

Australian Brontë Association

Program for 2019

We meet in Sydney five times a year. Meetings are held at the **Castlereagh Boutique Hotel** (near Town Hall Station) at **10:30am**, 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).

Saturday 9th March Walter Mason

“Fairy-born and human-bred” – the Brontës and Nineteenth century Fairy Lore

The nineteenth century saw a revival of interest in traditional mythology around fairies and all kinds of mythical little-people. Walter Mason will talk about the times that fairies and nature spirits pop up in the writings of the Brontës and how these mentions might relate to the broader social history of the fairy folk. From Oscar Wilde's father through W. B. Yeats and the Celtic revival and on to Conan Doyle, sprites, pixies, brownies and elves have proven remarkably resilient presences in the world of literature.

Saturday 11th May Christopher Cooper

The Churchmen of Haworth

On 2nd June 1819, Patrick Brontë was appointed perpetual curate of Haworth by the Vicar of Bradford. On 21st October of that same year, he resigned because of a bitter dispute between the Vicar of Bradford and the trustees of the Haworth church. As we all know he eventually took up the incumbency of Haworth where he served for many years. We will discuss the dramatic events surrounding his appointment, as well as the style his ministry. We will also discuss some of the other incumbents and curates of Haworth as well as the churchmen in the Brontë novels.

Saturday 13th July Michelle Cavanagh

Literary Fathers and Fathers in the Brontë Novels

What sort of father was Patrick Brontë? Mrs Gaskell did not paint him in a very favourable light. He certainly seems to have been a strange mixture of being very supportive to his children as well as being remote from them. To what extent did their experience of their own father colour the Brontës' descriptions of the fathers in their novels?

Saturday 14th September Annette & Graham Harman and Mandy Swann

Shores, Moors and Indoors

Location, location, location. The Bells (Acton, Curren and Ellis) were writers who continue to surprise us with their individual presentations of areas they knew well.

Saturday 9th November Patrick Morris

Trauma in the Brontë Novels

The talk involves an analysis from a modern psychiatric perspective and comparison of the description of family violence and its effects in the three novels, *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë, *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë and *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* by Anne Brontë.

Christmas Lunch with the NSW Dickens Society

Date and Venue to be announced.