

SOCIETY OF WOMEN WRITERS NSW INC.
RESULTS – 2005 National Poetry Competition

According to the judge of the competition, Dr Vivian Smith, the standard of writing in all two hundred entries was very high. In singling out the prize-winning poems he had three important considerations:

- a) **Form:** Does the writer have a sense of form, of the shape and structure of the poem?
- b) **Content:** What is the poem about? Does the writer have something interesting to say? Is that ‘something’ said in an appropriate manner? Does the writing show a sense of engagement with the subject matter?
- c) **Language:** Is the language of the poem fresh in an interesting way?

The best poems told a story. ‘A narrative in a poem works wonders, Dr Smith said.



Phyllis Perlstone and Dr Vivian Smith

- 1st Prize: *The Life of a Spider* by Marilyn Peck.
- 2nd Prize: *Red <in Essex>* by Phyllis R. Perlstone
- 3rd Prize: *Bridget Riley Exhibition* by Carolyn Gerrish

Highly Commended:

- With Barbie in Fairytopia* by Dorothy Keyworth
- Distance* by Winifred Weir
- The Mango Snake* by Anna Buck
- Love in Autumn* by Jean Ringland
- Blue Ringed Octopus* by Lucille de Lepervanche
- Scarrings* by Felicity Plunkett
- Ballooning at Versailles, 1783* by Beverley George
- Second Hand Books* by Marilyn Peck
- I left Melbourne a few times singing* by Marilyn Peck