

# E-Newsletter

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## President's Message

**Dr Maria Hill**

June is our 'Children's Writing' month with guest speaker Nikki Gemmell and workshop presenter Susanne Gervay, conceived for those with a passion for children's writing. It is certainly a very popular genre in our society with many acclaimed as well as aspiring children's writers amongst our members. So come along and enjoy our June literary program and warm winter lunch. Just a reminder that our June luncheon meeting is also the closing date for two of our competitions: the Manuscript Encouragement Award, donated very generously by life member Rosalind Meyer and the Non-Fiction Competition for Essays and Articles. With only 3,000 words required for the latter, I am sure, with a little effort, those non-fiction writers among you could have a piece ready for submission. If you have not done so already, you could also hand in your manuscript for the Meyer Encouragement Award to our Secretary Viv Foster at the June meeting. This saves on postage, given that the manuscript is meant to be a minimum of 40,000 words. Please make sure however that you log onto our website and read the entry requirements carefully to ensure you meet the submission criteria. As most of you probably are aware the Society's income is entirely reliant on membership fees. As a non-profit organisation our aim is not to make money but to cover our costs so that we can continue to provide our members with an amazing program of workshops and speakers each year. I therefore encourage you to bring your membership renewal form along with cheque or cash to the June meeting and hand it to our membership secretary Sandra Davis. Look out for the next edition of *Women's Ink!* which will be arriving shortly, it is sure to dazzle you.

Best wishes Maria.

## Literary Festival: Dare to be an Author

*Society of Women Writers and NSW State Library*

### TICKETS ON SALE SOON

Rub shoulders with award winning novelists, theatre and film writers, publishers and editors. List of speakers includes Blanche d'Alpuget, Bettina Arndt, Debra Oswald, Noëlle Janaczewska, Jeanine Leane and Lee Lewis. **New writers especially welcome.** Tickets include gourmet lunch. The Society of Women Writers, founded almost 90 years ago, invites Australian women writers, both established and aspiring, and readers to a day of literary indulgence. Titled *Dare to be an Author* the program focuses on exploring what it means to be a woman writer in today's world.

**Metcalfe Auditorium, State Library NSW  
18 October 2014, 9.00am – 4.45pm**

Enquiries: <http://www.womenwritersnsw.org>

**SWW member pre-sale begins 1 July.  
Tickets available to the public from 8 July.  
DON'T MISS OUT!**

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.

**SWW GENERAL ENQUIRIES  
0490 363 778**

*For more information about our events.*

# 11 June Monthly Meeting

State Library of NSW  
Macquarie Street, Sydney

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

**Why Writing for Kids isn't for Kids**

**Presenter:** Susanne Gervay

Workshop Coordinator: **Bea Yell 9452 2299**

**Literary Lunch: 12.15 - 1pm**

**Member Talk: 1.00 – 1.20pm**

Beverley George

*Araki and the Dreamcatcher*

**Guest Speaker: 1.20 - 2pm**

Nikki Gemmell

*The Kensington Reptilarium*

**Cost:** \$50 for members or \$55 non-members. *Workshop only:* \$20 members or \$30.00 non-members. **Special workshop & luncheon price:** \$65 members and \$80 non-members.

Membership forms available on our website:

<http://www.womenwritersnsw.org>

**Bookings required before 10am, Monday 9 June**

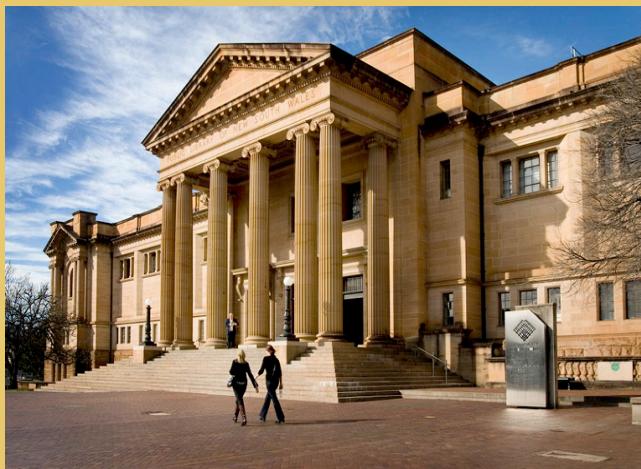
## PLEASE BOOK BY EMAIL IF YOU HAVE ACCESS TO A COMPUTER

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 number.



