

E-Newsletter



**Gwen Bitti,
President**

Dates for your Diary 2017/18

13 December:

Workshop – Wendy Blaxland

Keynote – Wendy Blaxland

Abbie Clancy Award

Presentation and speech by
award winner.

2018

14 February:

Workshop – Melissa Bruce

Keynote – Melissa Bruce

Guest Speaker – Lynette
McDermott

14 March:

Workshop – Sulari Gentill

Keynote – Sulari Gentill

Guest Speaker - Louise
Evans

President's Message

Congratulations to all winners of the 2017 SWW National Writing Competition and a big thank you to everyone who entered. It was wonderful to have such good competition.

At the November luncheon I was encouraged by the attendance to help celebrate with the winners.

Elisabeth Storrs gave an emotional Keynote in which her passion for history, myths and legends was visible.

The month had more success stories with the news that Libby Hathorn's picture book *A Soldier, a Dog and a Boy* had shared a joint win with Ruth Clare's memoir, *Enemy* in the 2017 Asher Award.

It was a pleasure for me to attend a packed venue for the launch of Colleen Keating's second collection of poetry, *Fire on Water*.

I hope to see you on 13 December for the last Literary Luncheon of the year, where Emeritus Professor Elizabeth Webby will announce the 2017 winner of the Abbie Clancy Award. Wendy Blaxland will explain the joys and pitfalls of making theatre and much more in her Keynote - What about the women?

There are a few surprises in store at the meeting and you may be tempted to take a chance at opening the Treasure Chest.

My sincere thanks to the SWW Committee and the entire team for their hard work each month - front door, workshops, book sales, e-news, magazine and so much more. Thank you also to the many members who lend a hand in varied roles and to everyone who regularly attend the luncheon meetings. Not forgetting those of you who write in to give a suggestion or just say, well done!

I take this opportunity to wish you a safe and happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year at our first meeting on **14 February 2018**.

Keep writing!

Gwen

NEXT LITERARY LUNCHEON

Wednesday 14 December 2017

Gallery Room, State Library of NSW
Macquarie Street, Sydney**Program****10.00 – 11.45am Workshop:****Getting to know your characters****Wendy Blaxland***Workshop Coordinator: Pippa Kay*
*0407 725 747***12.00 – 12.20pm: Arrival &
Registration****12.20 – 12.45pm: Luncheon****12.50 pm: ABBIE CLANCY
AWARD PRESENTATION****1.05-1.35pm: Keynote Speaker:****What about the Women?****Wendy Blaxland****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 includes a glass of wine (choice of red or white) for members and guests. Please note this means a \$5 increase.

Luncheon \$50 (ML) Workshop \$30 (MWS)

Luncheon & Workshop \$73 (MLW)

Non-Members: Luncheon \$55 (NML) Workshop \$40 (NMWS) Luncheon & Workshop \$88 (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.**Members' News****Libby Sommer** has had her third novel *The Usual Story* accepted for publication by Ginninderra Press, for release in July 2018.**Sharon Rundle** has an essay "Transnation and Feminine Fluidity: New Horizon in the Fiction of Chandani Lokugé" in *Claiming Space for Australian Women's Writing*. (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017).**Welcome to New Members****Penelope Janu** published *In the Deep End*, 2017, and is working on her second novel.**Joanne Ruppin** writes crime fiction, short story and poetry.**Aislinn Batstone** is working on a novel, and has published short stories in anthologies.If you missed the unveiling of the **memorial to Dorothea Mackellar**, here is a link to the video.<https://www.facebook.com/1491708781046746/videos/1996972907186995/>

More details and photos on our SWW Facebook page.

Workshop

Getting to know your characters

Wendy Blaxland

Wendy Blaxland's workshop will guide you in practising some imaginative theatre-based techniques to develop fully rounded characters with their own unique voices.



Keynote Speaker

What about the Women?

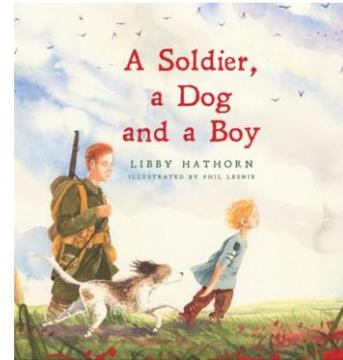
Wendy Blaxland

Wendy Blaxland is an award-winning writer with over 100 books published, mostly for children. They include fiction and non-fiction books. Wendy's publishers include Cambridge University Press, Scholastic and Walker Books. Her last book was the picture book *The Christmas Rose*. Wendy has also written fourteen plays for Marian Street Theatre for Young People, and more recently five plays, mainly historically based, for her own family theatre company, Blaxland and Daughter, formed in 2012 with her daughter Jess.

