



E-Newsletter

President's Message

Dr Susan Steggall

Happy New Year. I hope 2017 will be a productive one for all Society members. We ended 2016 with a December meeting full of enthusiasm and optimism enhanced the excellent workshop and keynote speech by members of the successful collaborative writing team, 'Alice Champion'. The program for our February meeting continues this high standard with the first of a two-part workshop by Helen Scheuerer, founding editor of the literary magazine *Writer's Edit*. The theme of the workshop is 'Crafting Authentic Characters In Your Fiction'. In her February keynote speech, Helen will lead us through the story of how *Writer's Edit* came into being – 'from blog to small press and beyond' (see p.4 for more details). Lynda Calder will give the guest speaker talk on the fascinating topic of 'The Enigma of a Writing Engineer: time travel, codes and adventure' in the context of the second book in her Enigma Diaries trilogy, *The Enigma Diaries: Forgotten Future* (p.3).

As you can see, from the new 'Dates for the Diary 2017' column at left, there is another fascinating line-up of speakers to come, including an evening workshop on 30 March – not to be missed!

In 2017 we are holding the SWW writing competitions – non-fiction, short story and poetry. The closing dates for each competition are given below and entry forms will be sent with the March issue of *Women's Ink!* I would like to welcome the new editor, Margaret Zanardo, who will make an excellent addition to the SWW team. Poets among you, especially those not living in Sydney, will be delighted to learn that Jennifer Grant is to restart the Kookaburra Poetry Group (see p.4)

It is gratifying to receive news from SWW members who have moved away from Sydney. One such is Joyce Trimas who made and donated a Christmas cake to the December meeting for many years. Joyce now lives in Bright and regularly meets with a group of like-minded men and woman to talk about books and art. We thank Joyce for her generous donation to the Society.

There has been a resurgence of interest in 19th-century Australian women writers in essays published recently in the *Sydney Review of Books*. They are well worth reading. Fiona Wright gave her monograph on Barbara Baynton the somewhat enigmatic title of 'Hard Graft with the Best' (25 October 2016), and while this succinctly encapsulates the often harsh, unromantic vision of the bush in Baynton's writing, it applies to the craft of writing and the difficult task of writing well. At the age of eighty, Catherine Helen Spence described her self as a 'new woman' writes Maggie Mackellar in 'What to Do with All Those Worthy Women Writers' (8 November 2016). Spence was a remarkable woman – novelist, journalist, critic, preacher, lecturer, philanthropist and social reformer – who showed that one is never too old to push the boundaries of writing.

SWW COMPETITIONS 2017

Entry Deadlines:

Poetry – 12 June

Short Story – 10 July

Non Fiction – 7 August

Announcement of ALL Prizewinners: 8 NOVEMBER

Full details and entry forms will be in MARCH 2017 *Women's Ink!*

Di Yerbury Residency, Entry Deadline: 30 November

Details and entry form will be in the JULY 2017 *Women's Ink!*



Dr Susan Steggall

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2017

8 February:

Workshop-Helen Scheuerer

Guest Talk-Lynda Calder

Keynote-Helen Scheuerer

8 March:

Workshop-Helen Scheuerer

Guest Talk-Beverley George

Keynote-Dr Bronwyn Carlson

30 March:

Evening Workshop-Virginia Gordon

12 April:

Workshop-Dr Beth Yahp

Guest Talk-Pam Bayfield

Keynote-Dr Beth Yahp

10 May:

Workshop-Cathie Tasker

Guest Talk-Colleen Keating

Keynote-Alana Valentine

14 June:

Workshop-Virginia Gordon

AGM-Election of 2017-2018

Committee

Keynote-Maggie Joel

15-17 September:

SWW Writers' Retreat

NEXT LITERARY LUNCHEON

Wednesday 8 February 2017

Dixson Room, State Library of NSW
Macquarie Street, Sydney

10.00 – 11.45am Workshop:

Crafting Authentic Characters

Helen Scheuerer

Workshop Coordinator

Robyn McWilliam 0418 225 051

12.00 – 12.20pm: Arrival & Registration

12.20 – 12.40pm: Luncheon

12.45pm: Announcement of 2017 Di Yerbury Residency

12.50 pm: Guest Speaker

The Enigma of a Writing Engineer:
Time travel, codes and adventure

Lynda Calder

1.00-1.30pm: Keynote Speaker

The Tale of Writer's Edit: From Blog
to Small Press and Beyond

Helen Scheuerer

REMINDER

Bookseller Janet Grundy will be coming to the SWW luncheon events to sell books by our Guest and Keynote 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 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.



Workshop

Crafting Authentic Characters

Helen Scheuerer

Crafting believable, 3-D characters in fiction is a difficult art form that many new writers rush through while they're caught up in their plot. This workshop will explore how to make your characters distinctive and memorable, how to deal with internal and external conflicts, motivations and backstory, as well as how to manage a cast of characters and their relationships with one another.

Building on her personal experience as a novelist and an editor, author Helen Scheuerer will discuss common character mistakes she sees in manuscripts, and what tools writers can use to avoid these.

Participants are asked to bring a short piece of writing (either a short story or an excerpt from a novel) that focuses on character.



Guest Speaker

The Enigma of a Writing Engineer: Time travel, codes and adventure

Lynda Calder

In Lynda's first life she was a Maths and Science nerd and did very poorly in English, so she became an Electrical Engineer and then a Science/Maths and Physics teacher. Since then, however, she has become much more. Lynda has always loved creative writing, particularly FanFic. When her father challenged her to 'write something that could be published' the Middle Grade *The Enigma Diaries* trilogy was born.

