

# E-Newsletter

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## Co-President's Message

As newly-minted co-President, it was an honour and a pleasure to hand out awards to longstanding and hardworking members at the 90th Anniversary Luncheon on 9 September. The depth and breadth of women's achievements and activities never ceases to amaze. As an example of what older women can accomplish, SWW is without equal.

Certainly the success of the anniversary lunch was due to the dedication of the organising committee but it was the camaraderie and good will flowing through the Dixson Room that added an extra something. Our VIP guests more than rose to the occasion. Jessica Rowe was a vivacious and thoughtful speaker. Emerita Professors Di Yerbury AO and Elizabeth Webby AM FAHA, and Dr Richard Neville, Mitchell Librarian and Director, Education & Scholarship (State Library of NSW) gave personal and insightful glimpses into their close connections with the Society. It was a pleasure to talk to Nola Barkl, President of the National Council of Women, and Jozefa Sobski, Chair of the Board of Management of the Jessie Street National Women's Library, women at the helm of two influential women's organisations; not to mention the many other distinguished guests who graced our tables.

On behalf of everyone who was present at the lunch I would like to thank my co-President, Susanne Gervay not only for her tireless work as head of the organising committee but also for the efficient yet warmly humorous way she fulfilled her duties as MC. A very big thank-you also to Kristin Prescott who has juggled the editor's nuts-and-bolts requirements of layout, formatting and word length with skill and flair to produce the Special Anniversary Edition of *Women's Ink!*

Coming back to earth after such a wonderful day is not easy but SWW has more inspirational talks and events in the coming months. On 14 October, acclaimed poet Judith Beveridge will lead a workshop with the intriguing title of 'Two Great Tools of Poetry: Image and Sound'. Susan Ramage's Member Talk will add to our knowledge of important moments of World War II, both in the Middle East and the Pacific. Guest Speaker, Dr Jesse Blackadder, will be opening a treasure trove of inspiration – from Antarctic guide dogs to Scottish queens, Arabian sheiks and 'radical faeries'.

Looking to the future, SWW will shortly be calling for submissions for the Di Yerbury Writers' Residency. This generous offer by our patron, Professor Di Yerbury AO, of the use of her apartment in Barnstable, England, for a three-month period will give a Society member a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to write, think and dream.

*Anais Nin: 'We write to taste life twice, in the moment and in retrospect.'*

Dr Susan Steggall, co-President



Dr Susan Steggall



Susanne Gervay OAM

## 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](mailto: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 14 October**

*State Library of NSW  
Macquarie Street, Sydney*

## **10.00 - 11.45am: Workshop**

Two Great Tools of Poetry:

Image and Sound

Judith Beveridge

*Workshop Coordinator:*

*Robyn McWilliam 0418 225 051*

## **12.00pm - 12.20pm: Luncheon**

### **Arrival and Registration**

## **12.20 - 1pm: Luncheon**

## **1pm - 1.15pm: Member Talk**

*Kokoda Secret*

Susan Ramage

## **1.20pm - 2pm: Guest Speaker**

Antarctic Guide Dogs, Scottish

Queens, Arabian Sheiks and the

Radical Faeries - the places, people and  
plots that have inspired a writing life

Dr Jesse Blackadder



## **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](mailto:swwlunchbooking@gmail.com)

Mobile phone: Text message to 0403 177 208

Your text message should be addressed to [swwlunchbooking](mailto:swwlunchbooking@gmail.com) or [swwlunch](mailto:swwlunch) and should contain: date, your name and number.



## Workshop Presentation

### Two Great Tools of Poetry: Image and Sound

Judith Beveridge



The image is central to poetry. It can be used to evoke both

drama and emotions and to inject sensory details into writing. In this workshop we will look at how to use images in effective and meaningful ways. The English language is beautifully musical. We will look at how to enhance a poem through judicious employment of sound. By the end of the workshop participants will come away with a sense of the discipline and craft that goes into writing poetry, as well as a sense of the importance of familiarising themselves with some of the special tools that poetry writing requires.

Judith Beveridge has published six books of poetry including *Devadatta's Poems*, Giramondo Publishing, 2014, and *Hook and Eye: a selection of poems*, George Braziller, USA, 2014. She has won numerous awards for her poetry. She teaches post graduate poetry at Sydney University and is poetry editor for Meanjin. She has given numerous poetry workshops and readings in both Australia and overseas.



## Guest Speaker Presentation

### Antarctic Guide Dogs, Scottish Queens, Arabian Sheiks and the Radical Faeries - the places, people and plots that have inspired a writing life

Dr Jesse Blackadder

Dr Jesse Blackadder is fascinated by landscapes, adventurous women, animals and very cold places. A winner of literary awards in the USA and Australia, she is the author of three adult novels and three children's novels (for 8-12 year olds).

