

26 April–2 May

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FESTIVAL

A FESTIVAL  
FOR READERS,  
WRITERS AND  
THINKERS.

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# A Message from the Artistic Director



This is a festival underpinned by a sense of hope. Counterintuitive, maybe. After all, any reader – of journalism, of current affairs, of anything about the state of the planet – might struggle with the idea of hope right now. Let's face it, hope has felt pretty far off over the past year. We've been so far apart – both physically and culturally. But isolated in our bubbles, hope mattered more than ever.

And we reached for it through our art form of choice: words. Beautiful, glorious, stupid and serious words. There is no more powerful machine for killing distance than a book. Literature brings us closer to worlds, ideas and voices beyond our own. We walk city streets and have access to conversations that are far outside our daily experience.

This Festival is about celebrating the voices that extended our world when it felt small. It's about the books that defeated the distance. It's also a celebration of coming back together as a community. Rejoining one another in the same room for a shared passion: to hear and tell and challenge stories. And that's what a festival is. It's there in the name. A celebration. A party, even.

Our theme this year, **Within Reach**, highlights the astonishing writers who are shaping Australian literature right now. It recognises those authors who show us an Australia that is not monolithic or static but varied, curious and challenging. We have gathered the many diverse and exciting writers who are right here, within our reach – asking questions, raising their voices and defining this culture.

We are no longer subject to the tyranny of distance. The conversation starts here.

Three of the country's finest writers – two Miles Franklin winners and one of the year's best debut authors – come together for an Opening Night like no other. **Melissa Lucashenko**, **Tara June Winch** (appearing via video) and **Evelyn Araluen** reflect on what writing has brought within their reach, the writers who preceded them and the new ground they hope to break. At the other end of the Festival, our Closing Night Address will be delivered by the incomparable **David Malouf**, whose career-long fascination with the relationships and spaces between things will provide us with parting clarity on the ideas and possibilities within our reach. And in the days between these two indelible literary events, an unprecedented array of emerging, established and legendary local voices will be heard at our Carriageworks home and beyond.

The Friday and Saturday nights of the Festival at Sydney Town Hall are a cavalcade of ideas, reveries and carefully designed mayhem. An all-star line-up shares stories of distance and intimacy inspired by the theme, featuring **Geraldine Brooks** (via video), **Tony Birch**, **Trent Dalton**, **Ceridwen Dovey**, **Richard Flanagan**, **Adam Goodes**, **Alison Lester**, **Sisonke Msimang**, **Michael O'Loughlin**, **Christos Tsiolkas**, **Maria Tumarkin** and **Ellen van Neerven**. Some of our favourite political commentators and thinkers go head-to-head in the SWF Great Debate under the watchful eye of host **Jennifer Byrne**. Team captains **Elaine Crombie** and **David Marr** marshal their troops – **Don Watson**, **Benjamin Law**, **Annabel Crabb** and **Nakkiah Lui** – to pick apart the question: how good is Australia? Guitar-wielding poet **Paul Kelly** brings his singular blend of performance and storytelling to reflect on the words and lyrics that have shaped his career, with some very special surprise guests. And for the Festival's first ever poetry

gala, over a dozen of this country's finest actors bring their formidable performative skills to a night of poetry recitation designed to console and delight.

This year's program has been enriched by two Guest Curators who have each brought their powerful creative vision to the Festival. **Nayuka Gorrie** and **Michael Robotham** have designed sessions on bearing witness, confronting hard truths and reaching into the heart of things.

Festival favourite **Barrie Cassidy** is back with his trademark incisive interview style across four big events that take on everything from China and Canberra to Biden's US and Scott Ludlam's new memoir.

