

Dr Susan Steggall

President's Message



Dr Susan Steggall

2016 has been a rewarding and challenging year for the Society of Women Writers NSW. We have had a great line up of speakers and have doubly celebrated the depth and breadth of women's writing: in the October presentation of the 2016 SWW Book Awards and November's launch of the anthology *INK 3*.

I hope now all SWW members can emulate poet-contributor Carolyn Eldridge-Alfonzetti who 'after an extremely busy week', is 'looking forward to making a pot of tea this afternoon and settling down for a blissful hiatus with the prize-winning poems, stories and non-fiction it contains'.

In December we will, as is our tradition, be announcing the winner of the 2016 Abbie Clancy Award to a postgraduate student working in the field of Australian women's literature.

We will round out the year in fine form with the members of the highly successful collaborative writing team, Alice Campion as both workshop presenters and keynote speakers. They are a lively bunch of inspirational writers so we can look forward to another entertaining and challenging occasion. (See page 3 for full details of their workshop and keynote topics.)

Collaborative novel writing is not new in Australian literature and certainly not in women's fiction. In 1939 for example, Miles Franklin and Dymphna Cusack published *Pioneers on Parade*. In 1951 Dymphna Cusack teamed up with Florence James to write the controversial *Come in Spinner*, now considered one of Australia's major literary achievements.

Ink No.2 is proving a treasure trove of information about earlier women writers. I would like to quote from one contribution, 'The gentle art of collaboration' by Marjorie Barnard – one half (with Flora Eldershaw) of the celebrated 'author' M Barnard Eldershaw.

Collaboration in creative writing is a discipline and, if it succeeds, the sharing is fun and an enrichment. If it does not it should never have been attempted. Self indulgence has come in at the door and the book has fallen out of the window onto hard, hard concrete. Collaborators cannot afford but minimal doses of vanity and possessiveness; humour and good humour help; patience and tenacity are essential. Above all both parties must care about the book they are working on much more than they value personal success and stick to that attitude through thick and thin. It is not easy to collaborate and to expect it to be so is mistake number one.

The two women collaborated at a time when communication was very different to the instantaneous internet/email world of today. Their last collaboration failed due to geography and pressure of work although they remained friends until Flora's untimely death in 1956.

'Collaboration had cemented our friendship and not broken it' wrote Marjorie. 'And so I claim it was successful and that the novels written together were better than lonely efforts would have been.'

SWW was created to help women writers ward off such 'lonely efforts' through collegiality and goodwill. May it long continue! I wish you all the very best for the festive season and a creative 2017.



CHRISTMAS LITERARY LUNCHEON

Wednesday 14 December 2016

State Library of NSW
Macquarie Street, Sydney

10.00 - 11.45am: Workshop

How to Write Fiction as a Group

Alice Campion

Workshop Coordinator:

Robyn McWilliam 0418 225 051

12.00pm - 12.20pm: Christmas Luncheon

Arrival and Registration

12.20 - 1pm: Luncheon

1.00pm - 1.15pm: Meet the winner of the Abbie Clancy Award

1.20pm - 2pm: Keynote Speaker

How we wrote two novels and got
published by the world's biggest publisher

Alice Campion

Price and Booking Information

**** Higher luncheon cost includes a
glass of wine!**

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:

Luncheon \$47 (ML)

Workshop \$30 (MWS)

Luncheon & Workshop \$70 (MLW)

Non Members:

Luncheon \$52 (NML)

Workshop \$40 (NMWS)

