In February 2016 UWA Publishing will release the first biography of Randolph Stow, *Mick: A Life of Randolph Stow*, written by Suzanne Falkiner. This will constitute a further significant contribution to the continuing legacy of Stow, which has enjoyed sustained attention and interest since his death in 2010.

Based on research from personal papers, correspondence and archival resources held in the UK, USA, Canada, Papua New Guinea and Australia, Falkiner’s literary biography promises to illuminate the life and character of one of Australia’s literary highflyers. Of course, readers of Australian literature will recognise the tension in this term, as Stow’s force within the literary world was ironically enhanced by his withdrawal from public life and Australia. In an article for the New South Wales Writers Centre, to be published later this year, Suzanne describes the ethical tension she experienced when writing the biography of such a private man:

Stow presents a number of obstacles for the would-be biographer, beyond the writer knowing that he would probably prefer it not to be done at all...However, even as he began to have intimations of mortality, he did not ask his closest correspondents - he eschewed email to the end - to destroy the letters they had kept over many decades. And while he hedged and blocked biographers in his lifetime, he did acknowledge that such a book would be written after his death; perhaps more than one.

We can say with confidence that Stow is in safe hands. Falkiner’s characteristic sensitivity and erudition when writing the lives of others is demonstrated in her previous literary biographies, including *The Imago: E. L. Grant Watson & Australia* (UWA Publishing 2011), and *Ethel: A Love Story* (Pan Macmillan 1996).

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**


Suzanne has travelled widely and lived in Paris, Umbria, and New York. She has studied at the University of New South Wales and Columbia University. In 2005 she was awarded a Doctorate of Creative Arts at the University of Technology, Sydney.