



**English Extension 2 Seminar  
Sydney, Tuesday 31 October 2017 9:00am to 3:15pm**

**Presented by the State Library of NSW and the  
NSW Education Standards Authority**

A combination of lectures and small group workshops will provide students with the opportunity to test their ideas and ask questions of experienced teachers, markers and librarians.

## Introduction

**Dr John Vallance**

**NSW State Librarian & Chief Executive**

Dr John Vallance first suggested the idea of **word eXpress** as a collaboration between the State Library of NSW and the NSW Education Standards Authority. He is a classical scholar who taught at Cambridge and was Headmaster of Sydney Grammar School. Dr Vallance joins us for this seminar day in his capacity as the recently appointed NSW State Librarian and Chief Executive.

## Speakers

**Catriona Arcamone**

**Head Teacher English, Fort Street High School**

Catriona Arcamone is Head Teacher English at Fort Street High School. She has regularly taught Extension 2 English almost since its inception, and has been an Extension 2 marker for a number of years. Currently she is a Senior Marker for Extension 1 English. Several of her students have been included in Young Writers Showcase – six over the last three years. Catriona presented at the word eXpress Seminar Day in 2015 and 2016, and at the Extension 2 Students and Teachers seminar held by the English Teachers Association in 2016 and 2017.

**Dr Felicity Plunkett**

**Poet, critic and editor and former Chief Examiner-English Extension 1 and 2**

Felicity Plunkett is a poet, critic and editor. She has a PhD in Literature from the University of Sydney and has taught at a number of universities, gaining an Excellence in Teaching Award from the University of New England. From 2004 - 2009 she was Chief Examiner of English Extension 1 and 2. Her poetry collection, *Vanishing Point*, won the Arts Queensland Thomas Shapcott Award and was short-listed for several other awards. She is also the author of a chapbook *Seastrands* (Vagabond Press, 2011). Her new collection is forthcoming with Pitt St Poetry. Felicity is Poetry Editor with UQP and edited the collection *Thirty Australian Poets* (UQP, 2011).

## Sessions

### **Creative Essentials – Dr Felicity Plunkett**

This session will focus on an array of inspiring ideas and resources to support you as you create your Major Work. Offering an assemblage of possibilities, this session will include generating and exploring ideas, overcoming obstacles, building and maintaining creative energy. It will draw on research on creativity and advice drawn from the experiences of a range of professional writers and composers.

### **Pitfalls and the Pendulum – Catriona Arcamone**

This session focuses on the course requirements, including the interconnected roles of Major Work, Reflection Statement and Journal. It equips you with the latest NESA updates, and covers time management against the ticking clock! It will also touch on the experience of students and their teachers as they navigate their way to the finished product.

### **Rich Resources from the State Library of NSW**

Rigorous research is a requirement of the course and the State Library of NSW has extraordinary online resources to inspire, inform and enrich your research. This session will reveal the vast repository of the resources available to you in the comfort of your own home.

### **Why does this Work? Marking Guidelines, Strategies and Inspiration – Dr Felicity Plunkett**

In this session students will have the opportunity to view award-winning student works and unpack the critical elements that contributed to its success.

### **Secrets to Success from those in the know**

A facilitated discussion with four students featured in *word eXpress Young Writers Showcase 16*.

### **Speed Date an Expert**

View the work of 2016 students and ask the experts all your burning questions. In small groups students will have the opportunity to speak to 2016 award winning students, experienced teachers, markers and librarians.

### **Exploring Your Ideas**

In this interactive session students will have the opportunity to talk with fellow students, test their ideas and establish a starting point for their major work.

### **Reflecting, Reshaping, Refining – Dr Felicity Plunkett**

Ongoing reflection aides the development of creative work and this session will equip students with strategies and techniques to work towards a thoughtfully crafted Reflection Statement and productive creative reflection. If, as Steve Kowit puts it, ‘the secret of writing is rewriting’, using creative reflection to power your redrafting will help you refine and further your work.