

Announcements

Women of a Certain Age

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Women of a Certain Age (WOCA), published by Fremantle Press, is a recent, well-received anthology edited by Jodie Moffat, Maria Scoda and LiLT member, Susan Laura Sullivan. Fifteen creative non-fiction stories outline the journeys and experiences of women over forty and beyond. Many of the contributors are known within Australian and international literary circles.

Jeanine Leane is an award winning Wiradjuri writer from Australia. Her prose and poetry have won important state and national awards. She teaches creative writing and Aboriginal literature at Melbourne University. Her chapter in the anthology explores the perceptions white academia holds for indigenous academics within Australian tertiary institutions, and the obstacles she faced when researching the canons of white Australian literature for her Ph.D.

Krissy Kneen was shortlisted for the 2018 Stella Prize – a major literary award highlighting and celebrating women’s writing – for her novel, *An Uncertain Grace*. Krissy’s chapter in *WOCA* opens with the final processes of completing that book. The ideas featured in her novel are also included in her section. The representation of older male characters with younger female lovers in classical and non-classical literature is compared with that of older female characters with younger male lovers in the same. Her chapter references works of Gabriel García Márquez and Jun’ichirou Tanizaki among others. She zeroes in on the associated societal implications.

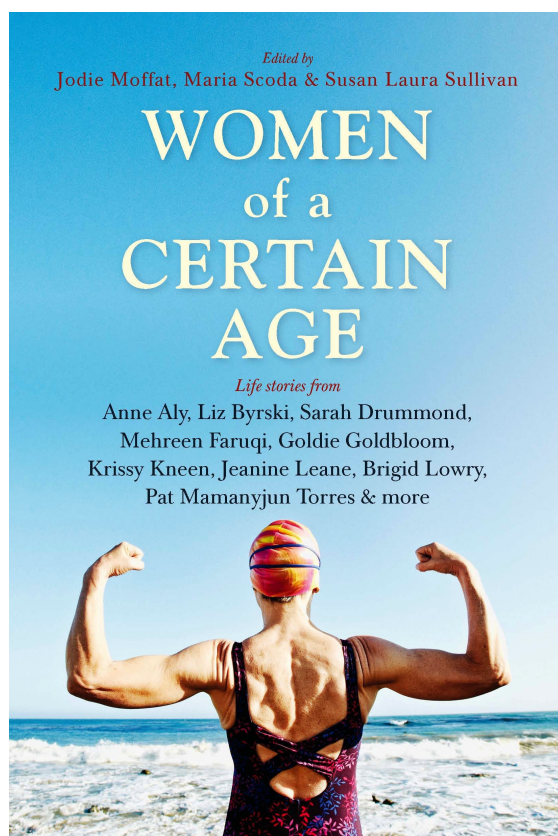
Sarah Drummond was long listed for the International Dublin Literary Award for her novel, *The Sound* in 2017. Sarah writes on people, place and our connection to both. Her work in *WOCA* traces the trajectories of secrets that restrict and bind, while revealing the ephemeral, seasonal beauty that also exists around us within nature *and* within secrets.

Goldie Goldbloom’s first novel *the Paperbark Shoe* won the US Association of Writers and Writing Programs’ Novel Award. It was also the Foreword Indies Book of the Year for Literary Fiction. A study of childhood is something that we and our students have experience with and in. It is relatable, no matter how harsh or sweet. Goldie’s touching story about reconnecting and reconciling with her estranged father is relayed through a strong narrative voice that switches from

a child's perspective to that of a mature woman and mother; from a childhood in Australia to an adulthood in Chicago. Through personal memoir, we can mine and make our own creative expression to explore language and identity, regardless of which tongue we speak or where we live.

Finally, Liz Byrski has written ten novels with a particular focus on women over the age of fifty. She is also a well-known journalist and non-fiction writer. Japan is an ageing society, and her perceptive chapter on the things we lose as we get older, and how to best take care of those around us as they grow frail and weaken, are topics that literature in the form of memoir can perhaps express more directly and succinctly than any newspaper report.

WOCA contains tales from professional and lay writers on love and loss, hardship and happiness, identity and identification. Personal and global themes are discussed within a conversational framework. Stories delving into worlds of social and individual standing are accessible and useful to any LiLT member. Teachers seeking well-crafted stories that slip across cultural boundaries will find a wealth of material in *Women of a Certain Age*.



Moffat, J., Scoda, M., & Sullivan, S. L. (2018). *Women of a Certain Age: Life stories from Anne Aly, Liz Byrski, Sarah Drummond, Mehreen Faruqi, Goldie Goldbloom, Krissy Kneen, Jeanine Leane, Brigid Lowry, Pat Mamanyjun Torres & more*. Fremantle: Fremantle Press.

The **2018 JALT Conference** will be held from November 23–26 in Shizuoka. Please refer to <https://jalt.org/main/conferences> for full details. The deadline for submissions was **February 12, 2018**.

The 12th annual 2018 **Japan Writer's Conference** will be held from October 13-14 at Otaru University of Commerce in Otaru, Hokkaido. <http://www.japanwritersconference.org>