Luncheon & Workshop \$85 (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

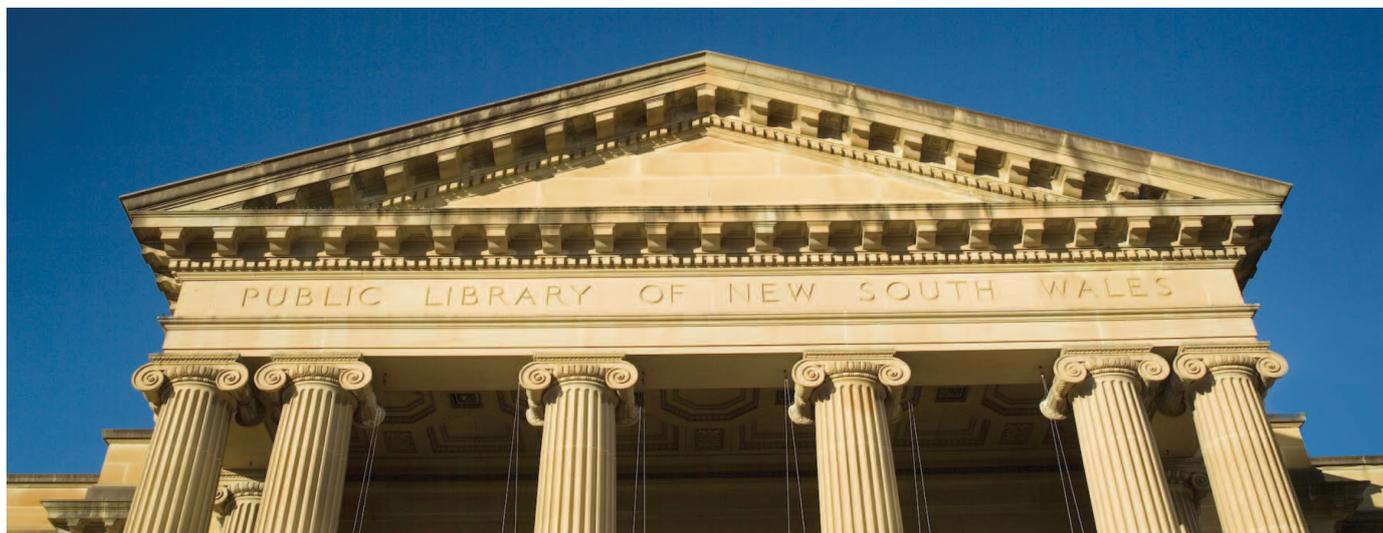
Email address: swwlunchbooking@gmail.com

Mobile phone: Text message to 0403 177 208

Your text message should be addressed to [swwlunchbooking](mailto:swwlunchbooking@gmail.com) or [swwlunch](mailto:swwlunch@gmail.com) and should contain: date, your name and number.

REMINDER

Bookseller Janet Grundy will be coming to the SWW luncheon events to sell books by our Guest and Keynote Speakers. It's a wonderful way to support your fellow writers!





Christmas Luncheon Special Guests

Alice Champion

Workshop

How to Write Fiction as a Group

Not every talented writer is suited to a life of solitary scribe, yet literary collaborations are still rare. One exception is the successful collaboration resulting in two novels *The Painted Sky* (2015) and its sequel *The Shifting Light* (2017) by Alice Champion (Penguin Random House).

In this interactive workshop, the four authors who are Alice Champion will share their secrets for collaborative success. How did they manage to create a seamless work that speaks with one voice? How did they share their ideas, give feedback and manage their work without coming to blows? How did they score a three-book publishing deal with the world's biggest publisher? The team will arm you with techniques and strategies to avoid the pitfalls and embrace the confidence and success that writing together can offer.

This inspiring workshop will allow for plenty of opportunity to ask questions.

Keynote

How we wrote two novels together and got published by the world's biggest publisher

The Painted Sky is the work of five members of a Sydney book club, writing under the collective pseudonym Alice Champion. Denise Tart, Jenny Crocker, Jane St Vincent Welch, Jane Richards and Madeline Oliver are all based in Sydney. Their book is described as a 21st-century *Thorn Birds*. Four of the five authors are now neck-deep delivering the sequel *The Shifting Light*. Three of the women have also formed Group Fiction (www.groupfiction.net) - an international community for group fiction writing.

The Shifting Light is due out early next year.

About the Authors

Jenny Crocker is a communications manager specialising in behaviour change campaigns. She and her husband, Dan, are also proud owners of a hazelnut orchard where they like to spend time listening to the grass grow.

Jane Richards has been a journalist and editor with FairfaxMedia for more than 20 years. She loves a good mystery.

Jane St Vincent Welch spent her childhood on a property in the New England region of NSW. Jane works in Sydney as a documentary editor and enjoys telling stories with pictures and sounds.

