



# E-Newsletter



**Gwen Bitti**

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2017**

### 12 July:

Workshop-Libby Hathorn  
Open Forum-News Bites  
Keynote-Libby Hathorn

### 9 August:

Workshop-Melinda Smith  
Guest Talk-TBA  
Keynote-Belinda Murrell

### 13 September

Workshop-Mark Abernethy  
Guest Talk-Olga Chaplin  
Keynote-Catherine Marshall

### 15-17 September:

**SWW Writers' Retreat 'The Brahma Kumaris Centre for Spiritual Learning**

### 11 October:

Workshop-Elizabeth Llhuede  
Guest Talk-Susan Ramage  
Keynote-Emily Maguire

### 8 November:

Workshop-Elizabeth Storrs  
**SWW Writing Competition Awards**  
Keynote-Elizabeth Storrs

## President's Message

Gwen Bitti

Giving women a voice is the cornerstone of the Society of Women Writers NSW Inc. So, lend me your voice in welcoming the 2017/2018 SWW Committee and the entire team who keep this society running. A president is only as good as her team and supporters. Although I feel very positive about the year ahead, we are still in need of a secretary. Please consider giving yourself the opportunity to be an integral part of one of Australia's oldest literary organisation and make a nomination.

At the June meeting, Maggie Joel gave us a feel for what a historical novel may read like in the digital age and of course, one day this *speak* will also become history, but there is no doubt historical novels will always have a place in any age. Thank you to Robyn McWilliam for her workshop on 'Emotionally Engaging the Reader.

In July award-winning Australian author and poet Libby Hathorn will give a workshop on the golden rules of writing and we will be *'expecting you'* too at *her* special keynote, complete with literary music.

Led by Libby Hathorn, procuring a headstone for Dorothea Mackellar's gravesite is a SWW initiative. I know many poets in the society as well as non-poets respect Dorothea's work and want to share in bringing this project to fruition. Should you wish to make a donation you could do so at any luncheon meeting or by bank deposit. Proceeds from all luncheon raffles will for the time being, go to aid this project.

Look out for the 2018 Di Yerbury Residency entry form in the next edition of *Women's Ink!*

While entries for the poetry competition are now closed and judges are busy working to award a winner, you still have until 10 July to get your entries in for short story. Non-fiction entries don't close until 7 August, so you still have time to write.

It will be spring when we head to Wilton in the Southern Highlands for the 2017 SWW Writers Retreat, where we will write, learn, share some camaraderie and relax. Do book in if you haven't already done so. Go to SWW website for details –

<http://womenwritersnsw.org/events/writers-retreat> – and see p.6 for details of the program. Until next month, keep writing!

## **SWW**

Short Story – 10 July  
Non Fiction – 7 August

Announcement of ALL Prizewinners: 8 NOVEMBER  
Entry forms are on SWW website: [www.womenwritersnsw.org](http://www.womenwritersnsw.org)

Di Yerbury Residency, Entry Deadline: 30 November  
Details and entry form will be in the JULY 2017 *Women's Ink!*

# NEXT LITERARY LUNCHEON

Wednesday 14 June 2017

**Gallery Room, State Library of NSW**  
Macquarie Street, Sydney

## Program

### 10.00 – 11.45am Workshop:

‘Golden Rules, Golden Days...’

Libby Hathorn

*Workshop Coordinator*

*Pippa Kay 0407 725 747*

### 12.00 – 12.20pm: Arrival & Registration

### 12.20 – 12.45pm: Luncheon

### 12.50 pm: Open Forum – News Bites

### 1.05-1.35pm: Keynote Speaker

‘Towards the Book and What Comes After.

Making Literary Music’

Libby Hathorn

#### REMINDER

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

## Coming Events

The Historical Novels Society of Australasia (HNSA) conference is to be held in Melbourne in September 2017 (<http://hnsa.org.au>).

### Satellite event in Sydney: Wednesday 26 July:

‘Wings into History: how the past inspires historical fiction’ with Justin Sheedy, Winton Higgins, Michelle Morgan and Kim Kelly. Gordon Library 6-8 pm.

Bookings: [kmc.nsw.gov.au](http://kmc.nsw.gov.au). Enquiries 9424 0120. Cos

## 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:

Luncheon \$45 (ML)

Workshop \$30 (MWS)

Luncheon & Workshop \$68 (MLW)

#### Non Members:

Luncheon \$50 (NML)

Workshop \$40 (NMWS)

Luncheon & Workshop \$83 (NMLW)

*For Direct Deposit please use the codes listed above*

*The Society of Women Writers' NSW Inc*

*BSB: 062 018 A/C: 00950433*

**Everyone must book with Lynda Calder BEFORE 10.00am on the MONDAY before the meeting.**

**NB: There is 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 or swwlunch and should contain: date, your name and phone number.

