

# E-Newsletter

ISSN 2203-3106

## Co-President's Message

2015 has been a rewarding and challenging year for the Society of Women Writers NSW. We have had a great line up of speakers and workshops and we celebrated our ninetieth anniversary in fine style. We have a vibrant and resourceful committee dedicated to continuing the good work of the Society in 2016.

The year is not yet over and we will be holding our end-of-year Christmas Literary Luncheon on Wednesday 9 December with a very special guest – Liz Taylor no less. Liz will be presenting 'From Fishnets to Funerals' – a more than lively look at her career as an entertainer spanning thirty years. Not to be missed!

In December Emeritus Professor Elizabeth Webby will also be presenting the Abbie Clancy award to Isobelle Barrett Meyering, a PhD candidate at UNSW, for her project on Joyce Nicholson and her ground-breaking feminist book *What Society Does to Girls* (1975).

The results of the three writing competitions are on the SWW website. Congratulations to all the prizewinners for their inspirational writing and for enhancing the prestige of an already prestigious society. I not only look forward to reading their stories, poems and articles but also to taking on the role of editor for the special anthology of these, to be called *INK 3*, which we will publish in 2016.

In 2016 there will again be an exciting program of established and emerging authors to challenge and encourage all women writers. The main speaker at each meeting will now be called the 'Keynote Speaker' and the timeslot that showcases members' publications a ten-minute 'Guest Speaker' talk. We also hope to make provision, from time to time, for members to talk about their current and future projects. In 2016 *Women's Ink!* will be moving to a new schedule of three issues per year: March, July and November. The e-Newsletter will continue to appear monthly (excluding January).

I would like to thank all the committee, but in particular my Co-President, Susanne Gervay, Lindsay Lewis and Amanda Mark for their encouragement and support. I wish SWW members all the best for the festive season and a productive 2016. For an inspirational quote to round out the year I couldn't go past Barbara Kingsolver:

'Don't try to figure out what other people want to hear from you; figure out what you have to say. It's the one and only thing you have to offer.'

Dr Susan Steggall



Dr Susan Steggall



Susanne Gervay OAM

**SWW GENERAL ENQUIRIES**

**0490 363 778**

*For more information about our events.*

If you wish to contribute any member notices, 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 held for the following month.**

**NEXT**

**LITERARY LUNCHEON  
Wednesday 9 December**

*State Library of NSW  
Macquarie Street, Sydney*

**JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL  
CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON  
with Special Guest Liz Taylor!**

**10.00 - 11.45am: Workshop**

Writing about the Past: Dos  
and Don'ts

Dr Maria Hill

*Workshop Coordinator:*

*Robyn McWilliam 0418 225 051*

**12.00pm - 12.20pm: Luncheon**

**Arrival and Registration**

**12.20 - 1pm: Luncheon**

**1pm - 1.10pm: Guest Speaker**

Room to Read: World Change Starts  
with Educated Children.

Susanne Gervay

**1.10pm - 1.15pm: Abbie Clancy**

**Winner 2015 Presentation**

**1.20pm - 2pm: Keynote Speaker**

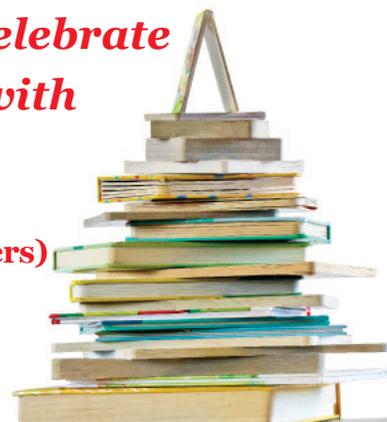
From Fishnets to Funerals

Liz Taylor

***Come and celebrate  
Christmas with  
the SWW!***

**\$60 (members)  
\$65 (non members)**

**Book Now!**



**Price and Booking Information**

**LUNCHEON AND/OR WORKSHOP**

Pay by *direct deposit* into the SWW bank account by the **FRIDAY** before the meeting OR you can still pay on the day of the meeting.

**Members:**

**Christmas Luncheon \$60 (ML)**

**Workshop \$30 (MWS)**

**Luncheon & Workshop \$83 (MLW)**

**Non Members:**

**Christmas Luncheon \$65 (NML)**

**Workshop \$40 (NMWS)**

**Luncheon & Workshop \$98 (NMLW)**

*For Direct Deposit please use the codes listed above  
The Society of Women Writer's NSW Inc  
BSB: 062 018 A/C: 0095 0433*

**Everyone must book with Lynda Calder BEFORE 10am on the MONDAY before the meeting.**

**NB: There is still a permanent list for bookings if you wish to be on it.**

**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@gmail.com](mailto:swwlunchbooking@gmail.com) or [swwlunch](mailto:swwlunch) and should contain: date, your name and number.

## Workshop Presentation

### Writing about the Past: Dos and Don'ts

Dr Maria Hill



Dr Maria Hill is a professional historian with a Honours, Masters and PhD in History. She has written award-winning history books and teaching kits for schools.

Her first book for the general public: *Diggers and Greeks, exploring the relationship forged between Australian soldiers and Greek people during World War Two* was short listed for the Queensland Premier's Prize in History in 2010.

In this workshop Maria will share the methods historians use when writing about the past to help authors of historical fiction and non-fiction.

