

RING OF BRIGHT WATER - October 2019

The Society of Women Writers Qld. Inc.

All Mail to the Secretary

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

Email: thesecretary@womenwritersqld.org.au

www.womenwritersqld.org.au

Words from your President

How are you going achieving your writing goals for 2019? It's only three months before the end of the year – so you've got time left to check your goals and do your best to achieve them. I have had an odd year, and while I wrote many words earlier in the year, health and other issues have impacted on my life. I'm not likely to achieve all my goals, but I am pretty pleased with what I have achieved so far. Sometimes we bite off more than we can chew (achieve!).

Congratulations to Mocco Wollert, who is featured in the latest issue of the QWC's magazine **WQ!** Well done, Mocco.

Meet me at the Paragon. Congratulations also to Dr Toni Risson, who co-curated an exhibition at the State Library of Queensland that will have already opened by the time you read this. Do go and visit the exhibition which is open from now until March 2020, so you have plenty of time to visit. Don't forget to buy her great book!!

Bribie Island Retreat – is on from October 9th to 13th, so you don't have a lot of time to plan and book. Booking forms were sent out in the last ROBW and we'd love you to let us know asap if you are attending. We've got a great speaker, Dr Eileen Herbert-Goodall, on the Saturday, so we hope to have a great group to attend.

Positions Vacant – At our November meeting, on the 12th, we will be holding our Annual General Meeting. We will be seeking members to form the committee to take over and manage the SWWQ for the next year. Nomination forms are attached to this issue of ROBW. I will not be standing as president. If anyone is interested in a position and would like to talk with me about it, feel free to call me.



Diary Dates

8 October

Information and Ideas for writers. Bring a pen and notebook.

Bring your friends – first visit is complimentary.

Meetings are at Brisbane Square Library, Community Room

Donation at the door - \$5.

This includes a ticket into a raffle prize draw.

9-13 October, Bribie Island Retreat. See pages 9 - 11 for the registration flyer and programme. If you are intending to attend, please register and deposit your payment asap. If you prefer, you can pay by cheque when you arrive, but we need to know you are coming.

12 November – AGM

See Nomination form page 8

Estelle Pinney Competition

The judge's report and list of winners is on page 4-5.

Travelling Writers – Quite a few of our members are currently travelling. I remember that it was travelling that stimulated my interest in blogging. In 2005 when I went to Ireland, friends kept asking me to send them emails about my travels. At that time I discovered www.typepad.com, which was one of the earlier blogging platforms and I did my best to update it regularly. It was quite a challenge as back then accessing the Internet was not as easy as it is currently. I went on to use other platforms, and still continue with blogging to this day. I'm a WordPress fan these days!

Annual Poetry Competition – No, we haven't forgotten our Poets! We have a quick in-house competition for you. See details in this issue of ROBW.

Keep Writing,

Di

COUNTDOWN TO BRIBIE ISLAND RETREAT

The official retreat runs from Friday afternoon (11th October) to Sunday after lunch (13th) but members are encouraged to arrive from Wednesday 9th for self-directed writing. You may choose to continue work on current projects, to begin new ones, or to work on your entry into our annual in-house competition.

Find the registration form with the programme [HERE](#). Return completed forms with your payment to Di at the meeting, or you can email the form to thepresident@womenwritersqld.org.au after depositing your payment to SWWQ, Bendigo Bank, BSB 633-000 Account No: 164387243. Don't forget to add your name to the reference line.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President: Di Hill - president@womenwritersqld.org.au

Vice-President: Alexandra Cornwell

Secretary: Heather Jacobs - theseecretary@womenwritersqld.org.au

Treasurer: Trudy Graham - thetreasurer@womenwritersqld.org.au

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

A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY AWAITS YOU

Are you interested in giving a little time to our organisation? Do you have a desire to help others? If so, we have a place for you. No qualifications are necessary - all that is required is a willingness to help your fellow writers.

