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# RING OF BRIGHT WATER – March 2019

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## The Society of Women Writers Qld. Inc.

All Mail to the Secretary

PO Box 12820, George St Post Office, Brisbane City 4000

Email: [secretary@womenwritersqld.org.au](mailto:secretary@womenwritersqld.org.au)

[www.womenwritersqld.org.au](http://www.womenwritersqld.org.au)

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## Words from your President

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Greetings everyone. I do hope your writing is going well. I'd like to welcome our new members and I hope we can help you in your writing journey.

We look forward to having Karen Tyrrell at our meeting in March. Karen, a past member of our society, has created a fantastic business, based on her childrens books in particular. She goes to great lengths with her marketing and I am sure we will all learn something of value. This will be a great event to bring your writing friends along to – especially those interested in marketing their book or business.

Congratulations to Indrani Ganguly, as she prepares to launch her first book. There will be a “soft launch” at an International Women’s Day event at Willawong on March 9<sup>th</sup>, (details on our Facebook page), and another major launch on Friday 10 May at The Avid Reader Bookshop. You can register for the May event on the Avid Reader Bookshop website. I wonder how many of our members will be completing one of their projects in 2019?

There will soon be a new page on our website for members to promote their books. For those members who have one or more of their books for sale, we can add a photo of the cover, a photo of the writer, a link to their bio on our Bio page, and a link to Amazon or other site where the book is for sale. It also would be great to publish book reviews there too. (We will be holding a workshop on writing book reviews later in the year.) When you have your material ready – be it just your bio, or your book details, please send it to me – use [aussidi@gmail.com](mailto:aussidi@gmail.com).



### Next Meeting

**12 March 2019**

**Promoting and**

**Marketing your book**

**Presented by Karen Tyrrell**

*Brisbane Square Library 9:30 am  
Community Room, Ground Fl*

*Donation at the door \$5.  
This includes a ticket into  
a raffle prize draw.*

### DIARY DATES

#### Meeting 9 April

Details TBA

#### Literary Event

(Funded by Brisbane City Library)

**26 May 11 am to 12 noon**

***Writing for Children &  
Young Adults***

#### **Presenters:**

Heidi Cooper-Smith; Richard  
Yaxley and Sheryl Gwyther.

Moderated by Megan Daley

**Entry to this event is Free**

## Words from your President cont'd

For those members who are already Blogging, or are venturing into this fabulous way to promote themselves and/or their books or achievements in the writing field, we are setting up a new Face Book page. I would encourage anyone who has a blog to post a link to it on that FB page, which will help increase readership. It will also enable you to see the work of other members. Perhaps you will also get some ideas and maybe help with promoting your work.

These should be ready by March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

The committee held their last meeting on Zoom – with a few little hiccups at the beginning, but eventually we had all attendees on board. One of our committee was able to lie down for the meeting, but as she had her camera on, we caught her out! It is intended to do this for alternate months for meetings. At least it will eliminate travel and we can all learn new skills. Thank you to the committee for participating!

Special Event – more details will be available in the next Ring of Bright Water, but can you mark in your diary for Sunday May 26<sup>th</sup>, for an event in the Brisbane Square Library on that day at 11 am, which will be of interest to writers of childrens' books. The Brisbane Square Library and SWWQ will be working together on this event!!

The 2019 Estelle Pinney Writing Competition will be launched at our next meeting. We need as much promotion as possible so will be asking members to share the details as widely as possible. Entry forms will be attached to the next issue of this newsletter. We are working on a special event in September to announce the winner of this competition. More news as it comes to hand.

Meanwhile, keep writing!

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## IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

If you haven't already done so, please send next of Kin details to the membership secretary – [iganguly@bigpond.com](mailto:iganguly@bigpond.com). It is imperative that we have these details available in the event of an emergency during meetings or at an event members may attend. Please supply us with name of person to call, their relationship to you, and best phone number contact.

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President: Di Hill - [president@womenwritersqld.org.au](mailto:president@womenwritersqld.org.au)

Vice-President: Alexandra Cornwell

Secretary: Heather Jacobs - [secretary@womenwritersqld.org.au](mailto:secretary@womenwritersqld.org.au)

Treasurer: Trudy Graham - [thetreasurer@womenwritersqld.org.au](mailto:thetreasurer@womenwritersqld.org.au)

Committee Members Indrani Ganguly (Membership Secretary); Sue Wagner (Postal Magazines Coordinator); Helen Boardman; Bernadette Ketter; Adele Moy; and Marj Wilke.

## PROMOTE YOUR BOOK

To participate, send the following to [aussidi@gmail.com](mailto:aussidi@gmail.com)

- Photo of the author (jpg)
- Scan of book cover (jpg)
- Author Bio (word document)
- Link or email address where the book can be purchased

## ARE YOU A BLOGGER?

- Link your blog to our new Face Book Page. Send details of your blog address to [aussidi@gmail.com](mailto:aussidi@gmail.com)

# Balance for Better

A book to commemorate International Women's Day 2019

*The Rose and the Thorn 2019 by Indrani Ganguly*

Price: \$29.99 plus postage

The *Rose and the Thorn* is the story of identical Indian twins – Mukti and Lila, and the very different ways in which they work to Balance for Better.