She will offer some guidelines on what you do and don't do when writing true stories or fictional accounts based on a true story and discuss the ethics of blurring the boundary between fact and fiction.

Bring along some of your writing that you would be happy to discuss and share with the group.



## Keynote Speaker Presentation

### From Fishnets to Funerals

Liz Taylor

Originally hailing from the UK, Liz Taylor has worn several hats over her career years. From checkout chick to barmaid, to singer in a rock band and then a multi-award winning career as a singer, entertainer, actor and producer spanning over thirty years. Her work has taken her to many places including being a Civil Celebrant for the past four years. Liz's benevolent work has seen her produce shows and events which in turn raised thousands of dollars for causes close to her heart.

As a Civil Celebrant, Liz has specialised in funerals and weddings and seen many aspects of the human condition in just four years, which could be a book in itself!

Liz lives on Sydney's Northern Beaches with her husband, David and as you will find out, is quite the dab hand at reinventing herself and adapting to many and varied situations. *From Fishnets to Funerals* might even be a great title for her own biography. Oh, and she's run a couple of marathons too!

Liz has many stories to tell about what she does, and has done. It's just a little bit different.

## Guest Speaker



### Room to Read: World Change Starts with Educated Children

Susanne Gervay

Room to Read is celebrating the incredible milestone of impacting ten million children across Africa and Asia through education. With an affirmative action for girls' education, reaching the poorest of children, building libraries, introducing literacy programmes, Room to Read works against poverty and for peace.

Susanne is proud to be a Writer Ambassador for Room to Read and share the achievements and how Australia supports literacy in the developing world.

[www.roomtoread.org/australiasia](http://www.roomtoread.org/australiasia)

Awarded the Lifetime Social Justice Literature Award for her body of work by the International Literacy Association, Susanne Gervay OAM is recognized for her youth literature and writing on social justice.

[www.sgervay.com](http://www.sgervay.com)

## Di Yerbury UK Writers' Residency Call for Submissions

*Submission deadline*

**5pm, 9 March 2015**

*The winner will be announced at  
the SWW meeting in April!*

Full submission details are available on the SWW website [www.womenwritersnsw.org](http://www.womenwritersnsw.org) or in the December edition of *Women's Ink!*

## Congratulations Isabelle Barrett Meyering

the 2015 recipient of the Abbie Clancy Award

**Isabelle's work is titled *Feminism for Girls: Joyce Nicholson's What Society Does to Girls (1975)*.**

**She will be presented her award by Emeritus Professor Elizabeth Webby at the SWW December luncheon.**

Isabelle Barrett Meyering is a PhD candidate in the School of Humanities and Languages at UNSW. She is in the final stages of completing her doctoral thesis, which examines the position of children in the Australian feminist movement (1969-1979). Isabelle graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (First Class Honours) from the University of Sydney in 2009. Her work has been published in *History Australia*, *Lilith* and *Outskirts*, and she is a founding member of the editorial collective for *History in the Making*, a national online journal for history students.

In addition to her studies, Isabelle was a Postgraduate Teaching Fellow at UNSW from 2014 to 2015, and worked as a research assistant at the Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse from April 2009 to December 2013.

## 90th Anniversary: National Writing Competition Winners

Florence Baverstock  
Non-Fiction Award

**Judge: Dr Rebecca Huntley**



**First Prize:** Pippa Kay  
'Breathhtaking'

Hilarie Lindsay  
Short Story Award

**Judge: Cat Sparks**



**First Prize:** Michelle Reidy  
'This is How A Voice Sounds'

Dame Mary Gilmore  
Poetry Award

**Judge: Beverley George**



**First Prize:** Cynthia Rowe  
'Union Rep Rugby'



**Second Prize**  
Carol Middleton  
'Dreaming of Freedom'



**Second Prize**  
Lynne Cook  
'No Words For It'



**Second Prize**  
Carolyn Alfonzetti  
'Canary Song'

**Third Prize**  
Pauline Harvey  
'The Doctor's Wife'

**Third Prize**  
Erica Woolgar  
'Waiting For Mare'

**Third Prize**  
Moira Kirkwood  
'Flowering'

**Highly Commended**  
Chystal Abidin  
'When you travel alone through  
foreign cities as a young woman'

**Highly Commended**  
Judith O'Connor  
'Run Rabbit Run'

**Highly  
Commended**  
Gail Hennessy  
'Finding The Words'

**Commended**  
Nicola West  
'The Fight'

**Commended**  
Bridget  
McKern  
'Lady-In-Waiting'

**Commended**  
Colleen Keating  
'In Search of Hildegard  
Of Bingen'

## The Society of Women Writers NSW Committee and Team for 2015-16

**Committee:** *Susanne Gervay – Co-President, Dr Susan Steggall – Co-President & Sub-Editor, Lindsay Lewis – Vice-President, Amanda Mark – Treasurer, Maria McDougall – Membership Secretary, Yvonne Jarman – Publicity Officer, Sandra Davis, Vivienne Foster, Libby Hathorn, Mary Ann Napper, Judith O'Connor.*

**E-Newsletter team** – *Kristin Prescott (editor) & Lindsay Lewis* | **Website Manager** – *Lindsay Lewis*

**SWW LinkedIN Group Manager** – *Dr Maria Hill* | **SWW Face Book Manager** – *Susanne Gervay*

**SWW Front Desk** – *Lynda Calder* | **Workshop Convenor** – *Robyn McWilliam.*

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

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

