

E-Newsletter

ISSN 2203-3106

President's Message

Dr Maria Hill



Welcome to our Foundation month literary lunch - the time we remember and honour the inspirational female writers who convened the first meeting of the Society of Women in September 1925. The program this month is dedicated to their memory and that of the first editor of our magazine Connie Robertson who noted in the 1932 edition of Ink! *‘I know there will be many critics and I look forward to their comments. Any person who has had anything to do with the writing game will appreciate what a painstaking and painful job it has to be to extract contributions from what I thought the worthy, and to reject, in the most friendly fashion I hope, those which, let us say, just missed the mark.’* So it is very pleasing that we have as our September guest speaker Valerie Lawson, who wrote the biography of Connie Robertson. What you might find interesting to know is that, we have in our society members who knew and worked with Connie, including Felicity Baverstock, the granddaughter of our first president Florence Baverstock. In keeping with our theme, we have invited past-president Hilarie Lindsay to discuss how far we have come. Most excitingly, we have Professor Joy Wallace, judge of the National Non-Fiction Competition for Articles and Essays, to present the awards. So make sure you attend this interesting and important literary luncheon, including the fabulous workshop on the ‘Art of Essay writing’ with Judy O’Connor. But most importantly, do not forget to book for our fabulous Literary Festival: Dare to Be a Author!

Best wishes from the National Archives of Britain - London - Maria

Dare To Be An Author *A Literary Festival*

Saturday 18 October 2014

Society of Women Writers NSW & NSW State Library

Bookings now open at www.SWWLitFest.com - DON'T MISS OUT!

SWW GENERAL ENQUIRIES

0490 363 778

For more information about our events

If you wish to contribute any member news, 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 submissions is the 20th of each month. Any late submissions will be held for the following month.

10 September Monthly Meeting

State Library of NSW
Macquarie Street, Sydney

Workshop: 10.00 – 11.45am - *Bookings Essential*

The Art of Essay Writing

Presenter: Judy O'Connor

Workshop Coordinator: **Bea Yell 9452 2299**

Literary Lunch: 12.15 - 1pm

Member Talk: 1.00 – 1.05pm

Hilarie Lindsay

We've Come a Long Way, Baby

Award Presentation: 1.05 – 1.20pm

Professor Joy Wallace will announce the winners of the Non-Fiction Competition for Articles and Essays

Guest Speaker: 1.20 - 2pm

Valerie Lawson

Connie Sweetheart: The Story of Connie Robertson

Cost: \$50 for members or **\$55** non-members. *Workshop only: \$20* members or **\$30.00** non-members. **Special workshop & luncheon price: \$65** members and **\$80** non-members.

Membership forms available on our website:

www.womenwritersnsw.org/membership/

Bookings required before 10am, Monday 8 September

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 number.



Workshop

The Art of Essay Writing Judy O'Connor

Judy O'Connor has worked as a journalist and editor on newspapers and magazines in Sydney and New Zealand. For many years she ran Media Skills workshops in numerous adult education centres and occasionally teaches English as a Second Language. She has published and contributed to several books including *History of the Sydney GPO*, *I Love You Santa Collins* and *Practicalities*. Two short stories were long-listed for Fish Publishing Memoir Prize (Ireland) which attracted 1,200 entries, three stories have been published in Anthologies (Margaret River Press and Stringybark Publishing), while others have won awards with Scribe Writers, Busybird Publishing and Eyre Writers. She is currently compiling a collection of memoir pieces and writing a novel set in Eveleigh railway workshops in the 1920s.

Luncheon Speakers

Award Presentation

Non-Fiction Competition: Articles & Essays



Judge: Professor Joy Wallace

Competition judge, Professor Joy Wallace will give her feedback and award prizes for the National Non-Fiction Competition. Joy Wallace is the Associate Dean, Learning and Teaching at Charles Sturt University in Bathurst.

Entrants were asked to write an article or essay of up to 3000 words, on any topic.

First prize will receive \$500, second prize \$250 and third prize \$100.



