

Southern Gazette

SOUTH PERTH

Communitynews.com.au

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2017

STATE ELECTION



HOW PAULINE HANSON'S
ONE NATION IS POISED
TO SHAPE PERTH

Details, page 6

Growing with the flow

South Perth-born author Robin Bower has returned to her roots for her latest novel, *My River Sanctuary*.
See page 17.



Robin Bower in South
Perth with her new
novel.
Picture: Jon Hewson
040027



BOOKS

CHILDHOOD INSPIRES BOOK

Aaron Corlett

SOUTH Perth-born writer Robin Bower was inspired by her childhood growing up in the suburb for her latest book.

My River Sanctuary imagines if Chinese urban farms and gardens that were around South Perth in the 1880s to 1940s were still prevalent in modern times.

Woodvale resident Bower said her mother told her about the farms and gardens and this inspired her to write the book.

"We grew up near the zoo and the river was like our front yard; I've got wonderful memories of playing with local kids," she said.

"I've always dabbled with writing. I've worked in publishing in Melbourne, I've worked as a freelancer and I've written about the diamond and jewellery industry for a trade magazine while living in Hong Kong.

"My first book *Beyond Home* was published in 2014 and my second book *Sense of Paris* was a collaboration celebrating Paris."

Bower said this book was inspired by her time in Hong Kong, which made her interested in Chinese culture.

"I was living there during the handover period and so there are historical references to that in the



South Perth-born author Robin Bower Picture: Jon Hewson

book," she said.

"I always seem to gravitate back to my childhood and some of the characters reflect that.

"Kim is the main character. She is struggling to keep her farm profitable, and there is Jack who

was the boy next door and her first love."

Bower said she had learned a lot from publishing her first two books, which made it easier when it came to *My River Sanctuary*.

"At the moment I'm writing as

many short stories into different competitions as I can and running my own blog, while also working full-time," she said.

The book is available on Amazon: mybook.to/MyRiverSanctuary.

LIBRARY TIME OUT

THE Town of Victoria Park is aiming to smash typical library stereotypes with the introduction of some 'out of the box' initiatives for residents.

Deckchair loans, children's outside play activities and a visiting pop-up toy library are all making the outside of the Victoria Park library an additional place people can enjoy during the summer months.

On February 23 from 10am-11am, the Carlisle/Victoria Park Toy Library will bring a pop-up toy library to the outside of the Victoria Park library, allowing members to borrow and play with larger toys on these days.

Mayor Trevor Vaughan said the addition of non-traditional library items was a great initiative.

"The idea is that people have the opportunity to grab a book from the library, borrow a deck chair and sit under the shade of a tree, or out in the sunshine and enjoy some time out," he said.

"You've also got the option of working outside in comfort on your laptop or portable device using the library's free Wi-Fi."

REVUE

ENTERTAINMENT

MAKING SENSES OF PARIS TRIP

WRITER Robin Bower and artist Christine Vandenberg are two old friends who decided to take a trip to Paris on a whim.

What resulted is a bespoke and unique book, *Senses of Paris*, which is written and illustrated through the five senses of human perception.

Bower said the seed for the book was sown when her friend had a yearning to return to Paris for a holiday.

"It was Chris's birthday and she wanted to go to Paris because she hadn't been there for 25 years," she said.

"I was interested in going and said to her 'Why don't we do a book while we're there?' and she agreed."

Bower said they wanted to create something different, a 'living' document of their experience.

"We recorded all the different experiences on what we felt with our senses: taste, smell, touch, sight and sound," she said.

"They are very personal reflections... instant reflections of where we were at the time.

"It could have been a snapshot from a snippet of a stranger's conversation through to sitting arm to arm in a crowded Parisian cafe.

"It was about those visceral responses we have. It was a great challenge that forced you to be creative with your interpretation of your senses."

Vandenberg said her artistic influence was Monet.

"We rented an apartment in Montmartre for three weeks. It has a very diverse cultural representation there," she said.

"It was our base from where we went to Monet's home village. It's just a beautiful place, Giverny. I have loved Monet all my life.

For a sneak peek into their works, visit www.robinbower.com/senses-of-paris.

The book is available only as a hard copy.



Robin Bower and Christine Vandenberg say their book has sections where owners can record their own perceptions.