

History of the Society

The Society of Women Writers was first established in Australia in Sydney in September 1925, to bring together women writers and journalists in New South Wales. Their aims were to be a social body; to promote knowledge of literature; to encourage women writers; and to strengthen the ties of interest between Australian and visiting writers (www.womenwritersnsw.org/history/).

Until the 1970s, the Society was based in Sydney, using a postal critiquing system to keep in touch. During this decade, branches were established in other Australian states and the first Federal Constitution was adopted in 1978 with an agreement that Federal responsibility be transferred from state to state every two years. Twenty years later, the decision was made to decentralise, with each state forming its own Society.

The WA branch initially operated only through correspondence groups until the first President, Ethel Webb, was appointed in 1981 and members began to meet regularly. The Society of Women Writers WA was incorporated as an autonomous body on 25 February 2000.

Executive Committee

The Society's activities are managed and conducted by an annually elected committee.

Objectives

- To draw together women writers of all disciplines whether published or aspiring.
- To maintain the status of those professions.
- To promote a knowledge of literature and to encourage Western Australian women writers.
- To help aspiring writers achieve full professional status.

Contact Details

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The Society of Women Writers WA



What does the Society offer?

Monthly Newsletter

The Society's newsletter, *In Print*, is distributed to members on the first Tuesday of each month to publicise meetings, workshops, literary events, writing competitions and opportunities.

Monthly Meetings

The Society offers a central meeting place for information, support and fellowship with other writers, and a communication base for country members and isolated writers. General Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at Citiplace Community Centre, Perth Railway Station Concourse at 12 noon, usually followed by a guest speaker on topics relating to writing, publishing or marketing. Visitors are always welcome.

Annual Writers' Retreat

The annual retreat provides the opportunity to interact with other women writers in an inspiring rural setting. Writers can attend scheduled workshops or use the time to concentrate on individual projects. The retreat is a highlight in the Society's calendar and offers camaraderie, exchange of ideas, lots of laughter, good food and a convivial atmosphere.

Literary Competitions

The Society organises and administers the annual Bronze Quill Award and the biennial Ethel Webb Bundell Awards.

Membership

Writing can be a solitary experience. Membership offers the opportunity to mix and network with other writers to learn of their experiences and to share writing and publishing tips. The Society has members throughout Western Australia. This includes established writers as well as writers with different levels of experience, writing in different genres. There are novelists, romance writers, children's writers, fantasy writers, poets, playwrights, and writers of non-fiction, articles and memoirs. Members enjoy social occasions such as the annual Bronze Quill Luncheon or bus trips. Information, membership forms and annual subscription fees are available from the Society's website.

Website Space

Members have the opportunity to promote their writing or their writing services on the Society's website, either with an entry on the acknowledgements page, or a complete personalised page.

Writers' Circles

Members can join one of the various writers' circles. These are closed critiquing groups of up to eight members who submit written work monthly to an editor. The editor collates the work into a 'magazine', which is circulated to the other members of the circle for feedback and comments. All comments are returned to the editor, who collates them and sends them out to circle members with the next magazine.

The Society has several writers' circles. Some accept any genre; for example, adult and children's stories, poetry, chapters of novels, articles and memoirs. Some are for poetry only.

Writing Workshops

The Society conducts workshops on writing fiction and non-fiction, memoirs, poetry, scriptwriting and articles throughout the year. Marathon Writing Competitions are held regularly to provide inspiration and ignite creativity.

Calendar of Events

Check the calendar on the Society's website for details of upcoming workshops, events or guest speakers.