

# E-Newsletter

ISSN 2203-3106

## President's Message

**Dr Maria Hill**



I was surprised to discover in my explorations of our archives, our current GPO PO Box No 1388 is the exact number that was issued to us eighty-nine years ago. It has not changed in that entire period with all the changes to our membership; it remains the same. In its own way it reflects the remarkable resilience of our organisation - being the longest continuing women's literary society in Australia. What has really impressed me however, was the size of the SWW Committee of 1932 and 1933. Apart from the President, there were four Vice-Presidents, an honorary Secretary, an honorary Treasurer and fifteen committee members. What a team! Just imagine how much more we could do if the SWW committee could swell its ranks. Nevertheless, we are very proud of what we are offering our members this year with the Di Yerbury Writers Residency in the UK that now only requires a THREE month membership of our society to apply, as we did not have the opportunity to advertise it more widely over the January holidays. Our March meeting introduces yet another competition our members can enter: the Rosalind Sharbanee Meyer Encouragement Award for an unpublished manuscript. So dust off that copy you have hidden in your draw and find the courage to submit it to our competition. There could be a literary gem just waiting to be discovered. So join us on 12 March and hear the Queen of Crime - Gabrielle Lord reveal the danger she placed herself in to research her new novel *Dishonoured* on violence against women.

## NEWFLASH: WOMEN WRITERS LITERARY FESTIVAL 18 OCTOBER, 2014

What an exciting year it is going to be this year - with our Women Writers' Weekend due to run in two weeks time. We will now have Allen and Unwin Publishers presenting our "Pitching to the Publisher" workshop and there is one spot left for a lucky person - so email Pam Bayfield if you would like to attend. Another first for us this year is the Women Writer's Literary Festival we are hosting in partnership with the State Library of NSW with fabulous guest speakers: Bettina Arndt and Blanche d'Alpuget. With Blanche, the links to our historic past are further strengthened as her great aunt, also named Blanche d'Alpuget, was one of the founding members of our committee. And by popular demand and because we were founded by journalists we have introduced a new non-fiction prize for essays and articles - so start writing - as we are presenting this award in September, the month SWW was founded in 1925 - it will be a celebration of our foundation.

**SWW GENERAL ENQUIRIES**  
**0490 363 778**

*For more information about our events.*

If you wish to contribute an article or photograph or tell us about your book launch or book award or the talk you are giving or workshop you are presenting, please email your text in Word format and the image as a jpeg file to: [womenwritersnsw@gmail.com](mailto:womenwritersnsw@gmail.com) with "ATTN: SWW E-News editor" in subject heading.

## 12 March Monthly Meeting

State Library of NSW  
Macquarie Street, Sydney

**Workshop: 10.00 - 11.45am - Bookings Essential**

**The Art of Short Story Writing**

**Presenter:** Cat Sparks

Workshop Coordinator: **Bea Yell 9452 2299**

**Literary Lunch: 12.15 - 1pm**

**LAUNCH: Rosalind Sharbanee Meyer Encouragement Award 2014 - with special guest Rosalind Sharbanee Meyer**

**Member Speaker: 1 - 1.20pm**

Frieda Belakhova - *My Past Life/The Soviet Experience*

**Guest Speaker: 1.20 - 2pm**

Gabrielle Lord - *The Writing of Dishonour: an Adult Crime Novel that explores Violence Against Women in Migrant Communities*

**Bookings required before 10am MON 10th March**

**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**

Text date, name and number to swwlunchbooking or swwlunch.

**Membership forms available on our website:**

<http://www.womenwritersnsw.org>

**Cost: \$50 for members or \$55 non-members.**

**Workshop only: \$20 members or \$30.00 non-members. Special workshop & luncheon price: \$65**



### Workshop Presenter



## Cat Sparks

### The Art of Short Story Writing

Every few years some renowned literary insider or other declares the short story to be dead. Despite this, more people are writing them than ever before, and many opportunities exist for publication.