Our committee meet face-to-face every couple of months. In between, we meet via our computer, mobile, or other device from the comfort of our own homes. All meetings are of short duration.

At our AGM in November, we will be looking for members to fill a few vacant positions. So that you can make an informed decision, you will find a description of what each position involves on page three.

Nomination form is attached. These must be returned to the Secretary by 31/10/2019.

If you want to know more, or have any questions, please contact the President.



ROLES OF EXECUTIVE and COMMITTEE MEMBERS (in brief)

We are a small group, with membership in the region of 50 paid members. Committee meetings (face-to-face, at the Brisbane City Library) run for an hour to an hour and a half every couple of months. Meetings via devices run for 40 minutes and paperwork is kept to a minimum (most communication is electronic) so a working knowledge of computers/devices is necessary. With the right team, the work equates to an average of three to four hours a month for the busiest committee member.

The President (We are seeking nominations for this role)

- is the face of the organisation and attends events and networks with other groups
- usually chairs meetings and oversees the running of the organisation
- is a signatory for bank accounts
- in consultation with the secretary, helps to prepare the agenda for meetings

The Vice-President (Please consider nominating for this position)

- shadows the President and stands in for her when required
- is expected to step into the role of President after two years

The Secretary (Please consider nominating for this position)

- takes the minutes of meetings and circulates these (a laptop is supplied)
- deals with the correspondence (this is minimal)
- in consultation with the President, prepares the agenda for meetings
- is a signatory for bank accounts

The Treasurer (The current treasurer has offered to stay on, but feel free to nominate)

- pays accounts when due and receipts and banks monies collected
- keeps proper records of income and expenditure, and organises for these to be audited each year
- has a spreadsheet for easy record keeping – reports are generated with one click
- is a signatory for bank accounts

Committee members (We are seeking at least three new committee members)

Apart from adding their voice and ideas (including for speakers for monthly member meetings), there are a number of committee portfolios. Those looking after the first three of the following have indicated they will continue in those roles, although they would be happy if anyone else would like to 'have a go').

Membership Secretary – keeps records of members

Postal Writers Coordinator – oversees the postal writers groups and liaises with the editors of those

Newsletter (ROBW) Editor – compiles the monthly newsletter and circulates this to members and others

Competition Coordinator – receives entries, keeps records, liaises with the judge and oversees prize payments

Special Events – seeks grant funding (if necessary) and speakers, advertises events etc.

Bribie Island Retreat – organises the weekend, finds a speaker/workshop presenter, reports to committee

PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING: Many hands *do* make light work, for everyone involved.

The Estelle Pinney Short Story Competition

A Message from the Judge, Lauren Elise Daniels, 10/09/19

Thank you for asking me to be a part of the **2019 Estelle Pinney Short Story Competition**. The Society of Women Writers Queensland received 60 stories; they were thoughtfully written and it was an honour to read such a rich collection of wisdom. I hope that every writer who entered is encouraged. It takes guts to write and even more so to enter a competition. I commend each of you for your efforts.

As an overview, a strong sense of place inhabited these stories with many contemporary Australian settings—urban and country—and historical references impressively dating as far back as 42AD. Themes explored arranged marriage, Alzheimer’s disease, suicide, complex relationships, violence against women, and female rage and fear. We had a narrator hitchhiking to visit a loved one in prison, and another travelling back in time to connect with ancestors incarcerated on Saint Helena Island. We had tough old aunties, a fable about greed, explorations of the supernatural and afterlife, sex and intimacy in mid- and later life, even a pregnant woman wielding an axe. The narrative devices spanned stream of consciousness through first, second and third person points of view. The styles ranged from lyrical to swift; contemplative, highly intimate, even global. In short, it was an impressive turnout.

To share some insight on how I ranked the stories, I employed five technical approaches plus one added category to determine first a long list, then short list, then allocate the winners. These are:

Structure: Does the story have a literary structure? Is there a hook that draws the reader into a scene, a sense of rising action, a climactic revelation and a resolution? Is there a twist?