## Memo to Members

*A reminder that we offer two opportunities for SWW members who cannot attend the monthly lunch meetings. To discuss their work.*

### Waratah Prose Group

Contact Lynda Calder for information.

[alcalder@optusnet.com.au](mailto:alcalder@optusnet.com.au)

### Kookaburra Poetry Group

Contact Jennifer Grant: 0410978758 or

02 97074235; [bookend1948@outlook.com](mailto:bookend1948@outlook.com)

## Workshop

### Golden Rules, Golden Days...

Libby Hathorn

Libby will talk about 'The Golden Rules of Writing' and how in the first place, one must take one's own writing seriously, and what that means. Short writing exercises about the power of our senses will punctuate this workshop. Libby Hathorn is an award-winning Australian author and poet. Poetry has been and is a continuous influence on Libby's life and work.

Translated into several languages and adapted for stage and screen, her work has won honours in Australia, the United States, Great Britain and Holland. Libby's recent books, *Outside* and *A Soldier, a Dog and a Boy*, are both Childrens' Book Council of Australia, Notable Books.

Her latest book is *Butterfly, We're Expecting You*.

## SWW Retreat: Presenter Snapshot

• **Kathryn Heyman** is an international award winning novelist, essayist and scriptwriter. Her latest novel, *Storm and Grace* was published in 2017 and her fifth novel, *Floodline*, in 2013. *The Breaking*, her first novel, was shortlisted for the Stakis Award for the Scottish Writer of the Year and long-listed for the Orange Prize. Other awards include an Arts Council of England Writers Award, the Wingate and the Southern Arts Awards and the West Australian Premier's Book Awards.

Raised in Australia, Heyman spent many years living in the UK. She has judged several literary awards, including serving as the senior judge for all panels of the NSW Premier's Literary Awards, for whom she delivered the keynote address on the eve of the Sydney Writers Festival in 2013. She taught creative writing for the University of Oxford and is now fiction program director for the Faber Academy in Australia.

She is the director of the Australian Writers Mentoring Program.

## News Bites – Open Forum

Instead of a Guest Speaker we are holding an 'Open Forum' sessions in which SWW members at the lunch meeting can present five-minute impromptu talks about a recently completed writing project, a work-in-progress or a big idea that was in their heads. Writing, as we all know, is a solitary and silent pursuit. Unlike artists whose creative output is immediately visible, ideas are invisible and must be formed into words to be spoken aloud. Sharing ideas with other writers provides an invaluable sounding board, not only for testing public reaction to a project but also for sorting out in the writer's own mind just how the story is to unfold. We often develop ideas when walking, exercising or in the time before going to sleep. So why not the same experience when communicating with your fellow writers?

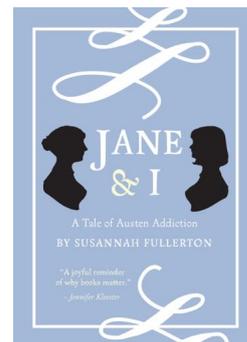
## Welcome to New Members

- Lynette McDermott
- Marie Uwamwezi
- Michelle Worthington

## Member Awards

• **Susannah Fullerton** received an OAM in the June 2017 Queen's Birthday Honours. She was also made a Fellow of the Royal Society in NSW. Her memoir *Jane & I: a Tale of Austen Addiction* is to be launched in July 2017.

Once upon a time a young girl was read *Pride and Prejudice* by her mother. She listened entranced, but little dreamed how that reading would change her life. Susannah Fullerton fell in love with Elizabeth and Darcy, went on to read the other novels of Jane Austen, she studied them, re-read them often, lectured about them and wrote about them. As President of the Jane Austen Society of Australia for more than twenty years, she has shared her passion for *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Mansfield Park*, *Emma*, *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion* with thousands of people around the world.



## Keynote Speaker

### Towards the Book and What Comes After. Making Literary Music...

Libby Hathorn

You have the idea, the story, the publisher, the illustrator and finally The Book. Then to market. Libby and illustrator Lisa Stewart talk about the making of *Butterfly We're Expecting You*, (Hachette) and their publicist Ashleigh Barton tells about its marketing. To music!



**STOP PRESS!!**

Due to the drive and enthusiasm of **Libby Hathorn** SWW now has a crowd funding site to receive donations towards the new plaque for the grave of one of Australia's foremost poets: Dorothea Mackellar. Here is the link. Please spread the word as wide as you can.

<https://www.gofundme.com/i-love-a-sunburnt-country>



If you wish to contribute a member notice, please email your text and image as a JPEG file to: [swa1@bigpond.net.au](mailto:swa1@bigpond.net.au)

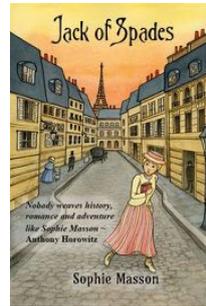
With 'ATTN: SWW E-Newsletter editor' in subject heading.

