

Program for 2021

The Australian Brontë Association meets in Sydney five times a year. Meetings are held at the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel, 169 Castlereagh Street (near Park Street) at 10:30am, though we serve morning tea from 10:00am. Those who wish to do so, have a light lunch at the hotel after the meeting. 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 \$10 (non-members).

Saturday 13th March 2021 Tasarla Harman

Some contemporary perspectives on the Brontë sisters

How do the three Brontë sisters compare to the three Kardishian sisters? What were the effects on 19th century lives of tuberculosis when compared to Covid-19 in the 21st century? How did the public and private sphere affect the lives of the Brontë sisters? Tasarla will also question the influence of the Brontës in the pop culture of today. She will be exploring the Brontës as never before, producing a session which will certainly provide much food for thought!

Saturday 8th May 2021 Christine Alexander

Exploring Juvenilia: the Brontës and other early writers

This talk will look at features of early writing in an attempt to provide insight into what led particular children to become authors and why we might find it worthwhile to read their juvenilia.

Saturday 10th July 2021 Christine Jack

The Trauma Testimonies of Charlotte Brontë, Jane Eyre and Adèle Varens

Charlotte Brontë experienced significant trauma across her life and incorporated many aspects of it into *Jane Eyre*. Her understanding of the experience of trauma including that arising from abuse as well as the journey of recovery is remarkable given that it was well before the development of any relevant theory. The project being discussed in this talk involves application of contemporary trauma theory to aspects of the lives of Charlotte's and her fictional characters, Jane Eyre and Adèle Varens. After a brief coverage of the methodology being used in the project and some key theoretical understandings, examples related to each of the characters will be presented. They illustrate her insights as well as a blind spot that exemplifies intergenerational trauma.

DUE TO THE COVID LOCKDOWN RESTRICTIONS OUR SEPTEMBER TALK BY ALISON HODDINOTT HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL OUR MAY 2022 MEETING

Saturday 11th September 2021 Catherine Barker

The Brontës and Food.

Eating is one of the pleasures of life. But how different is our diet in the 21st century to that of the Brontë family. And what constituted good food in 19th century Yorkshire? In this talk we explore the Brontës' relationship to food in their own lives and those of some of their characters.

Saturday 13th November 2021 Christopher Cooper

A Man's Mind: Emily Brontë

Monsieur Heger is reported as having described Emily as having a 'man's mind'. By this he meant that she had a logical mind. As a mathematician I would say that she had a "mathematician's mind". She had little more than the rudiments of mathematics in her education, but I recognise that in *Wuthering Heights* she displayed an innate

appreciation of some of the fundamental ideas of higher mathematics such as complexity, nested structures and symmetry. In her novel she has planted a logic puzzle in terms of reconstructing its chronology. She displays complex symmetry in its genealogical aspects. She goes into great detail concerning the architecture and hardware of the two houses and includes examples of at least fifteen different uses for windows. And she deliberately omits the scenes that neither house could witness. Could it be that the novel is a story in which the two houses are the main characters?

Saturday 4th December Christmas Lunch
Cellos Restaurant, Castlereagh Boutique Hotel