

Dr Susan Steggall



Susanne Gervay OAM

Co-President's Message

Dr Susan Steggall

June is an important month in SWW affairs because it is the occasion for our AGM and the election of the committee that will oversee the continuation of SWW as a major force in Australian women's writing for 2016-2017. I would like to thank my Co-President, Susanne Gervay for the sterling work she has done over the past twelve months, particularly her committed and enthusiastic management of the 90th anniversary celebrations last year.

30 June is the deadline for submitting entries to the 2016 SWW Book Awards. Response has been very encouraging so please, send in your books to make this an event that represents the gamut of SWW member's literary achievements. We are finalising details for the 2017 Di Yerbury Residency. The entry form and requirements will appear in the July issue of *Women's INK!*

In June, Robyn McWilliam will be presenting a workshop on writing short stories that engage the reader, right from that all important first page. Pamela Cook, our Keynote Speaker, is a city girl with a country lifestyle but manages to combine the two in her rural fiction novels, due in no small part to that excellent virtue – perseverance.

The biennial Alice Award is attributed to an Australian woman writer who through her work has made a distinguished and long-term contribution to Australian literature. The Society of Women Writers, Tasmania, who is hosting the 2016 event, will announce the winner at a Gala Dinner on 6 August in Launceston. NSW has nominated Dr Anita Heiss for her body of work, both fiction and non-fiction, and her promotion of all Aboriginal writers. As non-Indigenous Australian writers we cannot appropriate Aboriginal oral history, storytelling or visual art. Yet Indigenous culture is an integral part of the Australian cultural landscape and must be valued and recognised as such.

On behalf of SWW, Yvonne Jarman and I attended the Premier's Literary Awards presentation on 16 May – an event that showcased books from every corner of Australia's literary life. Yvonne has penned a few thoughts on the event for this newsletter.

We held a lively 'Open forum' at our May meeting. These important sessions not only let others know of our achievements but also help clarify our (writing) thoughts and, perhaps, give us new ideas. If a 'film project can begin from...a witnessed event, a daydream, a fairy tale, a literary adaptation or a fragment of overheard conversation' – so can writing!

(Gary Dufour, *Look*, April 2016).

2016 SWW Book Awards

Closing Date: 30 June 2016

The awards are for books published from July 2013 to June 2016 by SWW members. The books will be evaluated by judges who are experts in their respective fields.

Entry fee for administration costs: \$25.00 per entry.

For queries, contact: Dr Susan Steggall by email at swal1@bigpond.net.au or to download an entry form [CLICK HERE](#)

If you wish to contribute any member notices, 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 June

State Library of NSW
Macquarie Street, Sydney

10.00 - 11.45am: Workshop

Vibrant Short Stories

Robyn McWilliam

Workshop Coordinator:

Robyn McWilliam 0418 225 051

12.00pm - 12.20pm: Luncheon

Arrival and Registration

12.20 - 1pm: Luncheon

1pm - 1.15pm: AGM & Election of New Committee

1.20pm - 2pm: Keynote Speaker

Serendipity and Perseverance: How

I Became Rural Romance Author

Pamela Cook

REMINDER

Bookseller Janet Grundy will be coming to the SWW luncheon events to sell books by our Guest and Key-note Speakers. It's a wonderful way to support your fellow writers!

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)

Luncheon & Workshop \$65 (MLW)

Non Members:

Luncheon \$47 (NML)

Workshop \$40 (NMWS)

Luncheon & 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](mailto:swwlunchbooking@gmail.com) or [swwlunch](mailto:swwlunch@gmail.com) and should contain: date, your name and number.





Workshop

Vibrant Short Stories

Robyn McWilliam



How does a writer involve the reader emotionally from that first page?

We will look at all the elements of successful short stories such as viewpoint, character and voice and try techniques to come up with new approaches. Is there a hook to entice the reader on? Interactive exercises will assist in writing emotions. We'll apply creativity to improving titles.

Bring in your first page of a short story in progress (up to 250 words) to see what might need re-working.

Cate Kennedy, Australia's leading short story writer will be used to inspire us. Come and discover the fun of fiction!

Robyn has tutored creative writing courses and workshops for over 25 years. She has won awards for her stories in literary competitions including Queen of Crime and Scarlet Stiletto and been published in books, anthologies and ITA magazine.

Her latest novel is *Malevolent Desire*.

REMINDER

SWW Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Society of Women Writers NSW is being held at the **June Literary Luncheon**.

Nomination for positions on the committee for 2016-2017 are now closed but do not hesitate to ask the current committee if you would like to know more about the various committee roles.

You are always welcome to be part of one of Australia's oldest literary associations and can show your support by coming to the June meeting and participating in the AGM.

Keynote Speaker

Serendipity and Perseverance: How I Became Rural Romance Author

Pamela Cook

Pamela Cook is a city girl with a country lifestyle and too many horses. Her rural fiction novels feature feisty women, tangled family relationships and a healthy dose of romance. Her first novel, *Blackwattle Lake*, was published in 2012 after being selected for the Queensland Writer's Centre/Hachette Manuscript Development Program. Her second novel, *Essie's Way*, was published in 2013. Close To Home her third novel was released in July 2015 and she is now working on her fourth book due for release in December 2016.