We've lovingly paired unlikely duos and serendipitous combinations to give fans plenty of their favourites while introducing you to new writers: **Sarah Krasnostein & Helen Garner**, **Jan Fran & Judith Lucy**, **Richard Flanagan & Laura Tingle**, **Stan Grant & Thomas Keneally**, **Bruce Pascoe & Vicky Shukuroglou**, **James Bradley & Kim Stanley Robinson**, **Andrew Denton & Michael Robotham**, **Richard Fidler & Ramona Koval**, **Anita Heiss & Meg Keneally**. We've even got **Margaret & David!**

Through technology, we've brought within reach some voices that we're confident will add to and complement the questions and ideas happening here on our shores. **Peter Carey** joins the Festival remotely to offer his singular perspective as one of our finest writers. In an unmissable double bill at City Recital Hall, winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature **Kazuo Ishiguro** and literary sensation **Rachel Cusk** are each interviewed from afar about their remarkable careers in letters. Pulitzer Prize winner **Isabel Wilkerson**, author of the bestselling *Caste*, goes beyond race and class to consider the hierarchies and structural powers that define our world. And legendary writer for children and young adults, **Judy Blume** will be beamed in for her legion of Australian fans to reflect on a lifetime of shaping our reading lives.

Our much-loved All-Day YA and Family Day are back for a riotous celebration of storytelling and creativity. On Family Day, **Kirli Saunders** and **Dub Leffler** teach kids how to care for Country, while **Tristan Bancks** (great-great-nephew of Ginger Meggs creator Jimmy Bancks) shares four new stories about the iconic red-haired rascal. Children's storytelling treasure **Alison Lester** will enchant children and spark nostalgia in parents, while the Big Backyard awaits our youngest visitors with craft and activities galore. **Nat Amore** ends the day with a trivia challenge that will put even the biggest bookworms to the test.

All-Day YA reunites Australia's best YA authors with their biggest fans, sharing stories of resilient teens navigating love, loss and even the afterlife. **Gary Lonesborough** speaks about his heart-rending queer Indigenous love story *The Boy from the Mish*. And new stars such as **Frances Chapman** and beloved favourites including **Garth Nix** take part in events moderated by the Festival's Youth Curators.

For all its inbuilt optimism, our theme is not without healthy scepticism, and we've refused to relegate conversations to the too-hard basket. Solutions to the problems we're currently facing – the climate emergency, the global refugee crisis, racism, the failures of public discourse, the death of political accountability – sometimes feel out of reach, so we've gathered thinkers, writers and experts we trust to show us the way.

Amidst the serious talk and the quiet contemplation, once again, we're here for celebration. In a Festival first, we're holding a Debutante Ball for the COVID Class of 2020 on Closing Night. We've gathered those writers of fiction and memoir whose first books were swallowed up by COVID last year for the spin around the dance floor they so duly deserve. We invite you to join us in welcoming these debutantes into literary society in style.

Within the pages of this program, you'll uncover a wealth of conversations both urgent and contemplative. Names that have filled your bookshelves for a lifetime, and voices and talents you're discovering for the first time. Characters and stories that made the pandemic that little bit more bearable.

Literature brings ideas and flights of fancy within reach of our everyday life. Brilliant minds bring solutions and possibilities within reach of being realised. A festival brings us within reach of one another again. And honestly, we can't wait.

**Michael Williams**  
Artistic Director

## Contents

Festival Precinct & City	4-14
Guest Curators	5
After Dark	7
Your Favourites' Favourites	9
All-Day YA	10
Coffee & Headlines	11
Festival Precinct & City Event Liftout	12-13
The Curiosity Lecture Series	15
Family Day	16
Workshops	17
In Your Neighbourhood	19
Participants	20
Precinct & Booking Information	22-23

**WEBSITE** Our website is your essential guide to the 2021 Festival. It has up-to-the-minute information on the program, our authors and events, and important details about the Festival Precinct, venues, facilities and accessibility.

[swf.org.au](http://swf.org.au)

**SOCIAL CHANNELS** Join the conversation using **#SydneyWritersFestival** and follow us at **@SydWritersFest**

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**PODCASTS** Listen to our podcast via our website and on all major podcast platforms. We have highlights from past Festivals, and selected 2021 Festival events will be released over the year.

