



**English Extension 2 Seminar  
Sydney, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019 9:00am to 3:00pm**

**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**

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 in 2012. His experience as a classical scholar teaching at Cambridge, Headmaster of Sydney Grammar and current NSW State Librarian continues to fuel his passion to see students nurture their own literary voice.

## Speakers

**Catriona Arcamone**

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

Catriona Arcamone is Relieving Deputy Principal 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 – seven over the last six years. Catriona has presented at the word eXpress Seminar Day since 2015, and regularly presents at the Extension 2 Students and Teachers seminar held by the English Teachers Association.

**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 *A Kinder Sea* is published by 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 and cover new forms available for students to work in, and how to use your journal.

### **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.

### **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**

A facilitated discussion with high achieving ex-students including some featured in *word eXpress Young Writers Showcase 18*.

### **Workshop A: 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.

### **Workshop B: “Thorough and extensive independent investigation”**

Find the scholarly resources that you need to satisfy the requirement for “thorough and extensive independent investigation”! In this session you will explore the best resources, available for free with your State Library card, and learn effective search strategies to discover the most relevant academic journal articles and books. We will also examine a past high-performing student’s bibliography to identify how s/he researched these resources to maximise their results.

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

Ongoing reflection aids 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.