

E-Newsletter

ISSN 2203-3106

Dr Maria Hill



President's Message

Greetings from the island of Kythera where I am staying at a friend's cottage near the beach. I was born in Athens, so it is always lovely to visit Greece and enjoy the beautiful weather and warm Mediterranean sea. As promised, the morning tea format was reviewed by the committee at the June meeting. It was clear from the response that most members preferred to have a literary lunch commencing at noon rather than 10am. So the workshop has been returned to its original time slot of 10am and will conclude as the usual time of 11.45am, followed by our literary lunch meeting scheduled for 12 noon with a 12.15pm start. Please do not be late as we will be holding the AGM in July. The luncheon will consist of sandwiches plus tea and coffee at the new price listed in this newsletter. The exciting news is that we have thirteen nominations for the 2015-16 committee, a wonderful achievement for a volunteer organisation when others are struggling for helpers. Submissions are about to close for our 90th anniversary writing competitions. Winners will be announced at our anniversary luncheon on 9 September. I do hope you are entering as there is a beautiful trophy to be won this year. We also have many distinguished guests attending our birthday in September, so do not miss out on the biggest networking event for 2015. Complete the booking form and buy your tickets now, as places are quickly filling up. This month's meeting looks terrific. Our guest speaker is the award winning playwright Alana Valentine. Workshop presenter Cat Sparks will discuss the craft of short story writing and the inspirational Susanne Gervay will reveal how to turn your book into a play and movie. This will be my last message as President, so it's goodbye and a big 'thank you' to a fantastic committee that was a real pleasure to work with.

Warmest regards, Maria.



PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

This newsletter contains some important information regarding **changes to the monthly meetings**, the AGM and important information about the upcoming SWW 90th anniversary celebrations!

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.

NEXT

LITERARY LUNCHEON

Wednesday 8 July

**COMMENCING AT THE NEW
TIME OF 12.00 NOON**

*State Library of NSW
Macquarie Street, Sydney*



10.00 - 11.45am: Workshop

Crafting Short Fiction That Sells
Cat Sparks

Workshop Coordinator:

Robyn McWilliam 0418 225 051

**12.00pm - 12.20pm: Arrival and
Registration**

12.20 - 12.40pm AGM

12.40 - 1pm: Luncheon

1pm - 1.15pm: Member Talk

Writing Across Mediums and the
World - The Journey of the
I Am Jack Books
Susanne Gervay

1.20pm - 2pm: Guest Speaker

Writing the Real
Alana Valentine

**The SWW AGM will be
held during the luncheon.
Be part of literary history!!**

Price and Booking Information

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 \$42 (ML)
Workshop \$30 (MWS)
Morning Tea & Workshop \$65 (MLW)

Non Members:

Luncheon \$47 (NML)
Workshop \$40 (NMWS)
Morning Tea & Workshop \$80 (NMLW)

*For Direct Deposit please use the codes listed above
The Society of Women Writer's NSW Inc
BSB: 062 018 A/C: 0095 0433*

Everyone must book with Lynda Calder BEFORE 10am on the MONDAY before the meeting.

NB: There is still 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@gmail.com or [swwlunch](tel:0403177208) and should contain: date, your name and number.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Heather McCormack, Libby Sommer, Susan Taylor & Sue Woolfe

Guest Speaker Presentation

Workshop Presentation



Crafting Short Fiction That Sells Cat Sparks

A good short story is transformative. A snapshot of the human condition, its concise suggestiveness engenders passion and can linger with you long after you have stopped reading.

Crafting short stories is a specific skill that focuses issues of language and structure, and it can assist with understanding problems common to all writing.

This workshop aims to examine the elements required in creating a publishable short story, from opening hook through to closing sentence. We will examine story vs plot; inspiration; story structure; believable characters; strong beginnings, middle and ends; point-of-view; setting; conflict, and theme; tips on making every sentence count; paying markets; critique groups; how much revision is too much; cover letters and submission etiquette; rejection and how to deal with it.

Cat Sparks is a multi-award winning writer and Fiction Editor of Cosmos Magazine, with over 65 short stories published and a PhD in the works.



Writing the Real Alana Valentine

Playwright Alana Valentine will discuss the unique combination of oral history and drama that is verbatim theatre. She'll share her recent adventures in the archives of the National Library and the Royal Archives at Windsor Castle, and how being underestimated, patronised and ignored can be harnessed by the clever woman writer.

In 2014 Alana Valentine worked as dramaturg on Stephen Page and Bangarra's *Patyegarang*, won an AWGIE Award for Community/Youth Theatre writing for *Comin' Home Soon* and won the BBC International Radio Writing Competition (1000 entries from 86 countries) for *The Ravens*. In 2015, *Head Full of Love*, directed by Wesley Enoch, will tour nationally and *Barefoot Divas* will play the Hong Kong International Festival. Her plays *Parramatta Girls* and *Shafana* and *Aunt Sarrinah* are both on the NSW Schools Syllabus and in 2013 she was awarded the Major AWGIE and the inaugural David Williamson Award for Theatre Excellence for her play *Grounded*.

Read more at www.alanavalentine.com

The Society of Women Writers NSW Inc.