**All details were correct at the time of publication.**

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## NSW PREMIER'S LITERARY AWARDS

# 2021

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# Festival Highlight

**1 OPENING NIGHT ADDRESS**  
**Tuesday April 27, 6.30–7.30pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 17**  
In what promises to be an extraordinary Opening Night of the Festival, three of Australia's most admired and influential writers from across three generations – Melissa Lucashenko, Tara June Winch (appearing via video) and Evelyn Araluen – reflect on the indomitable writers that came before them and the future they hope their words will embolden. Together, they invite us to consider what worlds the right words can bring within reach. Supported by the City of Sydney.  
**\$40/\$30**   
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 28**  
**2 AUSTRALIAN BOOK INDUSTRY AWARDS 2021**  
**April 28, 6.30–8pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 17**  
Celebrate the joy of books at the Australian Book Industry Awards (ABIA), showcasing the talent and creativity of Australian publishing and the people who bring our homegrown books to life.  
**\$55**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**THURSDAY APRIL 29**  
**3 GRIFFITH REVIEW 72: STATES OF MIND**  
**April 29, 10–11am**  
**Carriageworks, Elston Room**  
Join contributors to *Griffith Review 72: States of Mind* – Lech Blaine, Kathryn Heyman and Masako Fukui – and explore how different times and places in history can influence the characters we create. With moderator Ashley Hay.  
**Free, bookings essential**  
**02 9256 4200 swf.org.au**

**4 BARRIE CASSIDY & FRIENDS: THE CHINA QUESTION**  
**April 29, 10–11am**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 17**  
Barrie Cassidy talks with former Australian ambassador to China, Geoff Raby, about Australian foreign policy, before a wider discussion with a panel of experts about how we can work better with China.  
**\$35/\$25**   
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**5 PRESS FREEDOM**  
**April 29, 10–11am**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 22**  
The safety, independence and freedom of journalists around the world is a paramount principle of democracy. Journalists Peter Greste and Annika Smethurst share their experiences of having those freedoms constrained, with host Sally Warhaft.  
**\$25/\$15**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**6 UNCOMFORTABLY CLOSE**  
**April 29, 10–11am**  
**Carriageworks, Track 12**  
In this personally selected panel from Guest Curator Michael Robotham, host Tim Ayliffe asks Candice Fox, Sulari Gentill and Chris Hammer why we love crime writers who take us to gruesome places.  
**\$15**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**7 YOUR FAVOURITES' FAVOURITES: MICHELLE DE KRETZER & ANDREW PIPPOS**  
**April 29, 10–11am**  
**Carriageworks, Track 8**  
Award-winning author Michelle de Kretzer (*The Life to Come*) speaks with Andrew Pippas about his debut novel *Lucky's* – an unforgettable family epic. Supported by the Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund.  
**\$20/\$15**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**8 JAMES BRADLEY & KIM STANLEY ROBINSON**  
**April 29, 10.30–11.30am**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 20**  
One of the world's greatest living writers of science fiction, Kim Stanley Robinson (*The Ministry for the Future*), joins us live via video to talk with James Bradley (*Ghost Species*).  
**\$25/\$20**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**CUR9 ROB BROOKS: ON AI AND INTIMACY**  
**April 29, 11.15–11.45am**  
**Carriageworks, Blacksmith's Workshop**  
As the COVID-19 pandemic hastens a new era of remote communication, machines are being programmed to mimic human intimacy and friendship. Evolutionary biologist Rob Brooks (*Artificial Intimacy*) argues that this sophisticated artificial intimacy is nothing to fear.  
**Free, bookings essential**  
**02 9256 4200 swf.org.au**