Born two and a half minutes apart, Mukti and Lila think and act in opposite ways. Mukti longs to move beyond the complex family structures, cocooned within the Indian customs while Lila is a dreamer.

Personal tragedy, the struggle to balance for better through a burgeoning national movement for independence and sweeping social reforms to address gender-based and other inequities propel both sisters into the world outside their narrow domestic walls. New relationships and a string of events challenge their loyalties while lives are uprooted as the world changes.

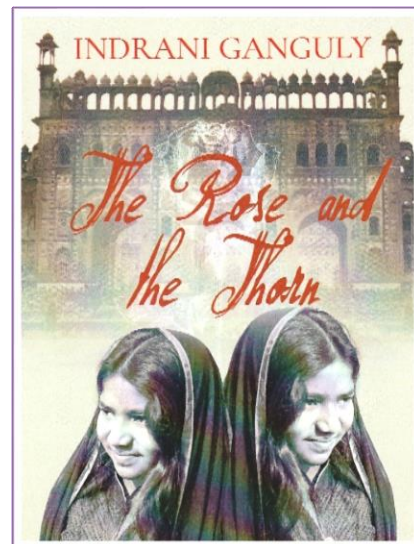
The sisters struggle to control their lives and loves as the sub-continent labours to give birth to a new nation. Nothing is permanent, yet everything is connected. The author challenges the reader to ask who is the rose and who is the thorn.

Set against the intriguing backdrop of India's multifaceted society and travelling through nearly fifty years of history, the *Rose and the Thorn* seeks to also balance widespread perceptions of Indian women as being either exotic or oppressed and unable to be agents of change for themselves and others.

Copies of the *Rose and the Thorn* may be ordered directly from Indrani at [iganguly@bigpond.com](mailto:iganguly@bigpond.com) or through Boolarong Press at <https://www.boolarongpress.com.au/product/the-rose-and-the-thorn/>

*If you have a book you would like promoted through our newsletter, please contact the editor, [trudyg@inet.net.au](mailto:trudyg@inet.net.au)*

*You may also like to promote your book on our website.  
See page 2 of this newsletter for details.*



## Book Launches

### March 9

Damini Women's Association of Qld Inc : International Women's Day Celebration *Balance for Better*  
QLD Vedic Cultural Centre  
198 Learoyd Road, Willawong  
6:30pm – 10pm  
3 course meal \$25  
Book to be launched by Mrs Archana Singh, Honorary Indian Consul.  
Further information, call Indrani on 0432 382 250

### May 10

Avid Book Reader Bookshop  
6pm to 8pm  
[Book here](#) (free, but registration is required for catering purposes)



## MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

### **Royal Flushes and Plebeian Potties:**

#### ***Tracing the History of Sanitation at the Sulabh International Museum of Toilets***

*Indrani Ganguly*

Once upon a time India boasted of some of the most advanced sanitation arrangements, even by today's standards. Sadly it now has a very large proportion of the two billion people around the world who have no access to toilets and good sanitation. So, it is very fitting the Sulabh International Museum of Toilets is located in India's capital, New Delhi.

The museum is the brainchild of Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak, founder of Sulabh International Social Service Organisation. This is an India-based social organization which works to promote human rights, environmental sanitation, and non-conventional sources of energy, waste management and social reforms through education. Dr Pathak's work has provided access to clean toilets to millions in India. Sulabh has now extended its activities to Afghanistan, Nepal, South East Asia, Africa and Latin America. Dr Pathak has received many Indian and international awards for his work.

In keeping with the spread of the Sulabh model beyond India, the Sulabh International Museum of Toilets does not deal only with trends in hygiene and sanitation in India. It traces the history of hygiene and sanitation from countries around the world, dating from 2500 B.C. to the present day.

The entrance is on a busy road in New Delhi. There is no indication of the clean, green and peaceful courtyard that leads into the museum, which came as a very pleasant surprise.



The first exhibit we saw was the child friendly version of the squatting toilet which is popular all over Asia, as it is considered to be more hygienic. Today many Indian and Western health professionals also consider it to be better for one's health. However, these health and hygiene concepts are difficult to explain to young children. I remember being afraid I would fall in and was happy all the houses my parents lived in had both Western and Asian style toilets. The child friendly one is small enough to allay these fears, though we didn't find out how successful it's been.

There is an impressive collection of exhibits inside the museum which are displayed chronologically in three main sections: ancient, medieval and modern.

The ancient section unfolds with the sanitation arrangements of Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro which are now in Pakistan. The W.C. toilet at Mohenjo-Daro dating back to 2,500 is considered to be a championing work in the field of sanitation. Dholavira and Lothal in province of Gujarat in India have remnants of a sophisticated system of wells, bathing tanks, both overground and underground drains, toilets, soak pits, roads and lanes.

The museum also displays sanitation arrangements of other ancient civilizations of Egypt, Babylon, Crete, Jerusalem, Greece and Rome.