Scene: Are there tangible scenes drawn alive through the senses and precise detail that develop the core theme? Are events shown more than told to readers?

Characterisation: Are there authentic characters who experience challenges and some form of transformation?

Style: Are there conscious word choices and turns of phrase that do not rely on cliché, but rather embody the voice of the author herself?

Message: Is the author conveying a meaningful theme that runs like a golden thread from start to finish? Is it fresh? Is there a touch of universal truth?

Resonance: When I reviewed the stories, did seeing the first page again stir an echo within me? This last category was added as many of the stories were good quality and sometimes it just comes down to the stories that have the implicit energy to leave a lasting impression and resonance.

Long list of 20 from 60 Entrants

Bumming a Lift [2]	The Lies of Love [57]
The Pilgrimage [5]	Mero in the Library [41]
What We Are [8]	One Hundred Year-Old Feet [42]
Baby [11]	Favourite Food [44]
Do You Need a Bloke? [21]	The Birthday Present [45]
Sam [23]	Tram 86 [48]
The Crows [25]	When Mr Deeds Came to Town [50]
Stray Dreams [34]	Not Everything is Cut and Dry [55]
Werona [35]	Portraits [56]
Rural Responsibilities [39]	The Lies of Love [57]
The Remnants of Miriam [40]	

Short List of 10 from 60 entrants

Baby [11]
The Remnants of Miriam [40]
Mero in the Library [41]
One Hundred Year-Old Feet [42]
The Birthday Present [45]
Tram 86 [48]
When Mr Deeds Came to Town [50]
Not Everything is Cut and Dry [55]
Portraits [56]
The Lies of Love [57]

The Winners

1st Prize: 'Baby' by Jean Flynn, from Victoria

2nd Prize: 'Tram 86' by Melanie Persson from W.A.

3rd Prize: 'Remnants of Miriam' by member Gretchen Bernet-Ward.

Three Highly Commended:

'One Hundred Year Old Feet' by Margaret Ogilvie from S.A.

'Mero in the Library' by Gretchen Bernet-Ward - a member

'Not Everything is Cut & Dry' by Maree Gallop, from N.S.W.

Three Commended:

'Portraits' by Megan Hippler, from Ayr, QLD

'The Lies of Love' by Jo Mularczyk, from N.S.W.

'The Birthday Present' by Lynne Geary, Victoria

1st Prize: 'Baby' [11]

It is so hard to write a successful story in the second person, that is, to write from the 'you'. It's a difficult energy to maintain because it's so assertive with the reader, that is, 'You do this; you do that...' but this writer strikes a balance between taking the reader along a narrative structure and ensuring the reader wants to find out what will happen to this speaker. From scene to scene, 'Baby' takes me by the lapels. Here's how it starts:

You're definitely going to have an abortion. You had a scan, but that didn't change anything. There was nothing to see on that grainy screen, not really. Your body doesn't look different. You don't feel sick. You don't have to tell anyone.

This story's message, the voice of the central character and her transformation are so bold, I was simultaneously frightened and utterly riveted. I was taught that writers write what people cannot say and I was floored by this story. I wanted to resist the brazen voice telling me what I wanted and what I would do, but I chased the story to its very end to witness the emergence of the speaker's transformed self. The story is a metaphor for awakening, for the coming of age of a selfish girl who becomes a young mother and utterly forgets herself in her infant's gaze.

This story is the first place winner because of the undeniable affect it has on the reader. It's a wrestling match we don't fully know we're having and in the end we can breathe again. Just read it and be rewarded.

2nd Prize: 'Tram 86' [48]

Don't sit here. Don't sit here. Sit anywhere else, just please don't sit here.

I'm avoiding his eye, deliberately looking out the window but fully aware of his reflection as he moves closer to my seat. There's a cigarette box sticking out of his breast pocket, the warning label easily visible against the stained cotton.

