



# E-Newsletter

## President's Message Gwen Bitti

For me, spring is the time of renewal. It gives me an extra bounce in my step. More so this year since I have just driven back to Sydney from the Southern Highlands, excited with a success story of the Society of Women Writers NSW, 2017 Retreat. Look out for its coverage in your November issue of Women's Ink! Many members supported me in numerous ways for the retreat, but none more than Jan Conway who assisted me in managing every aspect with ease and extreme professionalism.

I am delighted to tell you of the recent achievement of life member Robyn Elliott and congratulate her on winning the Berkelouw adult writing award and also on becoming a first time great-grandmother.

At the October literary luncheon, Emily Maguire will deliver the Keynote Address. If you weren't at the retreat and missed Emily's heartfelt and moving Keynote, I urge you not to miss her again. To add to the richness of the literary luncheon Guest Speaker Susan Ramage will share with us her first book, Kokoda Secret.

I look forward to seeing you at the luncheon.



**Gwen Bitti, President**

## Dates for your Diary 2017

### 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 2017

Entry form at

<http://womenwritersnsw.org/>

### 13 December:

Workshop – Wendy Blaxland  
Abby Clancy Presentation  
Keynote – Wendy Blaxland



*SWW Retreat Dinner with Catherine Milne, Emily Maguire, Libby Sommer, Sharon Rundle and SWW members.*

# NEXT LITERARY LUNCHEON

Wednesday 11 October 2017

Gallery Room, State Library of NSW  
Macquarie Street, Sydney

## Program

**10.00 – 11.45am Workshop:  
Australian Women Writers  
Challenge.**

**Elizabeth Lhuede**

*Workshop Coordinator Pippa Kay*

*0407 725 747*

**12.00 – 12.15pm: Arrival &  
Registration**

**12.15 – 12.45pm: Luncheon  
12.45 – 1 pm: Guest Speaker:  
*Kokoda Rewritten.***

**Susan Ramage**

**1.00-1.35pm: Keynote Speaker:**

**Embracing the fact that not  
everyone will love what  
you write.**

**Emily Maguire.**



If you wish to contribute a member notice, please email your text and image as a jpeg to [sharonrundle@skymesh.com.au](mailto:sharonrundle@skymesh.com.au)

## 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.

## Welcome to New Members

- **Emily Saunderson** has written web content, scripts for TV, film and documentaries and has just completed a children's novel.
- **Neroli Hay** is a former Law Librarian She has short stories published in anthologies and SMH (2009); and has completed an unpublished memoir *For Goodness Sake* (2016).

## Workshop

### The Australian Women Writers Challenge

#### Elizabeth Lhuede

In 2012, as a then aspiring writer with a PhD in Australian poetry, Elizabeth Lhuede established the Australian Women Writers Challenge. Her aim was to help to counter the gender bias apparent in reviewing of books by women, as identified by organisations such as the VIDA Count in the US and the Stella Prize in Australia. Now in its sixth year, the AWW challenge has a searchable database featuring around 4000 reviews of books by Australian women.

Since establishing the challenge, Elizabeth has had two ebooks published under the name of "Lizzy Chandler": the best-selling rural romance *Snowy River Man* (now re-published in, *Country Secrets*, a print anthology of "Australian best sellers"), and the romantic suspense, *By Her Side*. She has also written a literary thriller and a YA fantasy, and is currently working on a time-slip novel, loosely based on research into her family history.



## Guest Speaker

### Kokoda Rewritten

#### Susan Ramage

Darkness is fading and weak morning light is shafting down through the dense jungle foliage in the early hours of 27 October 1942. Now, 75 years later, 'The Lost Battlefield of Etoa' at Eora Creek in New Guinea is still wreathed in dripping jungle gloom and is still largely unknown. Why was this battle site lost? What are the secrets of Eora Creek still haunting the Kokoda Campaign?

In her prize-winning book, *Kokoda Secret*, Susan Ramage reveals the shocking truth which is of national and international significance. General Ken Gillespie, Chair of NSW Centenary of Anzac Advisory Council, who launched Susan's book in the presence of the Governor of New South Wales, General David Hurley, described *Kokoda Secret* as 'a national treasure'.

