

**The Retrospect: Australian Women's Writing
A Symposium**

**State Library of NSW
Dixson Room**

Thursday 3 November 2016

1:00pm – 1:15pm INTRODUCTION AND FORMALITIES

Welcome to Symposium (Anne Jamison)

Acknowledgement of Country

Welcome from State Library of NSW (Rachel Franks)

[TEA/COFFEE ON ARRIVAL]

1:15pm – 2:30pm SESSION ONE

A/Prof. Tanya Dalziell (University of Western Australia)

"Coo-ee!: Responding today to the call of late nineteenth-century women's writing."

Prof. Susan K. Martin (La Trobe University)

"Looking for Miss Finkelstein: modernity, anti-modernity, advertising, authorships and readerships in nineteenth-century Australia."

*** 2:30pm – 3:00pm BREAK [TEA/COFFEE] ***

3:00pm – 4:15pm SESSION TWO

Dr. Anne Jamison (Western Sydney University)

"'the enjoyment of a good story': women's literature for children in nineteenth-century Australia."

Emily Maguire (Stella Prize Schools Program)

"'She isn't really an artist, and it isn't really art': sexism and the denigration of young people's literature."

*** 4:15pm – 4:45pm BREAK [AFTERNOON TEA] ***

4:45pm – 6:00pm SESSION THREE

Prof. Elizabeth Webby (University of Sydney)

“Nineteenth-century Australian women poets: still largely unknown?”

Dr. Lucy Sussex (La Trobe University)

“The lady vanishes: women and crime writing in nineteenth-century Australia.”

*** 6:00pm – 6:30pm BREAK [TEA/COFFEE] ***

6:30pm – 7:15pm *Sydney Review of Books* WRITERS ROUNDTABLE

Chair/Intro: Anne Jamison/Catriona Menzies-Pike (Editor, *SRB*)

Panelists: Fiona Wright, Jessica White, Maggie MacKellar

7:15pm – 7:30pm CLOSING REMARKS (Anne Jamison)

Speaker Biographies

Tanya Dalziell works in English and Cultural Studies at the University of Western Australia. She is the author of *Settler Romances and the Australian Girl* (2004), and has chapters on nineteenth century Australian literature in publications including *The Cambridge History of Australian Literature* (2009); *The Oxford History of the Novel in English* (vol. 9 (2016)) and *The Oxford Research Encyclopaedia* (online – forthcoming (2016)).

Susan K. Martin is Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) for the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Commerce at La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia, and Professor in English. She publishes on Australian and British literature and culture, and has taught Australian and Victorian literature for many years. Her current projects are around popular reading culture and the teaching of Australiana literature. Her books include *Reading the Garden: the settlement of Australia* with Katie Holmes & Kylie Mirmohamadi, (MUP, 2008), *Women and Empire (Australia)* ed. (Routledge, 2009; eEdition 2016 forthcoming), *Sensational Melbourne* with Kylie Mirmohamadi (Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2011) and *Colonial Dickens* (ASP, 2012)

Anne Jamison is Lecturer in Literary Studies at Western Sydney University. Her research focuses on nineteenth-century Irish and, more recently, Australian women's literature. She is author of *E. OE. Somerville and Martin Ross. Female Authorship and Literary Collaboration* (Cork University Press, 2016) and has published broadly on Irish writing, including articles on Alicia Lefanu, Kate O'Brien, and James Clarence Mangan. She is also Nancy Keessing Fellow at the State Library of NSW for 2016. She is currently working on the library's collection of nineteenth-century Australian children's literature.

Emily McGuire is the author of five novels and two non-fiction books, a teacher and mentor to emerging writers, and an ambassador for the Stella Prize Schools Program. She has twice been named as a *Sydney Morning Herald* Young Novelist of the Year. Her latest book is the novel, *An Isolated Incident*. Emily's website is www.emilymaguire.com.au.

Elizabeth Webby AM FAHA is Professor Emerita of Australian Literature at the University of Sydney. Her publications include *Early Australian Poetry* (1982), *Colonial Voices* (1989), *Modern Australian Plays* (1990), *The Cambridge Companion to Australian Literature* (2000) and, as joint editor, *Happy Endings* (1987), *Goodbye to Romance* (1989), *The Penguin Book of Australian Ballads* (1993), *Australian Feminism: A Companion* (1998). She has also published numerous book chapters, articles and reviews and been a contributing editor of *The Penguin New Literary History of Australia* (1988), *A Feminist Companion to Literature in English* (1990) and *The Macquarie PEN Anthology of Australian Literature* (2009).

Lucy Sussex is both a creative writer and a scholar of nineteenth-century literature. She has written in the genres of crime, horror, children's and speculative fiction, and published internationally. Her critical work ranges from bibliographies to the history of crime fiction, women's writing, the Gothic and Australiana. She has also edited four anthologies, as well as editions of Mary Fortune and Ellen Davitt.

Fiona Wright is a writer, editor and critic from Sydney. Her book of essays *Small Acts of Disappearance* won the 2016 Kibble Award, and was shortlisted for the Stella Prize and the NSW Premier's Douglas Stewart Award for non-fiction. She has recently completed a PhD at Western Sydney University's Writing & Society Research Centre, on the suburban poetry of Dorothy Porter and Gwen Harwood.

Jessica White is the author of *A Curious Intimacy* and *Entitlement*. Her essays, short stories and poems have appeared widely in Australian literary journals and she has won funding, residencies and numerous awards. She is currently a DECRA postdoctoral fellow at The University of Queensland, where she is writing an ecobiography of nineteenth-century botanist Georgiana Molloy. Jessica's website is www.jessicawhite.com.au.

Maggie MacKellar lives on the east coast of Tasmania. She is the author of two books on the history of settlement in Australia and Canada, *Core of my Heart, My Country* and *Strangers in a Foreign Land*, and two memoirs, *When it Rains* and *How to Get There*. Her essays have been published in *Island, Meanjin* and *The Good Weekend, Best Australian Essays* and her first novel will be published by Random House in 2017.