Tackling the difficult themes of gender and power, this writer tells a story in one straight scene but with two distinct parts, enhancing the narrative with an engaging structure. It was notable that the writer did not break from scene at all and the resulting story reads like one fiercely single, steady and uncut shot in a film. I appreciate the writer's ability to retain focus, hold and enhance the tension quite deftly as she inverts such a familiar power disparity right before our eyes: the woman on a train being harassed by men and then succeeds in protecting a stranger from the same treatment.

The change in the character who thinks purely of herself and her own safety initially, then thinks of others, transpires seamlessly and yet believably over the course of minutes. The story illustrates how we can move with determination from a target to an empowered, compassionate human being.

3rd Prize: 'Remnants of Miriam' [40]

'Remnants of Miriam' opens with 'The old lady across the road died alone but at a good age, after a good life. Well, that's what her family said as they stripped her house of its fixtures, fittings and 1960s furniture.'

A family loses a neighbour and ends up with a chair from her home that they do not want, a kind of relic that reflects the passage of time and the transient nature of all things. Despite its deeply philosophical core, the story doesn't tarry. It has a crisp emotional quality from the opening lines as the wise child narrator witnesses events and peppers them with humour and insight, even as we are initiated into loneliness, aging and death.

'And I wanted to see a genuine coffin so I could picture Miriam safe, just like she was in her bed on that day I found her, looking like a crinkled pinch shell cocooned in white cotton.'

Thank you all and congratulations to the winners.



CONGRATULATIONS to member Kerry McGinnis, on the release of the second book in her *Far Seeker* trilogy. (You may recall that we announced the first book in the series back in October 2018.)

The book is available in hard copy from Amazon and Book Depository, with an e-book to come soon. It is also available direct from Kerry for \$20 plus postage. Contact her on 07 4154 3593 or write to her at 5 Miles St. Bundaberg 4670.

COMPETITIONS

The Best of Times short story competition #28 Spring 2019

Closing date: 31 October 2019

For **humorous short stories** (any theme) up to 2500 words. First prize: \$300 or \$400 (depending on number of entries), second prize: \$100. Certificates for third place, highly commended and commended.

No entry form is required. Include a cover sheet with your name and address, story title and word count, and where you heard about the competition.

Entry fee is \$10 per story. Send a cheque or money order made out to Chris Broadribb or use Paypal to pay cabbook-28@yahoo.com

Post your entry to PO Box 55, Blaxcell NSW 2142 (including a large SSAE if you want the story returned and a results sheet, or a small SSAE for results only) or email it to cabbook-28@yahoo.com

Competition website: www.bestoftimes.com.au

SWWQ In-House Poetry Competition

for financial members of SWWQ only

Closing Date: 12/11/2019

Theme: Any style/any subject

Accepts: Poetry, up to 2 entries

Size: min 5 lines max 30 lines (single spaced)

Entry Fee: Free

Prizes: *First*: \$100 *Second*: \$50, and up to three certificates of commendation.

Send your entry to SWWQ, PO Box 12820, PO George Street, Brisbane 4000, or email to president@womenwritersqld.org.au, or hand to Di in a sealed envelope at the October meeting.

See page 7 for full list of conditions and how to enter.

SWWQ In-house Poetry Competition

CONDITIONS AND HOW TO ENTER

1. This competition is open only to financial members of the Society of Women Writers Qld.
2. Prize Money will be \$100 for the winning entry and \$50 for second place, and up to 3 Certificates of Commendation.
3. The Poetry can be written in any poetic style and on any subject.
4. The poems must totally be an original work by the member entering the competition and not have been published or won a prize in any other competition.
5. Members may enter up to two entries. There is no entry fee.
6. All poems must be written in English.
7. Contest entries must have at least 5 lines and no more than 30. Please use single spacing
8. Capitalization:
 - Capitalize words that are proper names or places.
 - You may capitalize the first letter of each line
9. Entries must not contain language which is vulgar, offensive, or inappropriate.
10. Only use a pen name on your entry.
11. Entry Form - On a Separate Page, write/type your name and address, Title of your poem/s, and number of lines of your poem and either post entry to SWWQ, PO box 12820, Post Office George St, BRISBANE, 4000, or email entry to president@womenwritersqld.org.au, or give to Di Hill in a sealed envelope on or before November 12th.
12. Entries close on November 12TH, 2019.