Keep up with what's happening at the SWW NSW between lunch meetings at our **Facebook** page.

So login to Facebook, go to <http://tinyurl.com/negm72u> and 'LIKE' us!

Guest Speaker



Connie Sweetheart: The Story of Connie Robertson Valerie Lawson

Valerie Lawson began her career as a journalist at *The Australian Financial Review*, then later became editor of the *Weekend Review*. Valerie was the editor of the Saturday features pages in *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the foundation editor of *Good Weekend*, and a feature writer and arts editor for the *Herald*.

She is the author of three books, *Connie Sweetheart*, *The Allens Affair* and *Mary Poppins, She Wrote*, a biography of Pamela Travers, author of *Mary Poppins*. The biography of Travers recently inspired the movie, *Saving Mr Banks*, starring Emma Thompson and Tom Hanks. As a freelance writer, her work is published in a number of newspapers and magazines, in her website, www.danclines.com and in theatre programs, including *The Australian Ballet*.

Valerie is now writing a history of ballet in Australia.

The Society of Women Writers NSW Inc.

Committee 2014-15 - Dr Maria Hill - President, Lindsay Lewis - Vice-President, Dr Wendy Michaels - Vice-President, Christine Beattie - Secretary & SWW General Enquiries, Amanda Mark - Treasurer, Sandra Davis - Membership Secretary, Yvonne Louis - Publicity Officer, Dr Sue Steggall, Vivienne Foster, Judy O'Connor, Yvonne Jarman, Maria McDougall.

E-Newsletter team - Kristin Prescott (editor), Dr Maria Hill & Lindsay Lewis | **Website Manager** - Lindsay Lewis

SWW LinkedIN Group Manager: Dr Maria Hill | **SWW Face Book Manager** - Lindsay Lewis | **SWW Front Desk**- Lynda Calder

Workshop Convenor - Beatrice Yell.

Women's Ink Team Kristin Prescott (Editor), Dr Sue Steggall (Sub-Editor), Sandra Davis, Judith O'Connor (Book Editor), Joy Williams.


 Foundation Month

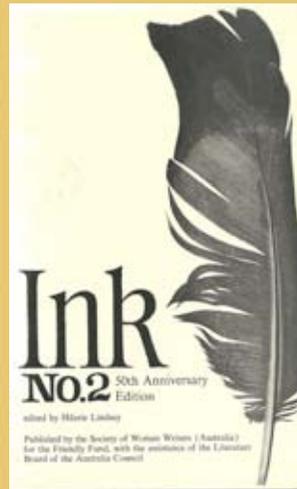
Member Talk



We've Come a Long Way, Baby Hilarie Lindsay

Hilarie Lindsay began writing seriously in 1966, winning the Grenfell Henry Lawson Prize for Prose in 1967. She was President of SWW NSW in 1971-1973 and Australia from 1975-0 1977, when it was a national organisation. She edited *Ink No. 2* celebrating the 50th anniversary of SWW and during her term as President 'Foundation Month' was introduced to celebrate the establishment of SWW in September 1925. Currently she is our Public Officer and Trustee of the Abbie Clancy Award. Hilarie will discuss how the women's movement has given us freedom to write as women and the Royal Commission into women's affairs where three members of SWW gave evidence at Parliament House.

SWW thanks photographer Diane MacDonald for permission to reproduce this image of Hilarie from a website showcasing remarkable women. Diane's next project is aimed specifically at ending violence against women: <http://positivelyremarkable.wordpress.com/>



"The contribution of women to the literature of Australia has been a substantial one. In Ink No. 2 the Society of Women Writers has continued this tradition and brought together the writings of over thirty women..."

Ink No. 2 is a unique collection that will add to the history of Australian literature."