Jesse won the 2011-12 Australian Antarctic Arts Fellowship, and has also been a writer-in-residence in Alaska and outback Australia. She has a doctorate in Creative Arts and teaches creative writing.

She is on the board of the Northern Rivers Writers' Centre/Byron Bay Writers' Festival.



## Member Talk



### *Kokoda Secret* Susan Ramage

Writer and historian, Susan Ramage, will speak about her book, *Kokoda Secret* the military history biography of her late father, Colonel Ian Hutchison. He was a distinguished soldier who won the Military Cross in Bardia, North Africa, the Distinguished Service Order in New Guinea and the Order of the British Empire in Korea. Encouraged by her husband to record her father's story, Susan had no idea when she began her journey into the past that she would 'time travel' through the Middle East, the Fall of Damascus in Syria in 1941 and then the Pacific War which followed, unearthing ground-breaking new information about the Kokoda Campaign of 1942. Susan faced many challenges along the way, including the death of her husband who made her promise that she would complete the book. The book has been described by General Ken Gillespie, Chair of the NSW Centenary of ANZAC Committee, as 'a national treasure'.

## Di Yerbury UK Writers' Residency Call for Submissions

*Submission deadline*

**5pm, 9 March 2015**

*The winner will be announced at  
the SWW meeting in April!*

Having just spent an amazing and very productive three months in Devon researching and writing the sequel to my novel *I, Morgana*, I'm delighted that the Di Yerbury UK Writers' Residency is being offered again to SWW members.

**The residency will be available to be taken up in the summer months of 2016.**

Final details are still being sorted out but all details plus the criteria and application forms will appear shortly on the SWW website.

From first hand experience I can tell you how immensely valuable it is to have 'a room of one's own' and the freedom, peace and space in which to write. The proximity of Devon to other parts of England and to Europe makes research so much easier if your work is set in the Northern Hemisphere. While there I managed to achieve my goal of writing a first draft of my novel, but I also thoroughly enjoyed exploring Barnstaple and the beautiful beaches and quaint villages nearby (including King Arthur's Great Hall of Chivalry at Tintagel – very useful for my book!)

I urge members to take advantage of Di Yerbury's incredibly generous offer and think about submitting a proposal for consideration. Di and I will be talking about the residency at our February meeting next year. In the meantime I'm happy to answer any queries if you'd like to contact me: [felicity@felicitypulman.com.au](mailto:felicity@felicitypulman.com.au).

Felicity Pulman,  
2014 Di Yerbury UK Writers' Residency Winner



*Great Hall at Tintagel*

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**  
Susannah Fullerton, Simone 'Reg' Gaunt  
and Dianne Riminton Johns



The 90th Anniversary luncheon was a huge success! There will be a full wrap in the next *Women's Ink!* but in the meantime enjoy a few memories!



## The Society as Your Voice

*The 90th Anniversary is an exciting year as it launches into the beginning of a new decade. Being part of it gives voice to women writers.*

*Invite others to join in.*

*Bring new ideas, become part of sub committees as this is your voice.*

**Contact SWW**

**womenwritersnsw@gmail.com**



## Apology and Correction:

### *90th Anniversary Edition, Women's Ink!*

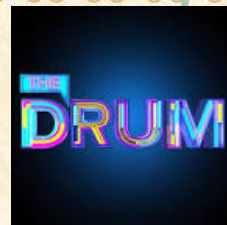
On page 15 of the September 2015 issue of *Women's Ink!* The name of the SWW member after whom the Short Story Award has been called was spelled incorrectly. Sincere apologies to **Dr Hilarie Lindsay** from the magazine's editorial team.

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Correction: A line was omitted in the Message from the Convenor for the 90th Anniversary in the opening paragraph - *Dorothea Mackellar renowned for 'My Country' and first line. Dame Mary Gilmore renowned for her political activism.*



## Member News

**Maggie Wildblood** will be featured in a segment on *The Drum* on **Friday, 2 October**. She wrote a piece call *A Long Dying* for ABC Open and was asked to share more of the story about her mother and the four years it took her to die. Why not have a listen!



## The Society of Women Writers NSW Committee and Team for 2015-16

**Committee:** *Susanne Gervay – Co-President, Dr Susan Steggall – Co-President & Sub-Editor, Amanda Mark – Treasurer, Maria McDougall – Membership Secretary, Yvonne Jarman – Publicity Officer, Sandra Davis, Vivienne Foster, Libby Hathorn, Lindsay Lewis, Mary Ann Napper, Judith O'Connor.*

**E-Newsletter team –** *Kristin Prescott (editor) & 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 Susan Steggall (Sub-Editor), Sandra Davis, Judith O'Connor (Book Editor), Joy Williams.*

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

