

# E-Newsletter

ISSN 2203-3106

## President's Message

Dr Maria Hill



Greetings from London! While I have been toiling away at the National Archives of Britain for the past four weeks, unearthing interesting nuggets of information for my new book on the First World War, the committee has been busily putting the finishing touches on our inaugural Women's Literary Festival 'Dare to Be an Author' - I can't wait to be there - make sure you have bought your ticket so you can partake of this literary feast. Inspired by the theme of our festival, I visited Bath and attended the Jane Austen Festival as well as participating in a pilgrimage to the picturesque village of Chawton, where Jane spent her final years. What you might find interesting to know is that 'Chawton House', the Elizabethian manor in which her brother Edward lived, is now a library and research centre containing a unique collection of early women's writing. It is also home to the historic silver trophies awarded by our sister organisation: the Society of Women Writers & Journalists in the United Kingdom to the winners for their writing competitions. October is also our designated 'poetry month' with a stimulating workshop being conducted by award winning poet Libby Hathorn followed by a member book launch by Bridget McKern and the Kookaburra Poetry group of their first anthology of poems. Our special guest speaker for this month is none other than the very talented author, Isolde Martyn, who will be discussing the writing of her latest novel *Mistress to the Crown*. I'm off now on a Battlefield tour of the Salonika Front. Best wishes Maria.



Jane Austen Tea Rooms, Bath

**SWW GENERAL ENQUIRIES**

**0490 363 778**

*For more information about our events.*

If you wish to contribute any member news, please email your text and image as a jpeg file to: [kris@kristinprescott.com](mailto:kris@kristinprescott.com) with "ATTN: SWW E-News editor" in subject heading. **The deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month.** Any late submissions will be help for the following month.

# 8 October Monthly Meeting

State Library of NSW  
Macquarie Street, Sydney

**Workshop: 10.00 – 11.45am** - [Bookings Essential](#)

*Poetry and Poetry in Picture Books*

Presenter: Libby Hathorn

Workshop Coordinator: **Bea Yell 9452 2299**

**Literary Lunch: 12.15 - 1pm**

**Member Talk: 1.00 – 1.20pm**

Bridget McKern and the Kookaburra Poetry Anthology Group

**Guest Speaker: 1.20 - 2pm**

*Medieval Blonde? Writing about a Royal Mistress*

Isolde Martyn

**Cost: \$50** for members or **\$55** non-members.

*Workshop only: \$20* members or **\$30** non-members.

Special workshop & luncheon price: **\$65** members and

**\$80** non-members.

**Membership forms available on our website: [click here](#)**

**Bookings required before 10am, Monday 6 October 2014**

**PLEASE BOOK BY EMAIL IF YOU HAVE ACCESS TO A COMPUTER**

Contact Name: SWW Lunch Booking

Email address: [swwlunchbooking@gmail.com](mailto:swwlunchbooking@gmail.com)

Mobile phone: Text message to 0403 177 208

Your text message should be addressed to swwlunchbooking or swwlunch and should contain: date, your name and number.



## Workshop



## *Poetry and Poetry in Picture Books* Libby Hathorn

Libby Hathorn is an award winning poet and author of more than fifty books for children and young people, as well as books for adults including *Women's Work; a collection of contemporary Australian Women's Poetry*. Translated into several languages and adapted for stage and screen, her work has won honours in Australia, United States, Great Britain and Holland. She is currently working on a World War I historical novel entitled *Eventual Poppy Day* (HarperCollins to be released in March 2015). She has developed a presentation entitled *An ANZAC in the Family* which explains the process of writing an historical novel based on true war records.

Libby's latest picture books are *A Baby for Loving* and *Outside!* (Hardie Grant Egmont/Little Hare, 2014).

Libby will lead the group through exercises to help 'imagine freshly' and to flesh out the storyboard for a picture book (for younger or older) readers.