This passage is taken from the inside cover of *Ink No. 2*, edited by former NSW Society of Women Writers' President, Hilarie Lindsay

THE SOCIETY OF WOMEN WRITERS (AUSTRALIA) FOUNDED IN SYDNEY, SEPTEMBER, 1925

September 1st, 1925

*Miss Cowan,
The Sun,
Sydney.*

Dear Madam,

The advent of the arrival of the Overseas Press Conference has suggested the idea that the Sydney Woman-Writers, Journalists and Poets should combine and form themselves into an Association similar to that in all other advanced parts of the world. With this in view if you care to join will you attend a preliminary meeting on Monday next, September 7th., at 2.30 p.m. at The Mary Elizabeth Rooms, 60 King Street.

*M.E.Fotheringham
M.W.Liddell
Isabel Gullett
Z.B.Aronson
Conveners of the Meeting.*

Literary Festival Spotlight: The Book Launches

In ancient times the launch of ships involved public celebrations with a prominent figure chanting blessings as the vessels slipped into the water to begin their maiden voyages. In recent times we have embraced the ceremonial launch for the journeys that books make into the reading world. The Society of Women Writers Literary Festival: *Dare to be an Author* continues this tradition with the launch of three new books by distinguished Australian authors by three distinguished guests.



The Hon Susan Ryan AO was elected to the Australian Senate in 1975 and held ministerial portfolios in the Hawke government. Her political autobiography *Catching the Waves: life in and out of politics* was published in 1999. Susan will launch Blanche d'Alpuget's *The Lion Rampant*.



Blanche d'Alpuget is an award winning biographer, novelist and journalist. Her two biographies of Robert Hawke, *Robert J Hawke: A Biography* (1982) and *Hawke: Prime Minister* (2010) received wide acclaim. She has won awards including the Sydney PEN Golden Jubilee Award for Fiction, NSW Premier's Award for Non-Fiction, The Age Novel of the Year Award, South Australian Government's Award for Fiction and Inaugural Commonwealth Award for Literature.



The Lion Rampant, Blanche d'Alpuget's second novel in the compelling series about two of medieval history's most fascinating characters, Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine, illuminates hidden corners of the twelfth century, an era of glorious intellectual and artistic renaissance, a time almost forgotten beneath the rubble of poor governance, war, religious oppression and plague that followed it. Blanche d'Alpuget's latest work reveals the personalities behind the history – Henry, a man who radiated charisma, a ferocious, cunning warrior and a skilful diplomat, Eleanor, a woman who was raised to rule and shrewd enough to negotiate the deadly politics of the time, but who used her role as the breeder of heirs to secure her place in the kingdom. And then there's Thomas Becket, a man obsessed by ambition for wealth and power, hoping to seduce the King and rule England himself. (Published by Third Advent, October 2014)



Dr Julie Mundy-Taylor is Liaison Librarian at the University of Newcastle. Julie is an Accredited Teller with the Australian Storytelling Guild (NSW Branch) and is the Vice President and Foundation member of the Australian Fairy Tale Society. Julie is an advocate of the value of both oral and written literature for children and continues to share stories with adults and children throughout the Sydney and Central Coast regions. Julie will launch Libby Hathorn's *Outside*.



Libby Hathorn, an award winning poet and author of over fifty books has won honours in Australia, the United States, Great Britain and Holland including Highly Commended in the Prime Minister's Literary Awards for her young adult novel *Fire Song*. Her novel, *Thundervith* was made into a film and her picture book, *Grandma's Shoes* was performed as an opera by Opera Australia and Theatre of Image.



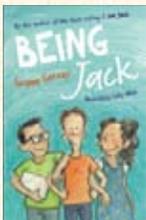
Like the garden it portrays, *Outside* is a Baroque wonderland waiting to be explored, a shimmering place of texture, luminosity and colour where time stands still and memories are born. Two internationally acclaimed creators – author Libby Hathorn and artist Ritva Voutilainen – have coupled their dazzling imaginative powers to capture the wonder of childhood in this homage to the magic of a garden. (Published by Little Hare, October 2014)



Mihiri Udabage writes for not-for-profit and social enterprises, as well as for an on-line parenting magazine specialising in children's social and emotional development. She volunteers time to the international non-profit, *Room to Read*. Mihiri will launch Susanne Gervay's *Being Jack*.



