



February 2020

Issue No 125



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I wish everyone a happy and productive 2020 my thoughts are tempered with the knowledge that we have members, families and friends being impacted by the disastrous fires ravaging our country. To all of you I wish you safe passage through this difficult time and extend our sincere gratitude to all those who have worked tirelessly to help save lives, homes, and wildlife.

Our 2019 year of valuable insights into all things writing culminated in a well-attended, bright Christmas event. Susanne Gervay started the ball rolling with a packed and lively workshop. Ramah Juta followed with her story of family and place. Katie Little made us laugh and sometimes shed a tear as she shared her stories of growing up as the only child of the often outrageous Jeannie Little.

Through the generosity of members, there were prizes galore. A determined buying effort by Gwen Bitti, in order to win Valerie Pybus's fabulous Christmas cake, paid off for her. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the day.

The Society of Women Writers' 2020 calendar is almost complete with a wide range of genres and interests to be covered by distinguished Keynote speakers, Workshop Presenters and Member speakers. In May, members can share their Newsbites, there will be two evening workshops (dates and times to be announced) and our **Member Book Award 2020** competition winners will be announced in October. Watch out for details and entry form in the March edition of *Women's Ink!* and on our website.

Please note our meeting in September 2020 is the 16<sup>th</sup> - the third Wednesday. I will give you plenty of reminders throughout the preceding months.

Our Patron, Emerita Professor Di Yerbury will be our special guest at the Society's February luncheon when she will announce the winner of her generously donated UK Residency. Joining us will be this year's judges, Sharon Rundle and Colleen Keating together with last year's winner, Helen Thurloe, who will tell us of her Barnstaple experience.

Who will be taking up residence in Barnstaple in 2020? Come and share her excitement as one of our members hears her name announced as *Winner*

Food, and how we relate to each other through it, will be the topic of both Dr Sukhmani Khorana's workshop and her February Keynote talk.

During the past year, many of our members took advantage of the Members' Bookshelf page in our e-newsletters to let us know their hard work had paid off with a published book. Congratulations.

This augers well for lots of entries in the Book Award competition.

The new year brings some changes in the way we do things. The buffet service for our Christmas luncheon was a success and we will continue in this style.

Maybe, with the start of a new decade, you have returned to the scribbled writing you've had stashed in a drawer or possibly a resting manuscript ... maybe something entirely new ... maybe you're trying something outside your comfort zone. Whatever you're working on, come and share it ... there's always a friendly and empathetic fellow writer at our monthly lunches.

Best wishes and enjoyment in your writing!

Jan Conway

## Dates for your Diary 2020

### 12 February:

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.

Keynote Speaker—Jessica North

### 8 April:

Workshop—Cathleen Ross and Kandy Shepherd

Member Speaker—Christine Sykes

Keynote Speakers— Libby Hathorn and Lisa Hathorn

## Literary Luncheon Wednesday 12 February 2020

Dixon Room State Library of NSW Macquarie Street, Sydney

### Programme

**10.00–11.45 am:**

#### Workshop

Eat, Travel, Connect: Writing without Othering

**DR SUKHMANI KHORANA**

**12.00–12.10 pm:**

Arrival & Registration

**12.15–12.45 pm: Luncheon – Buffet Service**

**12.40 pm:**

#### **DI YERBURY RESIDENCY 2020 AWARD WINNER ANNOUNCED**

Di Yerbury to announce and present the Award, followed by Judges' Report, and Winner's Response. Previous winner, Helen Thurloe will tell us of her Barnstaple experience.

**1.00 - 1.35 pm:**

#### Keynote Speaker

Refugees and Solidarities: Is Food a Solution?

**DR SUKHMANI KHORANA**

**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](mailto: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**. 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:**

Luncheon \$45 (ML)  
Workshop \$30 (MWS)  
Luncheon & Workshop  
\$68 (MLW)

#### **Non Members/Guests:**

Luncheon \$50 (NML)  
Workshop \$40 (NMWS)  
Luncheon & Workshop  
\$83 (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.

### Welcome to New Members

Marilyn Peck is working in poetry and short story forms.

Kathy Prokhovnik is working on a narrative non fiction history of Sydney.

Dr Devika Brendon is a teacher, journalist and editor who writes poetry and short stories as well as non fiction.

Jenny Boyle writes short stories and is currently working collaboratively on a social history of Manly.

Kelly Van Nelson has extensive business and writing experience especially in poetry and film.

Dr Teresa Petersen is an academic writer who has also published biographical works on two women writers, Daphne Du Maurier and Christina Stead.

## February

### Workshop

#### Eat, Travel, Connect: Writing without Othering

DR SUKHMANI KHORANA

When I travelled to Vietnam on my own several years ago, I realised that there was barely anything available in the non fiction market that digressed from the usual tales of solo western women on a temporary sojourn to find love, spiritual redemption, or seriously good food. There is nothing inherently wrong with travelling for those reasons, but the narratives they bring forth are often trite and tend to freeze 'other' cultures in time. This workshop will attempt to undo our cliched ways of thinking, and therefore writing about non-western places and foods. It is an endeavour to look at similarities as well as differences, and sometimes sit with productive discomfort.