A successful short story is more than the sum of its parts. It's an outstanding execution of an idea. It demands wakeful attention and keeps you thinking when it's done. On a pragmatic level, short story-oriented workshops are a popular method of teaching writing craft.

This workshop aims to examine the essential elements required, from the opening hook through to the closing sentence. Topics covered include: rules and guidelines; the importance of structure and theme; making every sentence count; story versus plot; finding the right market; the value of critique groups; how much revision is too much; submission etiquette; and rejection and how to deal with it.

## Luncheon Speakers

### Member Speaker



### **Frieda Belakhova**

#### *My Past Life/ The Soviet Experience*

Born in 1939 in Odessa, the Soviet Union, Frieda Belakhova was a year and a half old when the Great Patriotic War (called the Second World War in the West) broke out in 1941. This book is the story of her life, told in a detailed letter to her son. The memoirs cover the period of 'her past life' starting from her early post-war childhood until her departure from the Soviet Union in the middle of the 1970s. Frieda Belakhova had worked as an English-ESL teacher for 25 years at a Sydney High School before she branched out into the career of the Buteyko Technique practitioner. In her present life she has two lovely granddaughters, is retired from school teaching and teaches adults and children the Buteyko Breathing Technique giving them a gift of healthy life.



### Guest Speaker

### **Gabrielle Lord**

#### The Writing of *Dishonour*: an Adult Crime Novel that explores Violence against Women

Gabrielle Lord has published fifteen adult novels, beginning decades ago with the international bestseller *Fortress*, which was made into a movie and translated into eighteen languages. More recently, she has been writing for YA readers and her fourteen-book series *Conspiracy 365* and its follow-up *Black Ops Trilogy* has been sold into thirteen countries and was a TV series on Foxtel's Family Movie Channel in 2012. Gabrielle will be speaking about *Dishonour* – the novel she is currently writing, and her own writing process from the initial 'spark' to research, plotting and writing. *Dishonour* won't be ready until 2015, but she says is already being very well received by Hachette and Dr Jennifer Burn of Anti Slavery Australia because of its forced marriage subplot. She hopes the book will help raise awareness and make sure young women and girls are prevented from being forced into a lifetime of sexual and other servitude.

### **The Society of Women Writers NSW Inc.**

- ✦ **Committee 2013-14** - Dr Maria Hill – President, Lindsay Lewis – Vice President & Minutes Secretary, Vivienne Foster – Secretary, Pam Bayfield – Treasurer, Sandra Davis – Membership Secretary, Yvonne Louie – Publicity Officer, Dr Sue Steggall – Sub-Editor.  
**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.

## Member News

### CONGRATULATIONS!

SWW President, Dr Maria Hill has added another string to her already very busy and successful bow, taking on the role of **Managing Editor** for the **Journal of Policing, Intelligence and Counterterrorism** at the Centre for Policing, Intelligence and Counter Terrorism, Level 2, Building Y3A, Macquarie University.

Don't forget to send your member news and achievements directly to [kris@kristinprescott.com](mailto:kris@kristinprescott.com)



### Books, Books, Books

**Would you like to be a Book Reviewer or have your book reviewed?**

The results of recent surveys have led to concerns about a bias away from women writers in literary publications and reviews in Australia and overseas.

(Read more about it at:

<http://wheelercentre.com/dailies/post/cb2975e9c21f/>

Each edition of *Women's Ink!* will include reviews of books published by members in the previous 12 months.

If you are interested or would like more information, please email the **Book Review Editor, Judy O'Connor** -

[judithoc@bigpond.net.au](mailto:judithoc@bigpond.net.au) - with a few sentences about your preferred genre.



