



The Australian Brontë Association meets in Sydney five times a year. Meetings are held at the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel (near Town Hall Station) from 10:30am to 12:00 noon, though we serve morning tea from 10:00am. Those who wish to do so, have a light lunch at the hotel. At each meeting, a paper on some aspect of the Brontës' life and work is presented. There is a meeting charge of \$5 (members and non-members).

2017 Meeting Program

THE INFERNAL WORLD OF BRANWELL BRONTË

26 June 1817 – 24 September 1848

- 4 February** **AGM; *Jane Again* – Jennifer Livett**
“Reader, she did not marry him, or rather, when at last she did, it was not so straightforward as she implies in her memoirs.” The opening line of Jennifer’s debut novel, *Wild Island*, is intriguing and has us asking what happens next? Jennifer takes us on a journey to a young Van Dieman’s Land, interweaving beloved fictional characters with well-known historical ones.
- 1 April** ***The Life & Art of Branwell Brontë* – Prof Christine Alexander**
Branwell was a promising writer and artist with a rich imagination. Although he was the first of the Brontë siblings to appear in print, he would never gain money or success and was destined to live in the shadow of his three sisters. Mrs Gaskell described his best-known painting, now hanging in the National Portrait Gallery, as a “rough, common-looking” thing. Christine will discuss the life and art of this extraordinary man.
- 3 June** ***Wuthering Heights* – A/Prof Debra Adelaide**
Debra, author of *The Women’s Pages*, will look closely at the function of the reader in the novel, and discuss some of its iterations (eg Sylvia Plath’s poem, Kate Bush’s song).
- 26 June** **Branwell Brontë Bicentenary Dinner**
6:30 for 7.00pm The Adams Room, Castlereagh Boutique Hotel
- 5 August** ***Branwell Brontë & Friends* – introduced by Dr Christopher Cooper**
Branwell’s friends were both famous and infamous, ranging from prominent literary and fine arts men to mill owners, boaties and those who worked on the railways and, of course, Mrs Robinson.
- Sat 7 October** ***Humour in the Brontë Novels* – Christopher Cooper**
(We expect the previously advertised talk on Gypsies in Europe to be given in 2018.)
We don’t normally think of the Brontë novels as being humorous, and indeed they are generally much darker than, say the novels of Jane Austen. Yet all three Brontë sisters demonstrated that they can be very funny when they want to be. We will investigate the nature of humour, before focussing on the few very funny episodes in the Brontë novels.
- 2 December** **ABA/Dickens Christmas Lunch**
12:00 – 3:00pm The Grand Dining Room (Cello’s), Castlereagh Boutique Hotel