Her address will explain the joys and pitfalls of making theatre like this, and the spare, interactive and lively style of theatre they have developed.

ABBIE CLANCY AWARD

CONGRATULATIONS, LIBBY HATHORN!



A Soldier, a Dog and a Boy, has won the **Asher Literary Award 2017**, a biennial award managed by the ASA for a woman writer on an anti-war theme.

The long longlist was judged by Joan Beaumont, Barbara Horgan and Tony Maniaty.

The judges noted that: "This exceptionally fine children's book engages subtly, but powerfully, with a topic that's inherently anti-war: the impact of conflict on war-orphaned children. Libby Hathorn subtly develops the humanity of an Australian soldier who - through his initial interest in a dog, valued as a possible mascot - becomes sensitised to the plight of a French boy, the dog's owner - displaced by the war on the Western Front. The interaction between soldier, dog and boy skillfully serves as an entrée for young readers to the more complex subject of war's destruction and its impact on civilians. Hathorn's narrative is enriched by Phil Lesnie's exceptional art work, which captures both the battlefield environment and the touching interaction between man, child and animal. This is an exemplar of how children can be introduced to 'difficult' histories in a manner that is both accessible and thoughtful.

Libby shared the \$12,000 prize with Ruth Clare. The Asher Award was announced at the ASA Colin Simpson Memorial Lecture on 11 November.

[ASA website: <https://www.asauthors.org/news/asher-award-2017-shortlist-announced>]

National SWW Competition 2017

Congratulations to the talented women writers of the winning entries.



Short Story

1st: *Paper Nautilus*
Fran Collings

2nd: *Traumer*
Paulette Gittins

3rd: *Rewind*
Polly Jude



Poetry

EQUAL 1st:
Persistence in Three Languages
Helen Thurloe



EQUAL 1st:
Stille Nacht and Silent Night
Joanne Ruppin



Highly Commended Certificates

The Night Before the Truck – Susan Fealy
Thomas Merton – Shane McCauley

Non- Fiction

1st: *An Appetite for Awe* – Anni Webster

2nd: *Pilbara Boots* – Robyn Elliott

3rd: *WB Yeats and Yours Truly* - Megan Wallens

Highly Commended Certificates

You Are All Dreamers – Carol Middleton

Please Don't Tell – Joanne Ruppin

Slippery Side of the Street – Judith O'Connor



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

Committee:

Gwen Bitti – **President**
 Yvonne Jarman – **Vice-President**
 Amanda Mark – **Treasurer Secretary**
 Jan Conway - **Secretary**
 Maria McDougall – **Membership Secretary**
 Vivienne Foster, Libby Hathorn, Lindsay
 Lewis, Mary Ann Napper.

E-Newsletter team:

Dr Sharon Rundle – **Editor**
 Lindsay Lewis – **Distributor**
 Proofreader – **Jan Conway**



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LinkedIN Group Manager: Dr Maria Hill
Face Book Manager: Susanne Gervay OAM
SWW Front Desk: Lynda Calder
Workshop Convenor: Pippa Kay
'Women's INK!' Book Review Editor:
 Judith O'Connor
Photographer: Joy Williams

Notices

To contribute a member notice, please
 email your text in MSWord document and
 image as a jpeg
 to sharon.p.rundle@gmail.com

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

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Lindsay Lewis has been contacted by an
 Author's Agent regarding a first draft
 manuscript they have been given. It is the life
 story of a very interesting indigenous woman,
 with a view to it eventually becoming a book.
 Lindsay has suggested one of the **SWW**
Members may be interested in this project
and is asking for expressions of interest in the
 project. All information is highly confidential
 and **enquiries are to be directed through**
Lindsay at lindsay@llhome.com.au

KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Local History Awards 2018

Kogarah Historical Society has pleasure in
 announcing its inaugural
Local History Prize.

Three prizes each of \$500 will be offered for
essays on any aspect of the history of
Kogarah and surrounding areas
including environmental heritage, built heritage,

Essays can be up to 3000 words.

Closing date for entries 8 March 2018

For details and Condition s of Entry please see
the Society's Website

www.kogarah.historicalsociety.com.au



Di Yerbury Residency

To be announced on
February 14, 2018