The Annual General Meeting of the Society
of Women Writers Qld will be held at 10 am,
November 12th, '19 Brisbane Square
Library, George St, Brisbane.

NOMINATION FORM

An election will be held at the AGM. Positions include President, Treasurer, and Secretary and Committee Members, who may take on roles as Membership Secretary, Postal Writers Coordinator, Newsletter (ROBW) Editor, Competition Coordinator. If you would like to nominate someone, or be nominated, please complete this form.

To: The Secretary, Society of Women Writers Qld Inc. PO Box 12820, George Street Post Office, George St, BRISBANE, 4000, or handed to Secretary, or completed and emailed to thesecretary@womenwritersqld.org.au by October 31st, 2019.

I
(Your own name goes on this line)

of
(Your address goes on this line)

being a financial member of The Society of Women Writers Qld Inc hereby nominate

.....
(The name of the person you wish to nominate goes here)

for the position of _____ on the
Committee of The Society of Women Writers Qld Inc

Signed:.....
(The member who is nominating - signs here)

Seconded by:
(Another financial member must second the nomination and sign and print their name)

I,
(the person being nominated is to print their name here)

of(current address of person being nominated)
being a financial member of The Society of Women Writers Qld Inc, hereby accept the above
nomination.

Signed.....
(nominated person signs here)

Date.....

Nominations must be received by the Secretary by October 31st, 2019



SWWQ WRITERS RETREAT 2019

Coungeau House Bribie Island

11th -13th October

We invite all members to join us on beautiful Bribie Island for our annual SWWQ retreat. This is an opportunity for you to meet with old friends, make new friends, write, relax, learn, share your ideas and writing with likeminded women in a fabulous creative and delightful setting. The retreat officially runs from Friday afternoon 11th until after lunch on Sunday 13th October.

Members are welcome to arrive from Wednesday 9th to relax, read and write, however all activity is self-directed, and all food is self-catered until the retreat officially begins.

Accommodation is shared room and dormitory style. There are some bunk beds.
Accommodation is limited and will be allocated on a first come (and paid) basis.

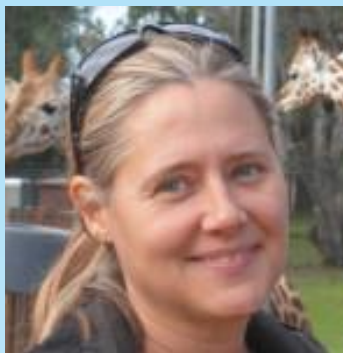
Day visitors are welcome. On the booking form please advise of your approximate arrival and departure times to enable effective catering.

About Coungeau House

Coungeau House is currently under the excellent stewardship of temporary caretaker Christine Clark. She and her group of enthusiastic volunteers are working tirelessly to restore and refresh the facilities and to encourage community group use. We are delighted to again have Coungeau House as the base for our retreat.

Built in 1915 by an Albanian wine and spirit merchant, Coungeau House is one of Bribie Island's historic buildings. Norman Coungeau had a liquor business in Petrie Bight, near Customs House in Brisbane. He retired to Bribie with his English wife Emily in 1919. When Emily was later taken ill, the house was put on the market but offers were so low that in 1936 Coungeau donated it, instead, to the Church of England. It became a holiday home for Anglican clergy. High-ranking American and Australian service personnel stayed at Coungeau House during World War II. Afterwards, it continued to be used by Anglican Clergy until the Toc H (Talbot House) Bribie Island Project bought it in 1968. The house was raised, steel girders were installed, and Besser block walls were built to enclose a spacious area underneath. Much of this restoration work was done by members of the Brisbane Branch of Toc H. The deeds of Coungeau House were handed over to Toc H Queensland in 1976.





