

*Happy New Year*

Society of Women Writers NSW Inc.

# E-Newsletter



**Gwen Bitti**  
**President**

## President's Message

Happy New Year!

Welcome to 2018 with the Society of Women Writers. I was fortunate to have time during the break to read quite a few books launched by our members last year. As I finished each book, I felt so proud to be a part of an organisation with such an amazing group of talented women.

Your committee has been hard at work, not only ensuring continuity of the wonderful tradition of high quality monthly literary luncheons and workshops, but also ways in which we can improve.

In the absence of a bookseller, the committee with assistance from a couple of willing members has managed book sales at the luncheons since September. Is this a role you could help us with? It doesn't have to be the same person every month and it could be your contribution to the Society. Every contribution is valuable.

To start the year off, at the February literary luncheon we are delighted that Emerita Professor Di Yerbury, our Patron and donor of the Di Yerbury Residency, UK, is able to join us and announce the 2018 winner. Terri Green, last year's winner is also coming along to share with us some of her experiences while in Barnstaple, UK.

Thank you to Dr Susan Stegall and Felicity Pulman for acting as receiving officers for the competition.

Melissa Bruce in her Workshop, 'Do I dare?' will share the most vibrant way to tell a story. Then in her Keynote Speech she will celebrate the concept of embracing some of the obstacles that can arise during the birth of a literary work.

We are certainly off to a good start for 2018.

Cheers,

*Gwen*

## Dates for your Diary 2018

### 14 February:

Workshop – Melissa Bruce

Keynote – Melissa Bruce

Di Yerbury Residency Award –  
Emerita Professor Di Yerbury AO  
& Terri Green

### 14 March:

Workshop – Sulari Gentill

Keynote – Sulari Gentill

Guest Speaker - Louise Evans

### 11 April:

Workshop – Rae Lukie

Keynote – Rae Lukie

Guest Speaker – Libby Hathorn

## NEXT LITERARY LUNCHEON

Wednesday 14 February 2018

Gallery Room, State Library of NSW  
Macquarie Street, Sydney

## Program

10.00 – 11.45am Workshop:

**‘Do I Dare?’ – Finding the Most  
Vibrant Way to Tell a Story****Melissa Bruce***Workshop Coordinator: Pippa Kay*  
**0407725747**12.00 – 12.20pm: Arrival &  
Registration

12.20 – 12.45pm: Luncheon

12.50 pm: Di Yerbury Award –  
Speakers – Emerita Professor  
Di Yerbury AO and Terri Green

1.05-1.35pm: Keynote Speaker:

**Embracing Obstacles – Grit  
for the Pearl**  
**Melissa Bruce****Dorothea Mackellar Memorial**If you missed the unveiling of the [memorial to  
Dorothea Mackellar](#), please click on this link to  
watch the video.More details and photos on our [SWW Facebook  
page](#).

## 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.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](mailto: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****Anni Webster** is an Academic working in QLD and was a  
prize winner in SWW Non Fiction Competition in 2017.**Carolyn Beaumont** is a Journalist who is a ghost writer and  
editor for both fiction and non fiction.**Marilla North** is working on a biographical trilogy through  
the letters of 3 women written in the 1930s, 40s and 50s.**Lliane Clarke** has experience in publishing, editing and  
manuscript assessment.**Paulette Gittins** has won awards for novel, short story and  
poetry in state and national competitions.

## Workshop

### 'Do I Dare?' – Finding the Most Vibrant Way to Tell a Story

**Melissa Bruce**

From the very beginning, creating a work of literature involves a million little choices, decisions, solutions, revisions... All have maximum impact on the final result. How can we take exploratory steps in this maze to reach the treasure? This workshop offers techniques to help writers explore ways to seek the most vibrant expression of a particular idea. Participants are encouraged to bring a story idea: a new idea, a blocked idea or an idea in development requiring confirmation. *"...And time yet for a hundred indecisions, And for a hundred visions and revisions..."* 'The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock' by T. S. Eliot.



## Keynote Speaker

### Embracing Obstacles – Grit for the Pearl

**Melissa Bruce**

The process of creating a literary work can sometimes feel like being in a marathon maze with dragons appearing along the way towards an unguaranteed treasure. Sharing about the creation of her original novel, 'Picnic at Mount Disappointment', Melissa Bruce will celebrate the concept of embracing some creative, technical, external and internal 'obstacles' that can arise during the birth of a literary work and how they can provide 'grit for the pearl'.

**Melissa Bruce** holds an MA in Writing (UTS), a Diploma in Directing (NIDA) and a B.Ed. (Vic. College). She has worked as a teacher (UTS, Sydney University CCE, NSW Writers' Centre), theatre director (Sydney Theatre Co. & State Theatre S.A.), stage manager (Royal Shakespeare Co.) and performance coach ([www.melissabruce.com](http://www.melissabruce.com)). Melissa has produced original stage, radio and educational plays and published short stories and poetry. The Australian Society of Authors awarded her a mentorship to develop her unusually formatted debut novel, *Picnic at Mount Disappointment* which has won the 2017 Woollahra Digital Literary Award for Fiction. Melissa will discuss the creation of this original work in her keynote speech.

