

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE2111

## Edgar, Suzanne

(1939 - )

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**Born** 13 October, 1939, Glenelg, Adelaide South Australia

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**Occupation** Author, Poet, Writer

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### Summary

Suzanne Edgar is a Canberra-based writer of fiction, feature articles, poetry and reviews.

(This entry is sponsored by generous donation from Christine Foley.)

### Details

Suzanne Edgar was born in 1939 in Glenelg, South Australia, and studied at Adelaide Teachers' College and the University of Adelaide. She moved to Canberra in 1963 with her husband Peter, a writer and historian (*To Villers-Bretonneux*, Australian Military History Publications, Syd, 2006). She has worked in adult education, and has taught Women's Studies at the Australian National University. For c.25 years she was the research editor, South Australian desk, at the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*.

She has published *Counting Backwards and Other Stories* (1991), many of these short stories being set in Adelaide and in Canberra, and the collection was short-listed for the Steele Rudd award in 1992. Edgar's poetry has been published in *The Australian*, *The Canberra Times*, *The Adelaide Review*, *Quadrant*, *The Australian's Review of Books*, and *Eureka Street*. She has twice won the C.J. Dennis Memorial Poetry Competition for *Night Shift* and *Uriarra*, while *Chica* and *The Ring Maker* have been short-listed for Canberra poetry awards. Her poems, 'The Loneliness of Salt' and 'Enid on the Sofa', were included in Les Murray ed., *Best Australian Poems 2004 and 2005* respectively (Black Inc., Melb.). Among her other poems in anthologies, her sonnet 'The Patriarch's House by the Sea' is in R. Walker and L. Nicholas eds., *Friendly Street Thirty*, Wakefield Press, Adel, 2006; this sonnet was short-listed for the SATURA prize for the best poem in the book. Edgar has read at Friendly Street Poets, Adelaide. She often gives readings of her own and others' poetry in connection with art exhibitions, at the National Gallery of Australia and at the Art Gallery of South Australia. She also writes film and book reviews, criticism and features in literary and scholarly journals.

She was a member of Seven Writers – a group of seven Canberra-based writers whose work vividly portrayed life 'beneath the surface of Canberra' – and as part of this collective she contributed to *Canberra Tales* (1988), republished as *The Division of Love* in 1996, an anthology of short stories about life in Canberra. The work was funded with an ACT Bicentennial grant.

Edgar currently belongs to a professional poets' group [no name] comprised of two men and two women who meet monthly at The Mull and Fiddle, to discuss work in progress.

Her first collection of poetry, *The Painted Lady*, prepared with the help of a \$10,000 grant from artsACT, is to be published in 2006 by Indigo Press, Canb. (eds. Alan Gould and Geoff Page).

Edgar has contributed fifty-three biographical articles to the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* and one to The Biographical Dictionary of the Australian Senate. She is also an interviewer for the National Library of Australia's Oral History Program.

## Published resources

### Book

Counting Backwards and other stories, Edgar, Suzanne, 1991

The Division of Love: Stories, Barbalet, Margaret et al, 1995

### Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

### Site Exhibition

From Lady Denman to Katy Gallagher: A Century of Women's Contributions to Canberra, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2013,

<http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/ldkg>

## Archival resources

### National Library of Australia, Manuscript Collection

Records of the Seven Writers group, between 1986 and approximately 2000

### Author Details

Barbara Lemon

**Created** 1 June 2006

**Last modified** 20 November 2018

## Digital resources



**Title:** Portrait of Suzanne Edgar taken at Adelaide Festival 1990

**Type:** Image

**Date:** 3 May, 2023