## Join the Committee: You're in Good Company!

**Opportunities have opened on the Committee to make a contribution to this historic organisation.**

Join the ranks of Dame Mary Gilmore, Ethel Turner and Dorethea Mackellar - the original SWW Committee members by volunteering for one of these positions:

- **Writing Competitions Coordinator:** to liaise with judges & returning officers & SWW Committee.
- **Book Awards Coordinator:** to liaise with judges & returning officers & SWW Committee.
- **Awards & Residency Coordinator:** oversee the annual Abbie Clancy Award & the biennial: Writers Residency & Manuscript Encouragement Award and The Alice Award.
- **Sponsorship & Marketing Coordinator:** we are seeking someone who can help us obtain sponsorship of our prizes and competitions.
- **Website Manager:** requires a member with technical skills who can update the website on a monthly basis.
- **Facebook Administrator:** if you have your own FaceBook account you should be able to do this job.
- **Women Literary Festival Publicity Assistant** - this role would be to assist our publicity officer Yvonne Louis with the Festival publicity as well as publicity for competitions & awards

To find out more or to volunteer, please email **Maria Hill** - [maria@mariahill.com.au](mailto:maria@mariahill.com.au) or ring her on **0438 007 560**

**DON'T MISS OUT: APPLY FOR THE DI YERBURY WOMEN WRITERS RESIDENCY OPEN NOW**

For further information and to download application form go to  
[www.womenwritersnsw.org](http://www.womenwritersnsw.org)



## Competitions

### Announcing the **NEW** Non-Fiction Competition for essays

The Society of Women Writers NSW is holding a Non-Fiction Writing Award for articles and essays from 2,500 to 3,000 words.

**Entries Open:** 12 March 2014

**Closing Date:** 11 June 2014

**Entry Fee:** \$25 per story (members), \$35 per story (non-members)

**Prize Money:** First - \$500, Second - \$250, Third - \$100

**Award Presentation:** 10 September 2014



Rosalind Sharbanee Meyer was born in Singapore in 1935. She arrived in Australia in 1954 and lives in Sydney. She published her first book, *A Window Into Schizophrenia: My Brown Bear* about her son's battle with schizophrenia and his eventual suicide in 2004. Her latest book *Rosie's War* published this year, is about escaping from Singapore in 1942. The Encouragement Award is being offered by Rosalind Meyer in memory of her son. It is to be presented in November 2014.

## Rosalind Sharbanee Meyer Encouragement Award

*COMPETITION LAUNCH: 12 March 2014*

An encouragement award of \$1,000 to be offered for an unpublished manuscript to a member of the Society of Women Writers (NSW).

- It can be either Non-Fiction or Fiction, including an anthology of short stories but not poetry.
- It must be a minimum of 40,000 words.

**Entry fee:** \$35.00 for members.

**Non-members** of SWW are welcome to enter after joining the society. Relevant fees are:

\$100 full membership - includes award entry fee \$35; full membership fee \$50; once only joining fee \$15; or  
\$90 concessional membership - includes award entry fee \$35; concessional membership fee \$40 (only available with a Pension card number); once only joining fee \$15.

FOR WOMEN WHO WRITE  
*mslexia*

### Mslexia Women's Short Story Competition 2014

For previously unpublished short stories of up to 2,200 words on any subject. Judged by Jane Rogers.

First prize is £2,000, plus two optional extras: a week's writing retreat at Chawton House Library, and a day with a Virago editor.

All winning stories will be published in Mslexia.

**Closing date:** 17 March 2014

Submissions can be made online. For more information go to [www.mslexia.co.uk](http://www.mslexia.co.uk)

## BECOME A FRIEND OF THE STATE LIBRARY OF NSW!

The State Library needs our support now more than ever with cuts to their funding and staff. The only way forward is for us to offer our support. The library simply does not have the financial resources to keep all the services it once provided in the historic Mitchell reading room. One way of helping is by joining the Library Friends. As a 'Friend' you will enjoy a range of benefits including literary, history and cultural talks and events; exhibitions, special behind the scenes tours a range of benefits and discounts at the Library. Please support the library as they support us.



For more information: Email: [friends@sl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:friends@sl.nsw.gov.au) Tel: 9273 1593  
Web: <http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/about/support/friends>

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