## Guest Speakers

### Di Yerbury Residency Award

Our Patron and generous sponsor

### Emerita Professor Di Yerbury AO

will announce the 2018 winner.

Last year's Award winner,

**Terri Green** will speak to us about her experience.

Lynette McDermott sends her apologies. Due to unavoidable circumstances, she will speak in the Guest Spot in July.

## ABBIE CLANCY AWARD

the winner of the

2017 Abbie Clancy Award is

**Katrina Foster**, a PhD student in Performance Studies at the University of Sydney, for her abstract

***Losing Mona Brand.***

Emeritus Professor Elizabeth Webby AM FAHA judged the Award.

Congratulations, Katrina!

"Given the range and very high quality of the entries" Judge Elizabeth Webby asked our President if it would be possible to give two Highly Commended certificates. "One to Melinda Cooper, a PhD student in English at the University of Sydney, for her abstract 'Scientific words and the words of the gutter: speaking sex in Eleanor Dark's *Slow Dawning*'. The other Highly Commended entry came from Morgan Burgess, a PhD student in English at UNSW Canberra, ... for her 'Morality. Education, and Politics: Leontine Cooper and the literature of the women's suffrage movement in Australia.'" Elizabeth Webby AM.

**More in our March *Women's Ink!***

## KOGARAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### Local History Awards 2018

Kogarah Historical Society has pleasure in announcing its inaugural Local History Prize.

Three prizes each of \$500 will be offered for essays on any aspect of the history of Kogarah and surrounding areas.

**Essays can be up to 3000 words.**

**Closing date for entries 8 March 2018**

For details and Conditions of Entry:

[www.kogarah.historicalsociety.com.au](http://www.kogarah.historicalsociety.com.au)



## SWW Christmas Luncheon



**Thank you to all the organisers  
of the SWW spectacular  
Christmas Luncheon.**

**Photos by Joy Williams.  
Christmas cake made and decorated by Valerie Pybus.  
Wendy Blaxland as our Keynote Speaker.  
The consensus was that it was festive and fabulous.**





## The Society of Women Writers NSW Committee and Team for 2018

### Committee:

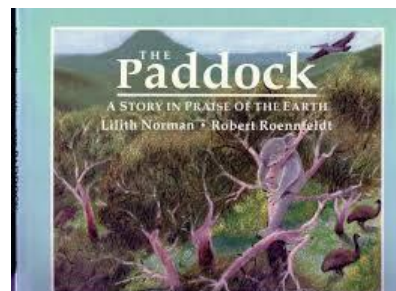
Gwen Bitti – **President**  
 Yvonne Jarman – **Vice-President**  
 Amanda Mark – **Treasurer Secretary**  
 Jan Conway – **Secretary**  
 Maria McDougall – **Membership Secretary**  
 Vivienne Foster, Libby Hathorn, Lindsay  
 Lewis, Mary Ann Napper.

### E-Newsletter team:

Dr Sharon Rundle – **Editor**  
 Lindsay Lewis – **Distributor**  
 Proofreader – **Jan Conway**



**Website Manager:** Lindsay Lewis  
**LinkedIN Group Manager:** Dr Maria Hill  
**Face Book Manager:** Susanne Gervay OAM  
**SWW Front Desk:** Lynda Calder  
**Workshop Convenor:** Pippa Kay  
**'Women's INK!' Book Review Editor:**  
 Judith O'Connor  
**Photographer:** Joy Williams  
**Patron** – Emerita Professor Di Yerbury AO



The Society of Women Writers, NSW was sorry  
to hear of the passing of

### Lilith Norman 1927-2017

Lilith was a great supporter of Australian  
literature and in particular children's literature  
in which field she was much awarded for her  
works including; *Climb a Lonely Hill*, *The Shape  
of Three*, *A Dream of Seas*, *Grandpa and The  
Paddock*.

**A full tribute by Libby Hathorn will be published  
in our March *Women's Ink!***

### Memo to Members

A reminder that we offer an opportunity 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](mailto:alcalder@optusnet.com.au)

### Notices

To contribute a member notice, please  
email your text in MSWord document  
and image as a jpeg  
to [sharon.p.rundle@gmail.com](mailto:sharon.p.rundle@gmail.com)

## Members' News

- Several copies of *Quest for Green Gables* by Valerie Pybus (Travel Book) have been acquired by The Robertson Library at the University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown Ca. They are now reposing happily in the L.M.Montgomery Institute Section <http://lmmontgomery.ca>
- An excerpt titled 'Watched' from a novel in progress by Carol Chandler has been published in literary magazine *FourW 28*.
- A new book *Lessons from the Depression* by Jo Fisher for primary school children, is also a tribute to Jo's mother. Jo is passing on lessons she learned that have had a life-long influence on her.
- Libby Sommer's poem 'Elsewhere' was published in December *Quadrant* magazine.