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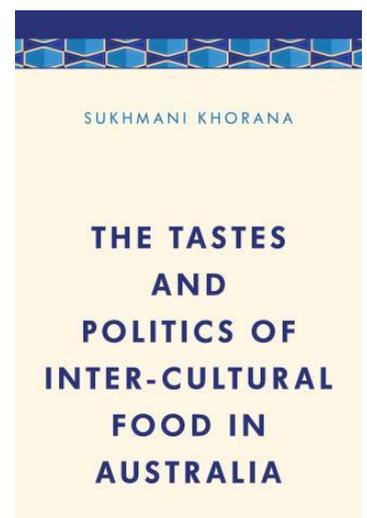
### Keynote Speaker

#### Refugees and Solidarities: Is Food a Solution?

DR SUKHMANI KHORANA

Sukhmani Khorana holds a PhD in film studies from the University of Adelaide. Her doctoral project involved a holistic study of diasporic cinema, as well as a manifestation of the same in the making of a documentary about Indian migrants. Her current research looks at cross-platform refugee narratives, diversity in film and television, as well as food in inter-cultural contexts.

With Prof Kate Darian-Smith and Prof Sue Turnbull, Sukhmani holds an ARC Linkage grant that is examining migration and television in Australia. Sukhmani's teaching expertise spans global media, digital media, media ethics, qualitative research methods and intersectional cultural studies.

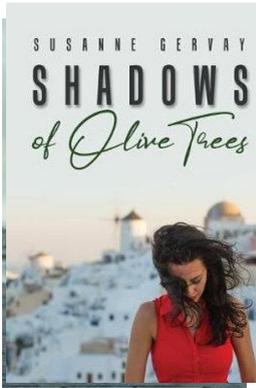


## Members' Bookshelf

by SWW NSW Members

### *Shadows of Olive Trees.*

Susanne Gervay  
FE Media Pty Ltd, 2019



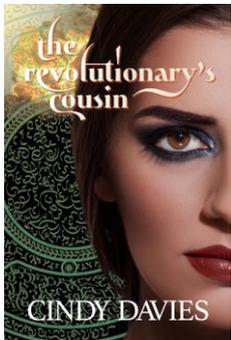
Before the #MeToo movement, there was the 1970s – and three girls – Tessa, Athena, Jenny looking for love, best friends, and what they want to be. Breaking traditional roles, there are challenges from parents, church, school. But there's college and new freedoms, except that can be dangerous.

The 1970's is the decade of the second rise of feminism with the first test tube baby. The first women's refuge. Germain Greer's feminist book *The Female Eunuch* (1970) advocating women's control of their own bodies and choices. The battle for contraception, education, equal rights. It is the time when International Women's Year is declared by the United Nations. (1975).

A story of love, best friends and search for identity. *Shadows of Olive Trees* is the lived experience of the author as a young adult in the 1970's with her friends. It's a time of enormous creativity, challenges and search for identity.

### *The Revolutionary's Cousin*

Cindy Davies  
Odyssey Books, 2019



Zahra Ghafoori, an Afghan widow with a troubled past, lives in Tehran, Iran. She is planning to leave Iran for the USA with her fiancé, wealthy architect Karim Konari, and her son Ahmad. The dramatic reappearance of her revolutionary cousin Firzun, whom she believed dead in a bomb blast, changes everything.

Karim's life takes a different path as he leaves alone for the USA, after Firzan forces Zahra to travel with him to Australia, then abandons her and Ahmad at the airport. Humiliated, alone, and frightened in a country very different from her own, Zahra must overcome many ordeals and try to make friends and a new life. Will Firzun come back for her? And will she ever see Karim again?

### *Time Out of Mind: Poems of Love and Loss*

by Margaret Zanardo  
#105 Pocket Poets series Ginninderra Press, South Australia, 2019



Margaret is a Sydney poet, writer and graphic designer. A member of Harbourside Poets, she has had work published in a number of poetry journals.

*Time Out of Mind* is a poetry chapbook, containing a selection of twenty poems dealing with love and loss.

... *illustrates life and love with sensitivity. A read to enjoy* - ML Grace

... *beautifully crafted, interesting and accessible to readers* - Catherine Smith

Available from the publisher at [www.ginninderrapress.com.au](http://www.ginninderrapress.com.au) or

email [margaret.zanardo@bigpond.com](mailto:margaret.zanardo@bigpond.com)

SWW NSW eNewsletter is searchable on the internet. To include your new book. 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 and book cover image.**

## 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)

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

### Executive Committee:

Jan Conway—**President**  
 Kylie Day—**Vice President**  
 Amanda Mark—**Treasurer**  
 Rita Shaw—**Secretary**  
 Maria McDougall—**Membership Secretary**  
 Julie Thorndyke—**Publicity**

### Committee Members:

Decima Wraxall,  
 Michele Bomford

### SWW eNewsletter and *Women's Ink!* team:

**eNewsletter Editor**—Natasha Sommer [SWWnatasha@gmail.com](mailto:SWWnatasha@gmail.com)  
***Women's Ink!* Editor**—Sharon Rundle  
***Women's Ink!* Co-editor** Natasha Sommer  
**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

### SWW team:

**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

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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