## Luncheon Speakers

## Member Talk

### *Bridget McKern and the Kookaburra Anthology Poetry Group*

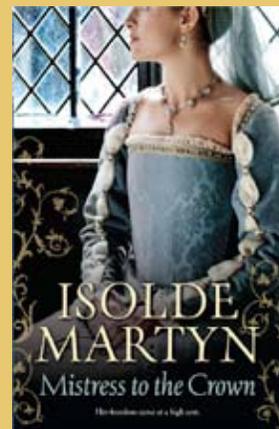
The *Kookaburra Anthology* (2013) marks three years of SWW Kookaburra Postal Magazine exchanges. The poets featured in this collection are: Anne Udy,



Bridget McKern, Gillian Hunt, Jennifer Grant, Joyce Trimas, Leanne Wicks, Marilyn Peck, Meg Wallens and Pip Griffin.

Each member of the group was asked to select three or four of their favourite poems for the collection which have been shared with the group over this period. The production of this anthology was a simple self-publishing short run with each contributor putting in \$60 to cover costs. Even though they may not have met each other face to face, the reading and critiquing of their poetry over time has bound the ladies together and given them a special relationship of shared words and emotions.

Bridget, together with Anne, Jennifer and Toni Brisland are looking forward to presenting some of the poems at the luncheon. Copies will be available for purchase on the day.



### Guest Speaker *Mistress to the Crown* Isolde Martyn

Isolde returns to the NSW Society of Women Writers in October to talk about the writing of her recent novel *Mistress to the Crown*. It's about Elizabeth Lambard, King Edward IV's lover, known in history as Mistress 'Jane' Shore.

She enjoys using turbulent historical events as the backdrop of her stories. In 2000, her debut novel, *The Maiden and the Unicorn*, was the first novel by an Australian to win the prestigious Rita award for 'Best First Novel' from Romance Writers of America and her first two books have won the mainstream 'Romantic Book of the Year Award' in Australia.

She has a history honours degree from Exeter University, has worked in academia and was a senior book editor with Readers Digest General Books. Sharing history has always been her passion and she is a former Chair of the Sydney Richard III Society and co-founder and Vice-chair of the Plantagenet Society of Australia.

#### The Society of Women Writers NSW Inc.

**Committee 2014-15** - Dr Maria Hill – President, Lindsay Lewis - Vice-President, Dr Wendy Michaels - Vice-President, Christine Beattie - Secretary & SWW General Enquiries, Amanda Marks – Treasurer, Sandra Davis - Membership Secretary, Yvonne Louis - Publicity Officer, Dr Sue Steggall, Vivienne Foster, Judy O'Connor, Yvonne Jarman, Maria McDougall.

**E-Newsletter team** - Kristin Prescott (editor), Dr Maria Hill & Lindsay Lewis | **Website Manager** - Lindsay Lewis **SWW LinkedIN**

**Group Manager:** Dr Maria Hill | **SWW Face Book Manager** - Lindsay Lewis | **SWW Front Desk-** Lynda Calder |

**Workshop Convenor** - Beatrice Yell.

**Women's Ink Team** - Kristin Prescott (Editor), Dr Sue Steggall (Sub-Editor), Sandra Davis, Judith O'Connor (Book Editor), Joy Williams.

### Meeting in London with the Chair of the Society of Women Writers & Journalists UK

#### Vale Susanne Chessborough

Susanne was a long standing member of the Society of Women Writers NSW, joining in 1980.

We offer our sympathies to her friends and family.



L. to R: Dr Wendy Michaels -  
SWW Vice-President,  
Val Dunmore - Chair of the  
SWW & Journalists UK,  
Dr Maria Hill - SWW President.

Wendy Michael and Maria Hill had the pleasure of meeting Val Dunmore the Chair of the Society of Women Writers & Journalist UK for lunch at The Sloane Club in London on Friday, 12 September 2014. Our sister organisation in Britain is celebrating its 120th anniversary this year. There will be a special service on 14 October at the Journalists' Church, St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, London where they have a pew named after them. This will be followed by a celebratory lunch at The Stationers' Hall, Ave Maria Lane, London with guest speaker Ann Widdecombe.



### CONGRATULATIONS!

Felicity Pulman's novel, *A Ring Through Time* (published by Harper Collins) has recently been awarded a Highly Commended at the Davitt Awards (Sisters in Crime Australia) in the YA category. A time-slip 'fictional history', the novel explores ghosts, secrets ... and a love that haunts the future, unless Allie can uncover the mystery of what really happened while her brutal ancestor was commandant of the Second Penal Colony on Norfolk Island. *A Ring Through Time* is also winner of the SWW's biennial book award in the Junior/YA category.