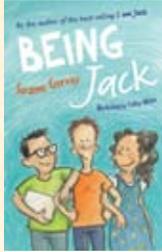
Committee 2014-15 - Dr Maria Hill – President, Lindsay Lewis - Vice-President, Dr Susan Steggall - Vice-President & Sub-Editor, Christine Beattie - Secretary & SWW General Enquiries, Amanda Marks – Treasurer, Sandra Davis - Membership Secretary, Yvonne Louis - Publicity Officer, Vivienne Foster, Judy 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** - Susanne Gervay | **SWW Front Desk-** Lynda Calder |

Workshop Convenor - Robyn McWilliam.

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

Member Talk



Writing Across Mediums and the World: The Story of the *I Am Jack* Books

Susanne Gervay

Awarded an Order of Australia, Susanne Gervay is recognised for her writing on social justice. An award winning short story writer, she is widely published in literary journals and anthologies including the Indian-Australian Fear Factor, Terror Incognito alongside Sir Salman Rushdie and Thomas Keneally. Her books are translated into many languages and include her young adult Butterflies recognized as Outstanding Youth Literature on Disability and rite-of-passage anti-bullying *I Am Jack* books which have been adapted into a play touring Australia and the USA. Susanne's picture books address disability, inclusion and multiculturalism, while *Elephants Have Wings*, which engages with peace, is in development as an animation.

An acclaimed international speaker, Susanne heads SCBWI (ANZ), is Writer Ambassador for Room to Read and Books in Home, Patron - Monkey Baa Theatre, former Chair of the NSW Writers Centre and an Australia Day Ambassador.



Valerie Parv, AM

Valerie Parv is the voice behind many of Australia's most guilty pleasures. Tales of flights of fantasy, daddies with deadlines and naughty nannies have had many a commuter hiding behind paperbacks for more than 30 years.

SWW member **Valerie Parv** has been made a member of the Order of Australia (AM) for her significant service to the arts as a prolific author and as a role model and mentor to young emerging writers.

The prolific author has penned more romance novels than you can hide in your family bookshelf, and sold 29 million books worldwide.

- Newcastle Herald

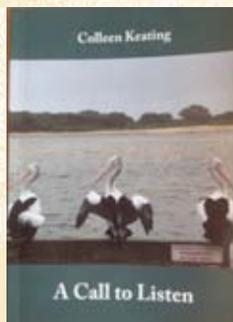
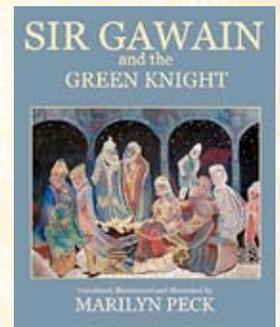
Congratulations Valerie!!

Member News & Congratulations!

Marilyn Peck is the Gold medal Winner for Poetry for her eBook *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* in the 2015 eLit Awards - Illuminating Digital Publishing Excellence. It is a global awards program committed to honouring the best of English language digital publishing entertainment.

For a full list of results [click here](#).

For more on Marilyn's books [click here](#).



Colleen Keating's new poetry book *A Call To Listen* is now available from Ginninderra Press. It was launched at Sappho's Book Cafe in Glebe with a celebration which included poetry readings, music by the cellist Nigel Parry, tapas and wine and 70 family and friends. Congratulations!

For more [click here](#).



'Giving Women a Voice'

Bookings are open for the Society of Women Writers NSW
90th Anniversary Luncheon on
9 September 2015

With special guest Prof Di Yerbury OA and keynote speaker Jessica Rowe AM

Places are filling up for one of the biggest literary networking events of the year.

The Society of Women Writers' 90th anniversary celebration is more than just a luncheon, it is an opportunity to take your place among some of the most successful women in Australia's literary world.

Come and join

Professor Elizabeth Webby

Fiona Inglis - *Managing Director, Curtis Brown Australia*

Zoe Rodriguez - *Copyright Agency Limited*

Jozefa Sobski - *Chair, Jessie Street National Women's Library*

Linda Funnell - *Chair, NSW Writers' Centre*

Nola Barkl - *President, National Council of Women NSW*

Susannah Fullerton - *President, Jane Austen Society*

Cassie Mercer - *Editor & Publisher, Inside History Magazine*

Cat Sparks - *Fiction Editor, Cosmos Magazine*

Selwa Anthony - *Selwa Anthony Author Management*

Trevar Langlands - *Fellowship of Australian Writers* and many more ...

Along with a keynote speech by Jessica Rowe AM, there will be presentations and gifts to past Presidents and authors who have been members for over 40 years. We will also be recognising those who have made significant contributions to the Society. The event will also include the presentation of the 90th Anniversary Writing awards and trophies for Non-Fiction, Short Story and Poetry.

Be Part of Literary History

[Click here for a Booking Form](#)

DON'T FORGET Lunch is back!

From the next monthly meeting on the 8th of July, SWW is welcoming back lunch, the historic format for the monthly meetings for the past 25 years!

So book as usual by the Monday before the Wednesday meeting, regardless of your payment method and join us from **10am** for the Workshop or **12 noon** for a lunch of gourmet sandwiches, juice, coffee and tea.

Booking information and costs can be found in this newsletter or [CLICK HERE](#).

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