Pamela is proud to be a Writer Ambassador for Room To Read. She teaches creative writing through her business Justwrite Publishing (www.justwrite.net.au) and divides her time between her home in southern Sydney and her 'other' home on the south coast of NSW. When she's not writing she wastes as much time as possible riding her handsome quarter horse, Morocco. www.pamelacook.com.au





Member News

Please join us for the launch of

A Shared Umbrella

the responsive tanka & rengay of
Beverley George & *David Terelinck*

Beverley & David have been writing
responsively together for the past six
years. **A Shared Umbrella** brings all
their works, published and unpublished,
together in the one collection.

VENUE:

The Children's Bookshop
6 Hannah St BEECROFT NSW
(opposite Beecroft Station)

DATE & TIME:

Saturday 28th May 2016
1pm to 3pm

RSVP by Monday 23rd May 2016 to

Beverley:

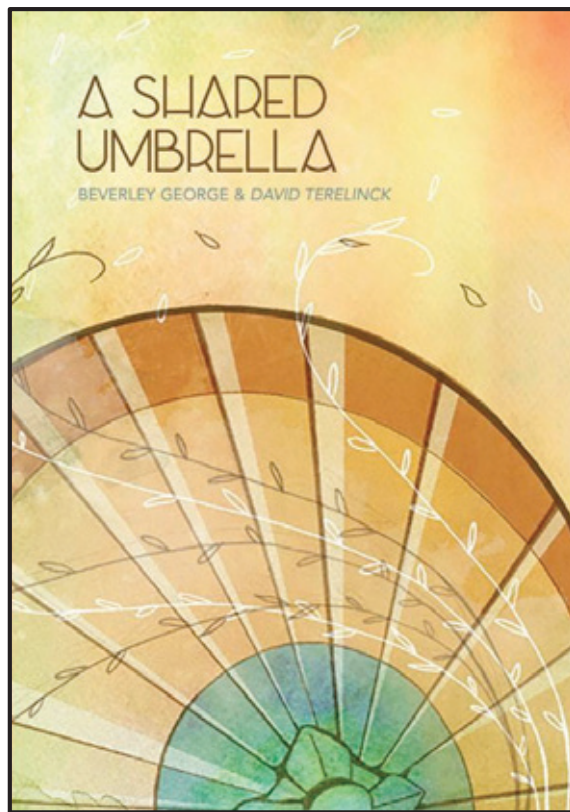
Email: beverleygeorge@idx.com.au

Phone: 0409 743 889

David:

Email: tanka_oz@yahoo.com.au

Phone: 0409 031 191



Following the launch of *A Shared Umbrella*
there will be a special launch for issue 20 of
Australia's first tanka-only journal, edited by
Beverley George.

Eucalypt: A Tanka Journal

has reached a milestone of 20 issues over the
past 10 years. We would like those attending,
who have appeared in *Eucalypt* over the years,
to read a tanka during the launch. Please
RSVP to Beverley if you would like to read at
the launch and celebration of issue 20.

STAY CONECTED!



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'.



Vale Lesley Walter

Poet Lesley Walter died last weekend after losing a long battle with cancer. Lesley was a woman of integrity and courage, not to mention a poet of deep reflection. I was proud to serve as Treasurer when she was President of the Society of Women Writers NSW from 2000 to 2002.



As a poet Lesley won many awards and had several important publications to her name, including her collection of poems entitled 'Watermelon Baby' (Five Islands Press, 2000). She had a Master of Letters degree in Australian literature from Sydney University, was a secondary school teacher, then a tertiary administrator, all the while being mother, wife and poet. During the time of her presidency Lesley worked tirelessly and efficiently for the SWW and it was a pleasure to serve on committees with her.

I was very pleased to be able to present to Lesley in person her Past President certificate awarded at the SWW 90th anniversary lunch.

Dr Susan Steggall

NSW Premier's Literary Awards 2016



by Yvonne Jarman

STATE LIBRARY®
NEW SOUTH WALES

Susan Steggall, the Co-President of NSW Society of Women Writers and myself attended the State Library for The Premier's Literary Awards 2016. It was the ideal forum to showcase our talented authors.

The winners' books were both an inspiration and a revelation. Authors from different backgrounds wrote about our relationship with country from an Aboriginal point of view and others chose to portray their perception of Australia's multicultural heritage and identity as it forges ahead, journeying towards a more inclusive society.

Bruce Pascoe's idea of bringing country together by anchoring Aboriginal memory in the future was insightful. He hoped that his book, would be loved by Australians and by Aboriginals alike, thus uniting all Australians. His book, *Dark Emu* won the The Indigenous Writer's Prize and The Book of the Year.

Dr Rosie Scott AM, won the Special Award, in recognition of her contribution to the literary life of Australia and her achievements in general.



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

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

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.

www.WomenWritersNSW.org | 0490 363 778

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