



E-Newsletter

President's Message

Gwen Bitti

At our July luncheon meeting the generosity of our members and guests in raising funds for our Dorothea MacKellar project was fantastic. It shows great interest in the project and our Society. An enormous heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed.

It was wonderful to have had the opportunity to talk at length with Dr Hilarie Lindsay MBE, OAM the Society's Public Officer, past president (5 years in the 1970s) and stalwart member. Hilarie told me about the national body of the Society of Women Writers, a proud federal organisation born in 1925. Hilarie was there in the 1980s when conflict surfaced in the management of that body. New South Wales in August 1987, under the presidency of Chris Rapp, broke away from the national organisation and reformed as an independent society. They changed the organisation's name to The Society of Women Writers New South Wales and incorporated. In 2000 the national body of the Society of Women Writers was disbanded, leaving SWW NSW as the, 'Oldest women's literary organisation.'

During our conversation, Hilarie gave me first a hand insight at what luncheon meetings were like in the early days – most of the women wore hats and gloves. On arrival there would be some music playing and we got a glass of wine. There was a bit of fun prior to the formal part of the meeting, where for 10 shillings a fortune teller gave you a glimpse into your future.

At my first luncheon meeting as president in July, Libby Hathorn in her Keynote Address gave us a brilliant experience with her latest children's book, *Butterfly we're Expecting you*. Violinist, Rin Suh commenced the performance with the entrance of the Queen of Sheba, immediately cocooning us, and Libby continued to hold us in that awe with a visual display and reading from the book. Libby's publicist, Ashleigh Barton then took us from the birth of an idea to the book for sale.

In our Guest Speaker timeslot, members, Decima Wraxall, Cindy Broadbent and Libby Sommer gave us a brief peek into their current works.

At our August luncheon meeting, we look forward to Belinda Murrell as Keynote Speaker and Helen Thurloe as Guest Speaker.

Thank you to all members who regularly attend our monthly luncheon meetings, it is your support that makes the luncheons so successful. Keep writing!



Gwen Bitti

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2017

9 August:

Workshop-Melinda Smith
Guest Talk-Helen Thurloe
Keynote-Belinda Murrell

13 September

Workshop-Mark Abernethy
Guest Talk-Olga Chaplin
Keynote-Catherine Marshall

15-17 September:

SWW Writers Retreat '
The Brahma Kumaris
Centre for Spiritual Learning

11 October:

Workshop-Elizabeth Llhuede
Guest Talk-Susan Ramage
Keynote-Emily Maguire

8 November:

Workshop-Elisabeth Storrs
SWW Writing Competition
Awards
Keynote-Elisabeth Storrs

13 December:

Workshop-Wendy Blaxland
Abbie Clancy Presentation
Keynote-Wendy Blaxland

SWW COMPETITION 2017 Entry Deadline

Non Fiction – 7 August

Announcement of ALL Prizewinners (Short Story, Poetry and Non-Fiction): 8 NOVEMBER

Entry form is on SWW website: www.womenwritersnsw.org

Di Yerbury Residency, Entry Deadline: 30 November

Details and entry form was in the JULY 2017 *Women's Ink!* and on SWW website

NEXT LITERARY LUNCHEON

Wednesday 9 August 2017
Gallery Room, State Library of NSW
 Macquarie Street, Sydney

Program

10.00 – 11.45am Workshop:

'Poeting while Female'

Melinda Smith

Workshop Coordinator

Pippa Kay 0407 725 747

12.00 – 12.20pm: Arrival & Registration

12.20 – 12.45pm: Luncheon

12.50 pm: Guest Speaker:

'Too close to home... or not close enough?'

Helen Thurloe

1.05-1.35pm: Keynote Speaker

'A Writing Journey'

Belinda Murrell

Memo to Members

A reminder that we offer two opportunities for SWW members who cannot attend the monthly lunch meetings. To discuss their work.