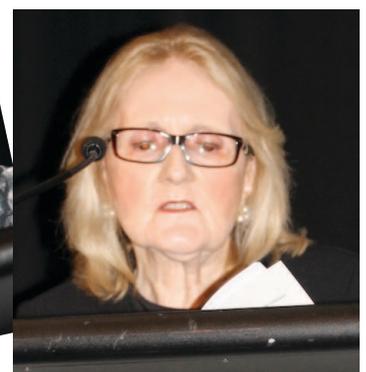
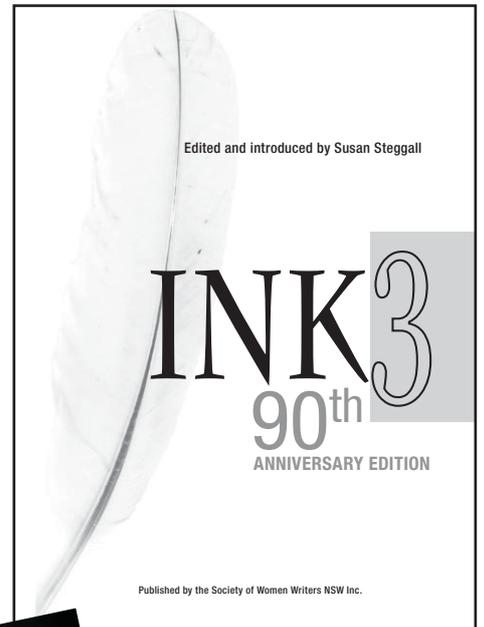
Denise Tart is a marriage celebrant with a background in performance and event management. She has written for theatre and business. Denise loves a good yarn.



Member News

Images from the Launch of *INK3*

At the November luncheon members enjoyed the launch of *INK3* by the amazing Di Morrissey. There were also readings from this fabulous collection of winning writing from the SWW 90th anniversary celebrations. Here are a few images from the day, taken by Joy Williams.





Welcome to new SWW member Lyn Drummond

You're Invited!!

Prince Edward Island Tartan

BOOK LAUNCH

YOU ARE INVITED!

QUEST FOR GREEN GABLES. By **Valerie Pybus**.

Will be officially launched by **Ann Sudmalis** Federal member for Gilmore

at the NSW Writers' Centre. Callan Park Rozelle. Sun 4th Dec. 2pm-4pm

Guest of honour JOY HRUBY O.A.M. Producer "Joy's World." TVS NSW Australia.

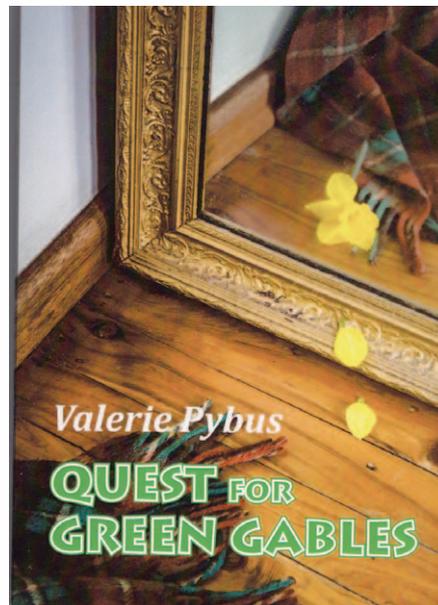
A delightful selection of pictures from the world of *Anne of Green Gables* will be shown.

A raffle of Green Gables memorabilia will also be available

Join us for a relaxing afternoon in the lovely green Callan Park.

A delicious afternoon tea will be served. RSVP 25th November for catering purposes.

valerie@valeriepybus.com. 9544 8630 Mob. 0418 670 862



The deadline has passed, but please still let Valerie know if you'd like to attend!



STAY CONECTED!



Keep up with what's happening at the SWW NSW on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIN.

Just search for 'The Society of Women Writers NSW Inc'.



If you wish to contribute any member notices, please email your text and image as a jpeg file to: kris@kristinprescott.com with "ATTN: SWW E-News editor" in subject heading.

[The deadline for e-newsletter submissions is the 20th of each month.](#)

Any late submissions will be held for the following month.

The Society of Women Writers NSW Committee and Team for 2016-17

Committee: Dr Susan Steggall – President, Yvonne Jarman – Vice-President, Amanda Mark – Treasurer, Charo Devery – Secretary, Maria McDougall – Membership Secretary, Gwen Bitti, Vivienne Foster, Libby Hathorn, Lindsay Lewis, Mary Ann Napper, Wendy Searle

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.

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womenwritersnsw@gmail.com