## Workshop Presenter



## Susanne Gervay

### Writing for Kids isn't for Kids

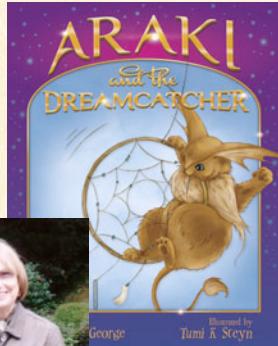
'Getting inside character, using feel-real dialogue, pace, drama, humour and more. Writing great kids' books from picture books to young adult is about the craft and integrity.'

– Susanne Gervay

Recognised for books on social justice from bullying to disability, Susanne's award winning youth literature is endorsed by Cancer Council, The Alannah & Madeline Foundation, Variety Children's Charity, The Blake Prize & many others.

Her *I Am Jack* series is a rite-of-passage children's series on school bullying and life, adapted into an acclaimed play by Monkey Baa Theatre. Her young adult *Butterflies* is acclaimed literature on disability. Susanne's exceptional picture books *Ships in the Field*, *Gracie and Josh* and *Elephants Have Wings* reach children and adults with humour and heart.

Susanne is a writer ambassador for Room to Read and head of the Society of Children's Writers & Illustrators Australia East & NZ. She was awarded an Order of Australia for children's literature. Read more at [www.sgervay.com](http://www.sgervay.com)

**Luncheon Speakers**
**Member Speaker**


## Beverley George

*Araki and the Dreamcatcher*

Beverley George writes short stories, free verse, and the Japanese poetic genres of haiku and tanka.

Her first book for children, *Sneeze Power*, was published in Australia by Blake Education and in the USA by Sundance. Beverley will speak about the story behind *Araki and the Dreamcatcher* and her special friendship with its talented illustrator who also illustrated *The Preposterous Frog*.

‘A magical mix of text and illustration that’s bound to capture the imagination of child listeners, and warm the hearts of their parents.’ - Felicity Pulman.

‘*Araki and the Dreamcatcher* is a lovely interlude.’ - Susanne Gervay.


**Guest Speaker**

## Nikki Gemmell

*The Kensington Reptilarium*

N.J. Gemmell is the bestselling author of five novels and two works of non-fiction for adults under her full name, Nikki Gemmell. Her work has received international critical acclaim and been translated into many languages.

Nikki is currently a columnist for the *Weekend Australian's Saturday magazine*, and a Friday regular on the *Today* program. Born in Wollongong, Nikki lived in London for many years but has now returned to Australia with her family.

The *Kensington Reptilarium* is her first book for children. It’s the story of how four loud, grubby urchins from the outback find themselves in a rather posh house in London for the first peacetime Christmas after years of war. With characters based on her own kids, she’s described it as the hardest book she’s ever written.

## 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 Louis – 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.

## ATTENTION MEMBERS OF THE SWW NSW Inc

**Membership fees** are due on **30 June 2014**.  
Renewal Forms for 2014/15 year will be included in the Winter Edition of *Women's Ink!* due to be posted early in June.

Full membership: \$50.00 pa  
Concessional membership: \$40.00 pa

Fees may be paid by:

- cash in person at the next luncheon you attend
- cheque or money order - made out to 'The Society of Women Writers NSW Inc' (exactly as written);
- Direct Deposit:  
BSB: 062 018  
Account N°: 00950433

Account Name: The Society of Women Writers NSW

In the space provided for the description please provide:

Your initial, surname and purpose of payment (abbreviated).

Membership Fees = Fees.

For example: M.Hill/Fees

A short email to the address below would also be appreciated, advising payment has been made.