The first book took eleven years to write and edit and now the second book in the trilogy, *The Enigma Diaries: Forgotten Future*, has finally been launched after a gestation period also over ten years. Lynda will talk about becoming an author with such an eclectic and very 'unartsy' background, and how seeing the world in a such different way can still lead to a Master of Arts in Creative Writing and children's time-travel adventure trilogy.



STAY CONNECTED!

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.'



Keynote Speaker

The Tale of Writer's Edit - From Blog to Small Press and Beyond

Helen Scheuerer

The literary magazine, *Writer's Edit* was born as Founding Editor, Helen Scheuerer travelled throughout Beatrix Potter's Lake District in the UK.

This is the story of how the publication was founded, and how it went on to reach tens of thousands of readers all over the world. *Writer's Edit* has now published three books, and will soon launch a learning platform for writers. The publication has shaped the careers of authors all around the globe, with Helen Scheuerer also set to publish her debut novel in 2017.



Helen Scheuerer is a novelist from Sydney, and the Founding Editor of *Writer's Edit*. She has a Bachelor of Creative Arts from the University of Wollongong and a Masters in Publishing from the University of Sydney. With work published internationally, Helen free-lances for a number of websites while she works on her own fiction and manages *Writer's Edit*. Her debut novel is due to be published in 2017. She chronicles her writing process and current work over at www.helenscheuerer.com

A reminder about SWW Membership Terms and Conditions

The membership renewal fee for new members who join after 1 March will be due on 1 July of the following year. Similarly, members who renew from 1 March, will have their fees due on 1 July the following year.

There is also the option to become a Life Member for the one off payment of \$450.00

- Regular member: \$55.00
- Concessional member: \$45.00 (Pension/Student)
- New member (regular): \$70
- New member (concession): \$60.00

Society News

Kookaburra Poetry Group is to restart

Jennifer Grant

This poetry group was started by the beautiful and talented member of Society of Women Writers NSW, Bridget McKern, a few years ago. She co-ordinated the group of interested SWW members who wished to join, first when it was a magazine, posted by each Kookaburra member to the next on the list. Then we used email, a much quicker way for our poems to get around to each other. Unfortunately, Bridget had to give up co-ordinating this group, and I am hoping to take up the reins.

I invite those wishing to join the group to write a poem, and then email the poems to me. I will email the work to each Kookaburra member on the list, asking for a critique and or thoughts on each poem. Upon completion, we all email our responses back to me and I put each person's response with the correct poem. Eventually we receive back our poem along with everyone's response. This is a unique way not only to get feedback on our writing but also to learn by reading other great poems and commenting on them. A wonderful way for isolated writers to keep in touch. Any SWW member interested in joining, please contact Jennifer Grant bookend1948@outlook.com or 0410978758 or 02 97074235



Thanks to a Creative Writing and English course at Southern Cross University (2007), Jennifer learnt to let go and have fun with her writing. Late coming into Poetry/prose, she loves it along with her other passion, genealogy. She's had a few poems and stories published and won some places in competitions, though it has been a while now. Belonging to the Kookaburra Poetry Group has given her the incentive to write more often and she loves seeing what the other members do. Currently she is the editor for Hurstville Family History Society's newsletter as well as their secretary.

Member News

Libby Hathorn

INCREDIBILIA Extravaganza Performance in Centennial Park, 2016

Centennial Park Foundation and Bondi Beach Public School joined forces to present a song and dance Special Performance based on Libby Hathorn and Gaye Chapman's beguiling, *Incredibilia*.

Some 600 students were involved in two shows on Tuesday 12 December, in the outdoor location near one of the gracious and historic stone cottages that grace the entrance of the park.

OUTSIDE the OPERA, 2018

Composer Elena Katz Chernin and author Libby Hathorn have worked on the children's opera libretto Libby has written based on her text for her picturebook *Outside*. True to her international reputation, Elena's music is lively and original in its moods in presenting the *Five Senses*, the centrepiece of Libby's and illustrator Ritva Voutila's important message about the beneficence of the outside world.

Negotiations are proceeding with the Perth Festival about its performance in 2018.

SANGITA'S SINGING MUSICAL, Kathmandu, 2017

The Director of the Mitrataa Foundation, Bec Ordish, has found a wonderful composer to set Libby's picture book libretto, Sangita's *Singing* with its illustration by Nepalese artist Bandana Tulachen for a wonderful musical to be performed there in 2017.

Its themes of migration (country girl going to the city of Kathmandu), the importance of learning to read, bullying and befriending are universal. We hope to bring the musical to Australia in the future.

Through Libby's tiny Pax Press, she published 4,000 copies of *Sangita's Singing*, a village child's journey to a big city (Kathmandu), as a fundraiser for Mitrataa and its sale still help the foundation to educate girls and women. Now a musical will give it a new lease of life. Libby hopes to attend the premiere, funds permitting next year.



If you wish to contribute any member notice, please email your text and image as a JPEG file to: swall@bigpond.net.au

With 'ATTN: SWW E-Newsletter editor' in subject heading.

The deadline for e-Newsletter submission is the 20th of each month.

Any late submissions will be held for the following month.

The Society of Women Writers NSW Committee and Team for 2016-2017

Committee: Dr Susan Steggall – President, Yvonne Jarman – Vice-President, Amanda Mark – Treasurer, Charo Devery – Secretary, Maria McDougall – Membership Secretary, Gwen Bitti, Vivienne Foster, Libby Hathorn, Lindsay Lewis, Mary Ann Napper, Wendy Searle

E-Newsletter team – Dr Susan Steggall (Editor) & Lindsay Lewis |

Website Manager – Lindsay Lewis

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 – Margaret Zanardo (Editor), Dr Susan Steggall (Sub-Editor), Sandra Davis, Judith O'Connor (Book Editor), Joy Williams.

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