**The deadline for e-Newsletter submission is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.**

Any late submissions will be held for the following month.

## Member News

### • Sophie Masson



Full of the glamorous, dangerous atmosphere of 1910's Paris, with a spirited, intelligent heroine and a great cast of vivid and engaging characters, this is a gripping thriller for readers 10-14, set at the time of the beginnings of the European secret service agencies (Eagle Books)

### • Liz Newton



In 1961, the temperature hit 90° F before lunchtime. Late afternoon a typical southerly buster whipped up a sandstorm. Amid the mayhem Peter Wishart, barely three at the time, vanished. The story explores every mother's worst nightmare — the disappearance of a child. Nearly two decades later new evidence emerges. A plot centred on overcoming grief quickly turns to one of revenge (Sid Harta Publishers)

## The Society of Women Writers NSW Committee and Team for 2017-2018

### Committee:

Gwen Bitti – President,

Yvonne Jarman – Vice-President

Amanda Mark – Treasurer

Secretary – To be nominated

Maria McDougall – Membership Secretary,

Charo Devery, Vivienne Foster, Libby Hathorn,

Lindsay Lewis, Mary Ann Napper, Jan Conway

**E-Newsletter team** – Dr Susan Steggall (Editor) & Lindsay Lewis

**Website Manager** – Lindsay Lewis

**LinkedIN Group Manager** – Dr Maria Hill

**SWW Face Book Manager** – Susanne Gervay

**SWW Front Desk** – Lynda Calder

**Workshop Convenor** – Pippa Kay

**'Women's INK!' Team** – Margaret Zanardo (Editor), Dr Susan Steggall (Sub-Editor), Judith O'Connor (Book Editor), Joy Williams (photography).

### Correspondence:

Secretary, Society of Women Writers NSW Inc

GPO Box 1388 Sydney NSW 2001

[www.womenwritersnsw.org](http://www.womenwritersnsw.org)

## Society of Women Writers Retreat

‘Spinning Straw to Story Gold’

15 – 17 September 2017

Brahma Kumaris Centre for Spiritual Learning  
150 Macarthur Drive, Wilton NSW

### What you will enjoy in a tranquil bush setting:

- 2 x nights twin-share accommodation, meals – 2 x breakfasts, 2 x dinners, 2 x lunches, 2 x morning teas and 1 x afternoon tea
- Guided meditative bushwalks
- Attendance at all program sessions

### Opportunity:

1. Have your first ten (10) pages critiqued by publisher, **Catherine Milne** (*bookings essential. \* Ring or email Gwen or Jan for cost – limited places*)
2. Your first page critiqued by **Susanne Gervay**
3. Open Mic - Read 300 words in any genre.

### Friday 15 September

- 4.00 – 6.00pm Registration  
6.30 – 7.50pm Dinner  
8.00 – 8.15pm Welcome and Housekeeping  
8.15 – 9.15pm **KEYNOTE – 13 Lessons from 13 years as a published writer**  
with **Emily Maguire**

### Saturday 16 September

- 09.30 – 10.30am **KEYNOTE – In the Flow** with **Libby Hathorn**  
10.45 – 12.15pm **WORKSHOP** (choose one)  
(a) ‘Haiku’, with Beverley George  
(b) ‘Writing from within’, with Libby Sommer  
(c) ‘The essential pitch’, with Susanne Gervay  
1.45 – 2.15pm **OPEN MIC** (*booking essential*)  
2.15 – 3.15pm **WORKSHOP – Your first page** with **Susanne Gervay**  
3.45 – 5.00pm Personal writing time/reflection  
5.00 – 6.30pm **PRESENTATION – What publishers want.** with publisher  
**Catherine Milne, Harper Collins** followed by Q & A panel  
8.00 – 9.00pm Shared writing/networking (*form own groups*)  
9.00 – 9.30pm **Guided Deep Relaxation** with **Gwen Bitti**

### Sunday 17 September

- 09.30 – 10.30am **WORKSHOP – Spinning Straw to Story Gold – Ideas to Stories**  
with **Libby Hathorn**  
10.45 – 11.45am **IN CONVERSATION** with **Kathryn Heyman**  
12.15 – 1.30pm Lunch  
1.30 – 2.00pm Official Farewell from Brahma Kumaris Co-ordinator  
2.00pm Departure  
**Retreat Director:** Gwen Bitti, email: [gwen.swwretreat@bigpond.com](mailto:gwen.swwretreat@bigpond.com) or mobile: 0403 165 925  
**Retreat Secretary:** Jan Conway email: (as for Gwen) or mobile: 0402 755 768

## STAY CONNECTED!

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.’