Irrespective of the method of payment, please ensure the completed blue Renewal Form is handed to the Membership Secretary or sent to the address on the form so your details can be updated on the membership database and we can ensure that your contact information is correct. Our e-newsletter alert is sent to your email address.

Sandra Davis, Membership Secretary  
[sgdavis@ozemail.com.au](mailto:sgdavis@ozemail.com.au)



## Books, Books, Books

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

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)**

## Have you recently published a book?

Would you like the chance to present your writing to other SWW members and their guests?

If the answer is 'yes', why not seize the opportunity to be a **Member Speaker** at one of the Society's literary luncheons?

These Member Speaker spots are well publicised through SWW's monthly e-newsletters and the quarterly magazine *Women's Ink!* As a Member Speaker, you are allocated 10 minutes for your talk; another five minutes is allowed for questions from the audience; and there is the opportunity to sell copies of your book following your talk.

All Member Speaker spots in 2014 have already been allocated. Places in 2015 are beginning to fill.

For more information, or to have your name included as Member speaker at a monthly luncheon in the future, please contact:  
Sandra Davis, Member Speaker Coordinator  
[sgdavis@ozemail.com.au](mailto:sgdavis@ozemail.com.au) or 0417 280 444

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome to Rani Jhala

## Competitions

### Reminder

Entries closing soon for two big  
SWW competitions!

Deadline 11 June 2014

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### SWW Non-Fiction Competition for essays and articles

Non-Fiction essay or article, maximum 3,000 words.

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

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

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### Rosalind Sharbanee Meyer Encouragement Award

Fiction or non-fiction, any genre, minimum 40,000 words.

**Entry Fee:** \$35 per story for SWW members. (non-members welcome to enter after joining SWW)

**Prize Money:** \$1,000 generously donated by SWW Life Member Rosalind Meyer, in memory of her son.

For an entry forms and detailed submission information go to:  
[www.womenwritersnsw.org](http://www.womenwritersnsw.org)

### Sharing the Past

By Susan Steggall

*Winning essays and poems from the 2003 SWW National Creative Non-Fiction and Poetry Competitions were published as Sharing a Landscape: A Celebration of Difference (2004). SWW also held a seminar on the theme of sharing a landscape and celebrating difference. Several common threads – identity and its relationship to language and the need for writers to map and take care of the cultural realm – linked the presentations of the speakers: Anita Heiss, Gerard Windsor, Yasmine Gooneratne, Anna Maria Dell'oso, Andrew Riemer and Louisa Haikal.*

Poetry needs no introduction but creative non-fiction is a challenging hybrid genre of interest to writers and readers alike. The poems in the 2003 competition evoked themes of love and disability, the faraway country of childhood, the nearness of parents, the chagrin of lost opportunities and the need for understanding and compassion. One essay looked at sharing the ancient country of Central Australia. In another an Italian farmer took steps towards sharing language with his English-speaking neighbours. One writer described a family adventure in a gypsy caravan; a city-dweller described her impressions of a country town. Readers shared a writer's delight in learning to bodysurf. Another author took us on a First Fleet journey through the eyes of today's children.

Memories link us to place, to time and to nation: they enable us to place value on our individual and our social experiences, and they enable us to inhabit our own country (Kate Darian-Smith and Paula Hamilton, *Memory and history in 20<sup>th</sup>-century Australia*, 1994).

Tapping into that wellspring of memories to transform the experience of inhabiting 'our own country' into language is, of course, the business of writers and poets. Walter Benjamin argued that modernity has destroyed the art of story-telling in western culture: that the rapidity and scale of social and technological change devalued direct experience. Yet change is fundamental to the human condition and writers and poets will always seek new ways of expression.

The SWW Non-Fiction Competition – **submission deadline, 11 June 2014** – is the perfect opportunity for women writers to enrich Australia's literary heritage in writing about their ideas and experiences.

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

State Library Friends enjoy a close involvement with the life of our world class Library – literary, history and cultural talks and events; exhibitions, special behind the scenes tours and collection viewings; learn about your family history, and preserving your own heritage – all this and a range of benefits and discounts at the Library.

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.