Engaging Stories: Credible Characters

Eileen Herbert-Goodall has had many pieces of non-fiction and short fiction published and is the author of a novella titled 'The Sherbrooke Brothers'.

Eileen teaches creative writing with the University of the Sunshine Coast, as well as the Queensland Writers Centre. She holds a Doctorate of Creative Arts.

On Saturday morning Eileen will present a workshop entitled **Engaging stories: Credible Characters**. This workshop will cover an

in-depth discussion concerning the features/aesthetics that contribute to engaging stories, as well as how to use characters (and their experiences in the story world) to help drive plot forward.



Programme

Friday 11th Arrival and Welcome

- ✚ Dinner is usually takeaway (at your cost)
- ✚ Friday Night Salon—come prepared with a short reading to share over coffee and dessert

Saturday 12th

- ✚ Breakfast at your leisure
- ✚ 10.00 –12.00 Engaging Stories: Credible Characters writing workshop—Dr Eileen Herbert - Goodall (University of Sunshine Coast)
- ✚ 1.00—2.00 Lunch (Quiche, salad and bread rolls)
- ✚ 2.00—5.00 - Your Choice -writing reflection/ own time/ join with others to collaborate or write short stories
- ✚ 5.00—6.00 Wine and cheese and chat time
- ✚ 6.00ish Dine out dinner at local eatery (at your cost)

Sunday 13th

- ✚ Poets Breakfast: Bring a favourite piece of poetry (yours or someone else's) to share over breakfast
- ✚ 11.00—12.00 Readers Cup: Quiz style team activity to share your knowledge of contemporary and historical books. Prizes, prizes, prizes!
- ✚ 12.30 BBQ Lunch followed by afternoon departure

BOOKING FORM

- 🚩 **Accommodation at Coungeau House** \$25.00 per night BYO toiletries, linen etc.
- 🚩 Day session price (for those not staying) \$5.00 per morning and afternoon session

🚩 **Catering Costs and Information**

- 🚩 \$15.00 general grocery charge
- 🚩 \$10.00 each Saturday and Sunday lunch
- 🚩 **Evening Meals:** Friday takeaway and Saturday dine out, at own expense.
- 🚩 **Breakfast:** (general groceries will include tea and coffee, milk, bread, butter, jam etc.)
- 🚩 BYO alcohol and 'sunset' food.
- 🚩 **IF YOU HAVE FOOD ALLERGIES (gluten, dairy etc) YOU WILL NEED TO CATER FOR THESE YOURSELF.**

Name.....

Phone Number.....

Next of Kin Contact Name..... Phone Number.....

Circle days/nights you plan to attend:

Nights Staying: Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Days Visiting Only: Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday

Calculate accommodation cost @ \$25.00 per night..... \$.....

Calculate cost of sessions if NOT staying overnight @ \$5.00 per session..... \$.....

Add \$15.00 grocery charge and the cost of lunches required @ \$10.00 per lunch..... \$.....

TOTAL PAYMENT..... \$.....

POST: Send form and cheque/money order (Society of Women Writers Queensland Inc.) to

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

DIRECT DEPOSIT: Society of Womens Writers Inc. Bendigo Bank, BSB: 633-000, Account No: 164387243

PLEASE USE YOUR NAME AS A REFERENCE WHEN MAKING YOUR PAYMENT ONLINE

If you know of someone who would like to attend, but is not a member, please let them know about our special \$15.00 retreat membership offer.

The membership form is available on the SWWQ website:

www.womenwritersqld.org.au