Susan is a writer and historian. Her publications include poetry, and historical articles in the Journals of The Australian War Memorial (*Wartime*) and the Australasian Pioneer Society. She has spoken at The Australian War Memorial and been interviewed by Channel 7 and Alan Jones. This is her first book.



## Keynote Speaker

Embracing the fact that not everyone  
will love what you write

Emily Maguire

Emily Maguire is the author of five novels and two works of non-fiction. She was named as a *Sydney Morning Herald* Young Novelist of the Year in 2010 and again in 2013.

Her most recent novel, *An Isolated Incident*, has been shortlisted for the Stella Prize and the ABIA Literary Fiction Book of the Year and long-listed for the 2017 Miles Franklin Award. Emily's articles and essays on sex, feminism, culture and literature have been published widely including in *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Australian*, *The Monthly* and *The Age*.

She works as a teacher and mentor to emerging writers.



## 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. Guest editor Sharon Rundle

**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:

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GPO Box 1388 Sydney NSW 2001

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

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

## 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.'



**BOOK LAUNCHES**

**Colleen Keating's**  
second collection of poetry

*Fire on Water*

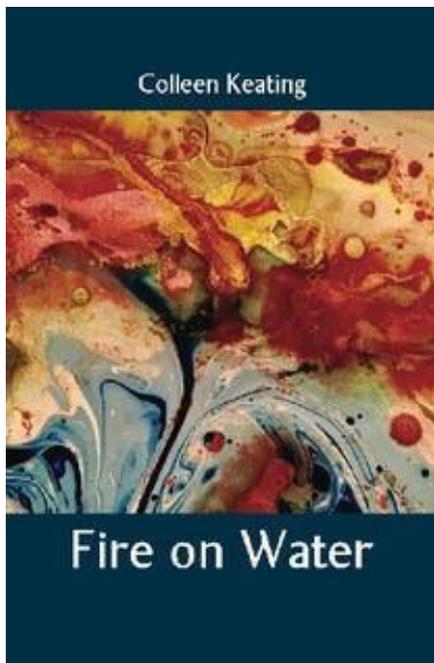
**Ginninderra Press**

To be launched by renowned poet,

Beverley George

on **Sunday afternoon November 19 2017**

at The Writers Centre Rozelle.  
**All welcome.**

**DI YERBURY RESIDENCY**

by Terri Green

'Ever wanted to set a story in the UK? Then the Di Yerbury residency may be perfect for you. While the internet is great there is nothing like seeing places first hand, diving into archives and touching physical objects from another era and time. Working on a novel set in Shakespeare's London, I have become a seventeenth century theatre groupie which has been a great excuse to try on a costume at the RSC, delve into the archives at Shakespeare's Birthplace Trust, park my bottom on a bench in Shakespeare's actual school room and walk the rooftop of Hampton Court Palace to name just a few. Then when it came to weaving a story from all this research, roaming the beautiful riverside walks in Barnstaple has been perfect for thinking and letting my imagination roam free. Location, location, location is a real estate mantra and for a writer looking for inspiration it is also perfectly true.'

**Di Yerbury Residency Entry**

**Deadline:**

**30 November**

Details and entry form in the JULY 2017

*Women's Ink!* and on SWW website at:

<http://womenwritersnsw.org/awards/>  
<http://womenwritersnsw.org/awards/the-di-yerbury-society-of-women-writers-uk-residency-2017>

**STOP PRESS**

Due to the drive and enthusiasm of Libby Hathorn, SWW has a crowd funding site for donations towards the new plaque for the gravestone of one of Australia's foremost poets: Dorothea Mackellar. Please spread the word as wide as you can. <https://www.gofundme.com/i-love-a-sunburnt-country>  
Thanks to all who donated at the SWW Retreat and bought raffle tickets to help raise funds for this project.

Good progress is being made with fund raising for the memorial with over \$2000 raised. Libby visited the site at Waverley Cemetery with Heritage Monumental mason to view the placement in the family plot. The committee has fixed on 24th November 2017 for an early evening 'unveiling' of the monument to which all will be invited.