



E-Newsletter



Gwen Bitti, President

President's Message

Gwen Bitti

After almost a year of preparation we are finally at an important event in the Society of Women Writers Calendar – The Writers Retreat. There is a great line up with Publisher Catherine Milne, HarperCollins, telling us what publishers want. On the panel, a publisher, author and editor talk to us about writing. Emily Maguire will divulge to us 13 lessons from 13 years as a published writer. Kathryn Heyman is going to get us through the storms to smooth sailing by responding to some searching questions about her own writing processes and suggest some foolproof writing lessons. Suzanne Gervay will give us a workshop on the Essential Pitch and also clarify how to deliver that important first page. Libby Sommer in an experiential writing exercise teaches us how to tap deep into the creative side of our brain, to unleash our hidden creativity. On a Haiku walk, Beverley George helps us create a brief poem and then share our experiences. Spin Straw to Story Gold with Libby Hathorn, who in a keynote address will also show us the way to discover our own strengths. There's time to relax, network and much, much more.

We are looking forward with enthusiasm to the weekend 15-17 September for our Retreat in the lush setting of the Southern Highlands, NSW. There is still time to book in as a day-tripper if you are unable to come for the entire weekend.

It was encouraging at the August luncheon to see an increase in attendance. Belinda Murrell, having grown up in a literary family shared her writing process that she has learned for over two decades. Helen Thurloe spoke about the research for her shortlisted debut novel. In a newsbite, Colleen Keating introduced us to her latest book.

I look forward to seeing you at the September luncheon.

Keep writing!



*Jan Conway and Colleen Keating
at the Brahma Kumaris Centre*



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2017

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 Lhuede

Guest Talk-Susan Ramage

Keynote-Emily Maguire

8 November:

Workshop-Elisabeth Storrs

SWW Writing Competition
Awards

Keynote-Elisabeth Storrs

2018 Di Yerbury Residency

[Deadline: 30 November](#)

[Entry form on SWW website:](#)

www.womenwritersnsw.org

13 December:

Workshop-Wendy Blaxland

Abbie Clancy Presentation

Keynote-Wendy Blaxland

NEXT LITERARY LUNCHEON

Wednesday 13 September 2017

Gallery Room, State Library of NSW
Macquarie Street, Sydney

Program

10.00 – 11.45am Workshop:

‘Victory from defeat: How to write a thriller’

Mark Abernethy

Workshop Coordinator

Pippa Kay 0407 725 747

12.00 – 12.20pm: Arrival & Registration

12.20 – 12.45pm: Luncheon

12.50 pm: Guest Speaker:

‘A convergence of events – or an accident of history?’

Olga Chaplin

1.05-1.35pm: Keynote Speaker

‘Writing on the fly: the art of travel writing’

Catherine Marshall

Memo to Members

A reminder that we offer an opportunity 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

REMINDER

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

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

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.

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 gravestone 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>

Workshop

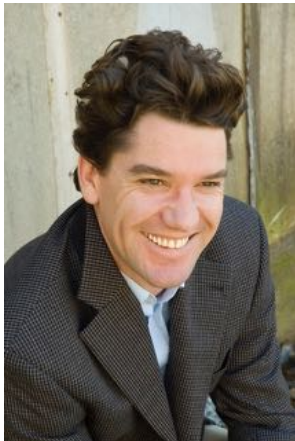
Victory from defeat: how to write a thriller

Mark Abernethy

Mark Abernethy is a speechwriter, journalist, novelist and ghost-writer. He has written for mastheads such as *The Bulletin*, *Inside Sport* and the *Australian Financial Review* and has been a magazine editor and a bureau chief on newspapers.

He has published six novels including the Australian spy thrillers *Golden Serpent*, *Second Strike*, *Double Back* and *Counter Attack*, and the military thrillers *Arctic Floor* and *Strikeforce Lightning* under the name Mark Aitken.

Abernethy has ghost-written twelve books on business, finance, military and aviation.



If you wish to contribute a member notice, please email your text and image as a JPEG file to:

swall@bigpond.net.au

The deadline for e-Newsletter submission is the 20th of each month.

Guest Speaker:

A convergence of events or an accident of history?

Olga Chaplin

In the great upheaval of post-World War II, Olga, her parents, brother and sister arrived in Sydney as 'displaced persons' in March 1950. Since then, Olga has journeyed along many paths in her working life: as a young clerk with the AMP Society, a stenographer, and later as an administrator, and teacher. Olga now has the luxury to be able to spend time writing, which is both a challenge and a joy. This is Olga's first book. *The Man From Talalainka*, fiction based on a true story, tells of her parents' lives during the Stalin era, Germany's invasion and occupation of Ukraine, and of her family's removal to Germany's labour camps in 1943, including Wilhelmshaven, where she was born in 1944. Eventually, at war's end, the family was moved to Heidenau Camp, in the Allied zone. The family's good fortune in being given a safe haven in Australia, after some years in Heidenau Camp, has never been forgotten.



Welcome to New Members

- **Louise Evans** is a sports journalist writing mainly non-fiction.
- **Dr Judith Godden** is a widely published historian attached to Sydney University
- **Wendy Guest** is a copywriter and journalist who works in PR for politicians. In 2016, was editor for *Not for this Life-Gough Whitlam Remembered*.
- **Cheryl Hayden** is a Queensland journalist and communication advisor, currently completing PhD in Creative Writing.

Keynote Speaker

Writing on the fly: the art of travel writing

Catherine Marshall

Catherine Marshall is a freelance journalist and travel writer who grew up in South Africa and now lives in Sydney. She has received awards for her news, feature and travel writing on three continents, including Best Foreign Journalist 2015 (National Tourism Ministry, India) for her report on the country's Maha Kumbh Mela, the world's largest religious gathering, which attracts up to 120 million visitors over six weeks. Catherine is an alumna of Ledig House, an international writers' residency in New York State, and is a member of the Australian Society of Authors and the Australian Society of Travel Writers. She contributes regularly to *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Australian*, *Qantas* magazine and other publications.



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!' Book Review Editor: Judith

O'Connor

Photographer: Joy Williams

Correspondence:

Secretary, Society of Women Writers NSW Inc

GPO Box 1388 Sydney NSW 2001

www.womenwritersnsw.org

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.'



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. Your first ten (10) pages – a critique with **Catherine Milne** **CLOSED**
2. Your first page critiqued by **Susanne Gervay** **CLOSED**
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 or mobile: 0403 165 925

Retreat Secretary: Jan Conway email: (as for Gwen) or mobile: 0402 755 768