Waratah Prose Group

Contact Lynda Calder for information.

alcalder@optusnet.com.au

Kookaburra Poetry Group

Contact Jennifer Grant: 0410978758 or

02 97074235; bookend1948@outlook.com

Coming Events

The Historical Novels Society of Australasia (HNSA) conference is to be held in Melbourne in September 2017 (<http://hnsa.org.au>).

REMINDER

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

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 \$45 (ML)

Workshop \$30 (MWS)

Luncheon & Workshop \$68 (MLW)

Non Members:

Luncheon \$50 (NML)

Workshop \$40 (NMWS)

Luncheon & Workshop \$83 (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.

Welcome to New Members

- Michele Bomford
- Meg Dunn
- Anne Fieldhouse
- Monica Lizama
- Narelle Ryan

STOP PRESS!!

Due to the drive and enthusiasm of **Libby Hathorn** SWW now has a crowd funding site to receive donations towards the new plaque for the gravestone of one of Australia's foremost poets: Dorothea Mackellar. Here is the link. Please spread the word as wide as you can.

<https://www.gofundme.com/i-love-a-sunburnt-country>

Workshop

Poeting while Female

Melinda Smith

Melinda Smith won the Prime Minister's Literary award for Drag down to unlock or place an emergency call (Pitt St Poetry, 2013). Her poems have been anthologized in Australia and overseas, and translated into multiple languages. A former poetry editor of the Canberra Times, she has just launched her fifth poetry collection, *Goodbye, Cruel*. Join Melinda for a frank and in-depth look at the vicissitudes of 'Poeting while Female'. Melinda will take us through how women poets have approached their vocation, both in a literary and a practical sense. This will include lots of content from contemporary Australian poets as well as international and historical examples. It may or may not include horror stories, literary gossip and 'how-not to' advice. Bring along your burning questions and 'women's poems' you thought were too hard to get published. A pen and paper might also help.



Photograph: Marina McDonald

Guest Speaker:

Too close to home...or not close enough?

Helen Thurloe

Helen Thurloe began research for her novel, *Promising Azra*, after reading a newspaper article about forced child marriages in contemporary Sydney. Over the next two years she interviewed students, teachers, counselors and lawyers to understand the complex interplay of cultural expectations that are involved. In the process, she had many of the assumptions about arranged marriages challenged, and she also found that what is typically portrayed in the media about forced marriage is only part of the story. Helen Thurloe is an award-winning writer and poet. Her debut novel, *Promising Azra*, was published by Allen & Unwin in 2016. The book is currently shortlisted for the Multicultural NSW Award in the 2017 NSW Premier's Literary Awards. Helen's poetry has won national awards, and her poems can be found in anthologies, journals and online. She's now working on her second novel, about the consequences of malaria in 18th century England.



SWW Retreat – Bookings are now Open

A very few places are left for our September 15-17 Writers Retreat at Wilton in the Southern Highlands. The line-up of presenters includes highly qualified Keynote Speakers, Workshop Presenters and a publisher from HarperCollins. There are combined sessions, choices for workshops, networking, private writing-time or an interval for reflection and a guided relaxation too – undoubtedly, a perfect writing getaway. Don't risk missing out, book in now and spread the word to your writing friends and groups. For more information and to book-in visit the website, or contact us by email: gwen.swwretreat@bigpond.com or Jan Conway on mobile 0402 755 768.



Keynote Speaker

A Writing Journey

Belinda Murrell

Best-selling author **Belinda Murrell** provides an insight into her writing process, creating books for children and teenagers, growing up in a literary family and lessons learned during more than two decades of her writing career. Belinda will discuss the 'art of writing' – from inspiration to finished product and the rollercoaster ride in between.

At about the age of eight, Belinda Murrell began writing stirring tales of adventure, mystery and magic in hand-illustrated exercise books. As an adult, she combined two of her great loves – writing and travelling the world – and worked as a travel journalist, technical writer and editor. Now, inspired by her own three children, Belinda is a bestselling, internationally published children's author with a history of writing in her family that spans over 200 years.