Susanne Gervay has published novels for younger readers and young adult readers and has been published in *Southerly*, *Mattooid*, *Westerly*, *Quadrant*, *Voices* and various anthologies. She is co-head of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators and has been shortlisted for many awards, recently winning the Lady Cutler Award for Distinguished Services to Children's Literature. She is an inaugural patron of Monkey Baa Theatre for Young People.



Jack thinks he's a great comedian. He loves to invent, take photos and surf. His friends are still the best ever (especially Anna) and his crazy family are as crazy as ever. Jack is nearly thirteen, and he's dealt with really big stuff like bullying. School is pretty good now, but he notices his best friend Christopher is in trouble. And when a football match turns ugly and Jack witnesses some dirty play, he knows he has to do something. *Being Jack* is the final book in the series that started with the best-selling *I am Jack* which has been adapted for the stage by the award-winning Monkey Baa Theatre. (Published by HarperCollins, August 2014)


 Notices

MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOW OVERDUE!!

Unpaid members' names will be deleted from SWW's database after **30 September 2014**. No future copies of *Women's Ink!* will be sent.

A \$5 admin fee is payable for reinstatement at any time after that date.

Not sure if your fees are paid? Check with Sandra Davis — 0417280444 or sgdavis@ozemail.com.au

Women's Ink! Summer Edition Submission Guidelines

We are always eager to receive your submissions to be considered for inclusion in *Women's Ink!* Please note the following:

Submission Deadlines:

Copy must be received by the editor by **15 November 2014** for the Summer edition.

Copy must be submitted in 12 pt, Times New Roman, single spaced.

Copy must not exceed designated word count.

No formatting to be included.

The Editor reserves the right to edit submissions.

Images

Images must be print quality.

- minimum size 1200 pixels x 1600 pixels

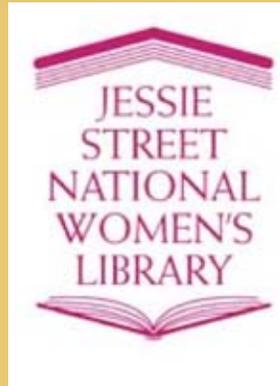
- resolution 300 pixels/inch

- files can be .jpg or .tiff

You can see image dimensions when opening a file in Preview and selecting Tools>Adjust Size

ALL documents are to be included in one email. For example: copy + photos + biography.

Email: kris@kristinprescott.com



INVITATION

20th Annual Fundraising Luncheon

Strangers' Dining Room

Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney

Monday, 15th September 2014 – 11.45am for 12:30pm

Jessie Street National Women's Library was established in 1989 to collect and preserve the literary and cultural heritage of women. It aims to:

- heighten awareness of women's issues
- preserve under one roof material relating to Australian women's lives and experiences
- support the fields of women's history
- highlight the contribution of women to this country's development.

The Library was named in honour of Jessie Street who campaigned all her life for women's rights, equal opportunity, social justice for Indigenous people and world peace.

The Library is staffed by volunteers and is self-funding. We rely on membership, donations, and fundraising events to cover our operating costs. The Annual Fundraising Luncheon at Parliament House is our main source of income.

BOOKINGS DUE BY 5 SEPTEMBER 2014

For prices and a booking form email:

info@nationalwomenslibrary.org.au or phone 02 9571 5359

Do you have a book to be reviewed? ... and your chance to be a book reviewer!



Each edition of 'Women's Ink!' includes reviews of books published by SWW. If you would like your book to be considered, here are the guidelines:

- Books need to have been published within **12 months** of the magazine's publication date
- Books should be sent direct to the Book Review Editor, Judy O'Connor who will select books for review, and a suitable person to review
- Copy of reviews will be sent to the author and publisher, if requested

SWW is also looking for people to review the selected books. Ideally you will be a SWW member, but this is not essential. Reviews should be around 500-600 words.

To register your interest or for more information email Judy: judithoc@bigpond.net.au

Correspondence: Secretary - Society of Women Writers NSW Inc., GPO Box 1388 Sydney NSW 2001.

