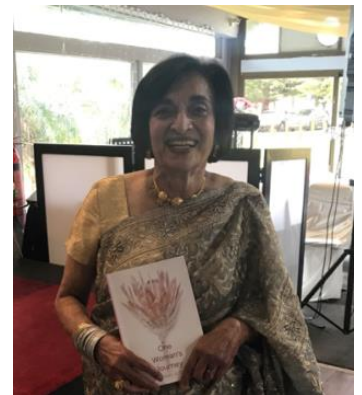


Member Speaker

'One Woman's Journey'

RAMAH JUTA

I was born and brought up in apartheid South Africa. I studied medicine in India and worked at a hospital in Durban. I finally settled in Sydney where I had a solo G.P. practice. My grandchildren's curiosity and questions led me to put pen to paper. 'One Woman's Journey' is the story of a woman's resilience and ability to adapt to varied situations in different countries. Childhood in one country is followed by family life in another. The final destination is the 'lucky' country.



Keynote Speaker

It's A Long Way To The Top! - Writing & Staying Sane in the Digital Age'

KATIE M LITTLE

Katie M Little is a writer, comedian, and stage mother. Her first book, *'Catch A Falling Star – A Story About Growing Up with Jeanne Little'* was an instant success, a quirky, laugh-out-loud memoir reliving her 80s childhood behind the scenes of TV, which also shares openly the impact on her family of losing her iconic mother to Alzheimer's. Katie will be talking about the precarious mental balancing act of living in the Anthropocene and the next to impossible ambition to be a published writer in the digital age.





SWW NATIONAL WRITING COMPETITION 2019

Announcement of Winning and Placed Entries
At the Award luncheon on 13 November 2019

Congratulations

Winners

Kathy Prokhovnik – *A Day at the Beach* (fiction)

Joanne Ruppin – *Night Reunion* (poetry)

Nicole Lenoir-Jourdan – *Frothing* (non fiction)

Highly Commended

Jean Flynn – *Forty* (fiction)

Anne Carson – *What if the lake ...* (poetry)

Susan Steggall – *Re-Carving an Identity* (non fiction).

Commended

Anna Bay – *The Tamarillo Tree* (fiction)

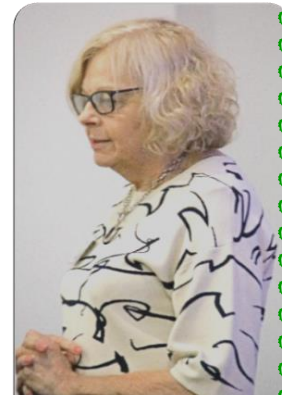
Margaret Ruckert – *Unconformity* (poetry)

Carmel Bendon – *The Gift of a Book* (non fiction).

Judges – Dr Maria Hill (non fiction), Judith Beverage (poetry), Sharon Rundle (fiction).



Kathy Prokhovnik



Joanne Ruppin



Thanks once again to our 2019 SWW National Writing Competition Sponsors

Ginninderra Press sponsor Winner – **Poetry.**

Robyn Elliott sponsor Highly Commended – **Poetry.**

Decima Wraxall sponsor Commended – **Poetry.**

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

Libby Hathorn sponsor Commended – **Fiction.**

Caroline Baum sponsor Commended – **Non Fiction.**

Some of our winners were not able to attend the award luncheon personally, so sent a representative to receive their award. The severe bush fires was one of the reasons. To our members facing the threat of bush fires or already experiencing them, you are not alone. We are thinking of you and wishing you all the best. Keep safe.



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

Committee:

Jan Conway—**President**

Kylie Day—**Vice President**

Amanda Mark—**Treasurer**

Rita Shaw—**Secretary**

Maria McDougall—**Membership Secretary**

Julie Thorndyke—**Publicity**

Decima Wraxall and Michele Bomford—**Committee members**

eNewsletter and *Women's Ink!* team:

Editor —Dr Sharon Rundle SWWEditor@gmail.com

Book Review Editor—Judith O'Connor

Photographers—Rita Shaw and Meg Dunn

Proof reader —Decima Wraxall

***Women's Ink!* Mail out**—Valerie Pybus

Printer—Ace Print & Design

eNewsletter Distributor —Lindsay Lewis

Website Manager and Marketing—Lindsay Lewis

Facebook Manager—Susanne Gervay OAM

Front Desk/Lunch Booking Officer—Gwen Wilson

Workshop Co-ordinator—Pippa Kay

Prize Draw —Julie Thorndyke

Public Officer—Dr Hilarie Lindsay MBE OAM

Patron—Emerita Professor Di Yerbury AO

Congratulations

Judith Beveridge, our NWC Poetry judge, received the Prime Minister's Award for Poetry.

Libby Sommer's fourth novel, *Stories from Bondi* was launched by Susanne Gervay OAM at the Blue Mountains Heritage Centre on Saturday 2 November. Libby's poems 'Amber Puppy' and 'Renewal' were published in September *Quadrant*. A short story and a poem were included in the recently launched anthologies *Glass Walls* and *Mountain Secrets*. Her new manuscript, *Lost in Cooper Park* will be published by Ginninderra Press in November 2020.

Cheryl O'Byrne, recipient of last year's Abbie Clancy award has turned her abstract about Drusilla Modjeska's *Poppy* into a full-length article – available here: <http://www.philamentjournal.com/issues/revisions/>

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