Keep up with what's happening at the SWW NSW at our Facebook page.

So login to Facebook,  
[CLICK HERE](#) and 'LIKE' us!



## ASA Mentorship Program OPENING SOON!

Applications for a 2014-2015 ASA mentorship will open on **6 October 2014** and close on **31 October 2014**.

The mentorship program aims to give successful applicants the chance to develop their work-in-progress to a publishable standard, by working with a mentor of their choice.

Guidelines are available on the ASA website - [CLICK HERE](#)

Results will be announced in December 2014.

## CONTRIBUTORS WANTED

Critical essays (investigative, polemical, new discourse) on the works of Australian women writers are being sought for a planned publication. Papers need to be a maximum 5000 words with a 250 word abstract.

The abstract must be sent by 15 Nov 2014. For more information contact Dr Devaleena Das at the University of Wisconsin-Madison by emailing [devaleena.83@gmail.com](mailto:devaleena.83@gmail.com)



## POCKETDOCS 2014

It's on again, our competition to find the best short non-fiction story written for radio and the best short radio doc. This year's theme is "I met a stranger".

**The closing date is 20 October.**

Start typing or recording now for your chance to win an Ipad mini.

For more details [CLICK HERE](#)



## Writers' Unleashed

The Sutherland Shire Writers' Festival  
**Saturday 1st November 2014**

The Tradies, Gympie

[www.shirewritersfestival.weebly.com](http://www.shirewritersfestival.weebly.com)  
[shirewritersfestival@gmail.com](mailto:shirewritersfestival@gmail.com)

[www.facebook.com/shirewritersfestival](http://www.facebook.com/shirewritersfestival) Twitter: @shirewritefest  
Organised by the Fellowship of Australian Writers - Sutherland Branch

Featuring: *Judy Nunn, Frances Watts, P M Newton, Fiona McIntosh, Kaz Delaney, Fiona McFarlane, Jaclyn Moriarty, Bruce Venables and many others.*



## Writers' Conference

With Author Talks,  
Book Sales & Signings

*Fully Catered Event*

**Book a consultancy  
with an editor from  
Penguin, Walker Books,  
Random House and  
Allen and Unwin.**

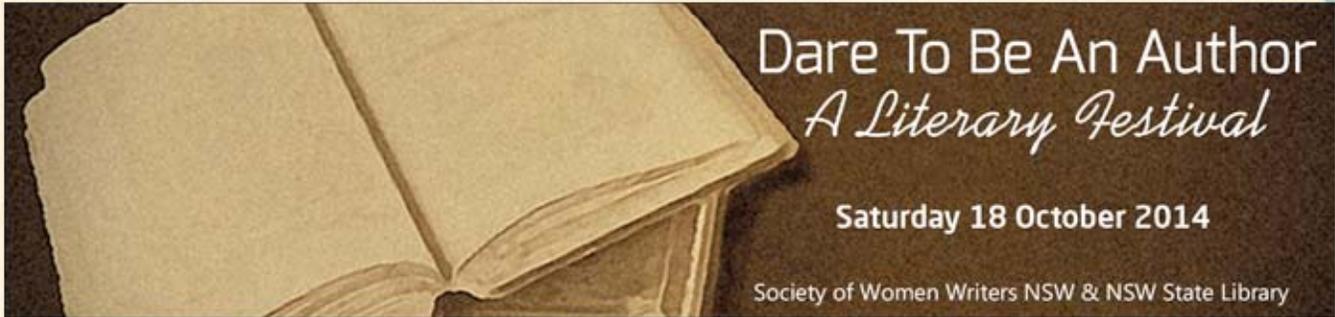


**Tickets on Sale 18th August 2014.**  
Visit [www.shirewritersfestival.weebly.com/ticket-sales](http://www.shirewritersfestival.weebly.com/ticket-sales)

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Society of Women Writers NSW Inc.

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Bookings now at [www.SWWLitFest.com](http://www.SWWLitFest.com)  
DON'T MISS OUT!

Correspondence: Secretary - Society of Women Writers NSW Inc., GPO Box 1388 Sydney NSW 2001

