The Australian Brontë Association meets 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).

2016 Program

Celebrating Charlotte
21 April 1816 – 31 March 1855

Book of the Year: Jane Eyre

6 February  AGM; Friends of Charlotte Brontë
An introduction to some of those who knew and loved Charlotte Brontë and the contribution they made to the enduring legacy of their friend’s life and works.

2 April  Dr Andrew Shields – Shirley & The Luddite Movement
Andrew will explore the social, political and cultural history of Victorian Britain and examine how Charlotte Brontë used contemporary events as a background for her novel.

22 April  Bicentenary Dinner & Book Launch – Celebrating Charlotte
The Grand Dining Room (Cello’s), Castlereagh Boutique Hotel

14 May  Celebrating Charlotte – Bicentenary Conference
Metcalfe Auditorium, State Library of NSW

4 June  Dr Christopher Cooper – Was Charlotte a ‘Closet Catholic’?
Charlotte Brontë grew up in a staunchly Protestant household. She made veiled, and often explicit, criticism of Catholicism in her letters and her novels. Yet, reading between the lines, one can detect the fact she was secretly fascinated by the forms and rituals of the Catholic Church. Intellectually she was repelled by Catholicism, but emotionally she seemed to be drawn to it. Her ambivalence began during the time she spent in the very Catholic environment of the school she attended in Brussels and her love-hate relationship with her very Catholic teacher, Monsieur Heger.

6 August  Jenny McLennan - The Cinematic Afterlives of Jane Eyre
The era of movies and TV productions, which lend themselves to rich colour, impressive scenery and great acting which brings the characters to life, has brought out a large number of versions of this classic novel. Jenny will look back at the many and varied film and television adaptations over the years.

1 October  Christine Gietz – Jane Matters
Will the real Jane Eyre please stand up? A close study of all the matters pertaining to Jane including her five incarnations and her Gothic and Victorian origins and an exploration of Jane the woman and Jane the character.

3 December  ABA/Dickens Christmas Lunch
The Grand Dining Room (Cello’s), Castlereagh Boutique Hotel