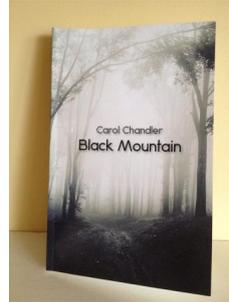
If you wish to contribute a member notice, please email your text and image as a JPEG file to:

swa11@bigpond.net.au

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

Member News

• Carol Chandler



Carol Chandler's novella *Black Mountain* (shortlisted in the Seizure Viva La Novella IV competition), has been published by Ginninderra Press. This literary thriller will be launched by Colleen Keating at the **Better Read Than Dead Bookshop, 265 King Street Newtown on Sunday 6 August, 2pm.** RSVP to Better Read Than Dead bookshop. <http://www.betterreadevents.com/product-page/black-mountain-book-launch>

The Society of Women Writers NSW Committee and Team for 2017-2018

Committee:

Gwen Bitti – President,

Yvonne Jarman – Vice-President

Amanda Mark – Treasurer

Secretary – To be nominated

Maria McDougall – Membership Secretary,

Charo Devery, Vivienne Foster, Libby Hathorn,

Lindsay Lewis, Mary Ann Napper, Jan Conway

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 – Pippa Kay

'Women's INK!' Team – Margaret Zanardo (Editor), Dr Susan Steggall (Sub-Editor), Judith O'Connor (Book Editor), Joy Williams (photography).

Correspondence:

Secretary, Society of Women Writers NSW Inc

GPO Box 1388 Sydney NSW 2001

www.womenwritersnsw.org

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.'



Society of Women Writers Retreat

‘Spinning Straw to Story Gold’

15 – 17 September 2017

Brahma Kumaris Centre for Spiritual Learning
150 Macarthur Drive, Wilton NSW

What you will enjoy in a tranquil bush setting:

- 2 x nights twin-share accommodation, meals – 2 x breakfasts, 2 x dinners, 2 x lunches, 2 x morning teas and 1 x afternoon tea
- Guided meditative bushwalks
- Attendance at all program sessions

Opportunity:

1. Have your first ten (10) pages critiqued by publisher, **Catherine Milne** (*bookings essential. * Ring or email Gwen or Jan for cost – limited places*)
2. Your first page critiqued by **Susanne Gervay**
3. Open Mic - Read 300 words in any genre.

Friday 15 September

- 4.00 – 6.00pm Registration
6.30 – 7.50pm Dinner
8.00 – 8.15pm Welcome and Housekeeping
8.15 – 9.15pm **KEYNOTE – 13 Lessons from 13 years as a published writer**
with **Emily Maguire**

Saturday 16 September

- 09.30 – 10.30am **KEYNOTE – In the Flow** with **Libby Hathorn**
10.45 – 12.15pm **WORKSHOP** (choose one)
(a) ‘Haiku’, with Beverley George
(b) ‘Writing from within’, with Libby Sommer
(c) ‘The essential pitch’, with Susanne Gervay
1.45 – 2.15pm **OPEN MIC** (*booking essential*)
2.15 – 3.15pm **WORKSHOP – Your first page** with **Susanne Gervay**
3.45 – 5.00pm Personal writing time/reflection
5.00 – 6.30pm **PRESENTATION – What publishers want.** with publisher
Catherine Milne, Harper Collins followed by Q & A panel
8.00 – 9.00pm Shared writing/networking (*form own groups*)
9.00 – 9.30pm **Guided Deep Relaxation** with **Gwen Bitti**

Sunday 17 September

- 09.30 – 10.30am **WORKSHOP – Spinning Straw to Story Gold – Ideas to Stories**
with **Libby Hathorn**
10.45 – 11.45am **IN CONVERSATION** with **Kathryn Heyman**
12.15 – 1.30pm Lunch
1.30 – 2.00pm Official Farewell from Brahma Kumaris Co-ordinator
2.00pm Departure

Retreat Director: Gwen Bitti, email: gwen.swwretreat@bigpond.com or mobile: 0403 165 925

Retreat Secretary: Jan Conway email: (as for Gwen) or mobile: 0402 755 768