The medieval section focuses largely on the toilets in forts where Indian and other royalty lived for security reasons. There were also toilets used by European royalty and nobility. Apparently, it was quite acceptable for kings and queens

to sit on their thrones while pooping in full view of the court! This could be the origin of the word 'throne' for toilet. A poster on the wall informs us that the court jester for Louis XII once said to the king: 'There are two things in your work to which I can never get used.' 'What are they?' asked the king. 'One is eating alone and the other is defecating in company,' replied the court jester.

The museum also houses Queen Victoria's toilet which has a canopy around it. There is no information if anyone commented on this. Most likely she would not have been amused if they had.

The modern section has interesting toilet related cartoons, photographs of toilets from the catalogues of reputed sanitary ware manufacturing companies, and public toilets of different countries.



One of the quirkiest exhibits was a toilet shaped beer mug from the United States. We weren't sure if it's ever used as such. Nor were we sure how successful the Thais have been in potty training their elephants. It all added to the charm of one of the most interesting museums we've ever visited.

## Getting published

So you've almost finished writing that book (or perhaps you've already finished) and now you're starting to think about getting it published. If you want to try the traditional publishing route, before looking at self-publishing, Allen and Unwin have put together some useful tips and advice from the experts to help you make your manuscript stand out.

Read excerpts from "The Art of Romance Writing" by Valerie Parv, and "The Writer's Guide" by Irina Dunn. As Irina points out: *Many writers aspire to seeing their work, whether fiction or non-fiction, published as a book, but there is a lot more to it than just packing off your labour of love to a publisher. The competition is intense, and the more you understand about publishing trends as well as the selection and publishing processes, the better your chances.*

<https://www.allenandunwin.com/being-a-writer/getting-published>

### Do you want to submit your work to Allen & Unwin?

They are the country's largest independent publishing house, producing more than 250 new titles each year in areas as diverse as academic books, professional reference works, adult fiction, children's books and electronic publications. Go to their [submission guidelines](#) to find out how to submit your work to Allen & Unwin via The Friday Pitch.

*Please note Allen & Unwin only accepts manuscripts correctly submitted through their electronic system. Any hard-copy submissions mailed in will be recycled. Also that, despite its name, The Friday Pitch is open to submissions all week!*



# COMPETITIONS

We take no responsibility for the accuracy of these listings. They have been sourced from various online sites. Please check the websites for more information entry forms/conditions etc. Most of the competitions listed here ask you to download forms. If you cannot do this, you will need to contact the relevant organiser via email or phone where this is provided.

## The Drill Hall Theatre Company

### **Hot Shorts, Biennial Short Play Competition**

**Closing date:** 30 June 2019

**Entry Fee:** \$15 covers any number of plays submitted and gives the entrant membership of DHTC.

Must be original, not previously performed, no longer than 10 minutes and with minimal staging difficulties.

Up to ten plays will be selected for performance and four will be eligible to share a cash prize of \$1500.

Request an entry form by email

[drillhalltheatre@gmail.com](mailto:drillhalltheatre@gmail.com) or [click here to download](#).

## The Writing Quarter Competition

**Closing Date:** Last day of the month

**Open to:** Aged 18 or over

**Theme:** None

**Accepts:** Short Story, 3,000 words

**Entry Fee:** Nil (one entry per month only)

**Prize:** \$30 via Paypal

Send entry to [info@writingquarter.com.au](mailto:info@writingquarter.com.au). Sorry, no mail entries accepted.

[Go here for full details](#).

## National Henry Lawson Society Award

**Closing Date:** 30/04/2019

**Open to:** All

**Theme:** Our (Australian) Heritage

**Entry Fee:** all categories \$10

**Category A: Traditional Rhyming Verse**

**Size:** 50 lines

**Category B: Short Story**

**Size:** 1,000 words

**Category C: Free Verse**

**Size:** 50 lines

**Prizes in all categories:**

**First:** \$600, **Second:** \$300, **Third:** \$150

[Find the entry form here](#).

All entries should be posted to: Henry Lawson Memorial & Literary Society, PO Box 429, Brighton Vic, 3186.

## ServiceScape Short Story Award

With the freedom to write in any genre and about any theme – here is a great opportunity for original and unpublished works of fiction and non-fiction.

Entrants must be at least 18 years of age.

It's FREE to enter.

**Closing date:** 30 November 2019

**Word limit:** 5000 words (one entry only permitted)

**Entry fee:** Free

**Prize:** USD\$1000 and publication on the ServiceScape blog.

[Find the entry form and conditions here](#).

## Competition Listings Websites

Keep up to date with new competitions and opportunities as they are announced. Here are a couple of websites to check.

<http://www.austwriters.com/AWRfiles/competitions.htm>

<https://thewritersbloc.net/writingopportunities>

<https://fawns.org.au/writing-competitions/>

*Read the terms and conditions for each competition you enter to be sure that your entry complies with the rules and that it reaches the judge/s.*

**PROOFREAD** your entry carefully before you send it.

Mark Twain said: *You think you are reading proof, whereas you are merely reading your own mind; your statement of the thing is full of holes & vacancies but you don't know it, because you are filling them from your mind as you go along.*