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ANN VICKERY is a Monash Fellow in the Centre for Women's Studies and Gender Research at Monash University, Australia. She is the author of *Leaving Lines of Gender: A Feminist Genealogy of Language Writing* (Wesleyan University Press, 2000) and has published widely in Australian and contemporary American poetics. A founding member of *HOW2*, a journal of innovative women's writing and scholarship, she was its editor-in-chief between 2001 and 2002.

Stressing the Modern: Cultural Politics in Australian Women's Poetry is the first major study of women's poetic careers in early twentieth-century Australia. This was a particularly prolific period for women poets as a rapidly changing social climate generated new, often still ambivalent, identities around gender, race, class, and nation. Negotiating the 'modern' landscape and the 'modern' psyche through the complex effects of Federation, the suffrage movement, World War I, increasing industrialisation and urbanisation, and advances in technology necessitated innovations in poetic form and a rethinking of authorship. This exciting study examines the increasing visibility and popularity of women as poets, their shaping of literary tastes through editing and criticism, their cross-influence and friendships, and the resulting backlash within Australian literary circles. Furthermore, it traces how these writers mediated their experiences of travel, expatriation, and transnationalism against the desire to produce a literature of difference, that is, poetry that was regionally or culturally distinct. Using extensive archival material, *Stressing the Modern* offers a new understanding of the emergence of literary modernism in Australia. It demonstrates the significance of poetry as both a popular and a radical site for articulating 'modern' lives and their concerns.

"This study is also an outstanding instance of contemporary criticism, a brilliant blend of original archival research, in-depth contextualisation of the poetry, and authoritative biographical framing of these women's lives as writers, feminists, intellectuals, lawyers, political activists, publishers and journalists. It will focus international critical and scholarly attention on the many defining contributions these women poets have made to modernism in Australia."

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—LYN MCCREDDEN

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