**10 ANWEN CRAWFORD & ALISON CROGGON**  
**April 29, 12–1pm**  
**Carriageworks, Elston Room**  
Join Australian writers and critics Anwen Crawford (*No Document*) and Alison Croggon (*Monsters*) as they discuss their searingly honest and genre-bending memoirs with Michaela Kalowski.  
**Free, bookings essential**  
**02 9256 4200 swf.org.au**

**11 THE TRUE HISTORY OF PETER CAREY**  
**April 29, 12–1pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 17**  
Join Peter Carey, two-time recipient of the Booker Prize, as he discusses his illustrious career spanning 14 novels. Peter appears live via video with on-stage interviewer Sarah Krasnostein.  
**\$35/\$25**   
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**12 THE OTHER C-WORD**  
**April 29, 12–1pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 22**  
Journalists Paddy Manning (*Body Count*), Craig Reucassel (*Fight for Planet A*) and Marian Wilkinson (*The Carbon Club*) focus the conversation on the defining crisis of our time: climate change. With Rebecca Huntley.  
**\$25/\$15**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**13 A LIE AGREED UPON**  
**April 29, 12–1pm**  
**Carriageworks, Track 12**  
Celebrated historical fiction authors discuss the responsibilities of truth-telling when writing about the past. Featuring Sienna Brown, Mirandi Riwoe and Steven Carroll, with Clare Wright.  
Supported by ARA.  
**\$15**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**14 SUSAN JOHNSON & HEATHER ROSE**  
**April 29, 12–1pm**  
**Carriageworks, Track 8**  
Beloved novelists Heather Rose (*Bruny*) and Susan Johnson (*From Where I Fell*) come together to discuss their new novels, which explore ideas of family, love and loyalty through two very different lenses, with Caroline Baum.  
**\$20/\$15**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**15 RICK MORTON & DON WATSON**  
**April 29, 12.30–1.30pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 20**  
Rick Morton (*My Year Of Living Vulnerably*) and Don Watson (*Watsonia*) discuss the writing life and the many words – in speeches, essays, books and criticism – that tell us who we are and how we might live.  
**\$25/\$20**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**CUR16 BERNARD COLLAERY: ON RESCUING**  
**April 29, 1.15–1.45pm**  
**Carriageworks, Blacksmith's Workshop**  
Join lawyer and author Bernard Collaery (*Oil Under Troubled Water*) as he explores whether it's everyone for themselves in Australia or if mateship is enshrined in law.  
**Free, bookings essential**  
**02 9256 4200 swf.org.au**

**17 REBECCA STARFORD & CLAIRE THOMAS**  
**April 29, 2–3pm**  
**Carriageworks, Elston Room**  
Hear from the authors of two of this year's best novels, Rebecca Starford (*The Imitator*) and Claire Thomas (*The Performance*), as they discuss their gripping books with Declan Fry.  
**Free, bookings essential**  
**02 9256 4200 swf.org.au**

**18 UPTURN**  
**April 29, 2–3pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 17**  
Tanya Plibersek, editor of the new anthology *Upturn*, speaks with contributors Linda Burney, Annabel Crabb, Tim Soutphommasane and Wayne Swan about their visions for a better Australia in the wake of COVID-19.  
**\$35/\$25**   
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**19 JOURNALISM: A VOICE FOR THE VULNERABLE**  
**April 29, 2–3pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 22**  
Quality journalism gives a voice to society's most vulnerable. Hear about the impact of great reporting from Walkley Award-winning journalists Lorena Allam, Jessica Halloran, Jacqueline Maley and Kate McClymont, in discussion with Alan Sunderland. Presented in partnership with the Walkley Foundation for Journalism.  
**\$25/\$15**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**20 A BIT OF SHUSH**  
**April 29, 2–3pm**  
**Carriageworks, Track 12**  
After a year in which many of us spent more time alone, a panel of writers discuss the pleasures and pitfalls of solitude and its relationship with creativity. Featuring Christine Jackman (*Turning Down The Noise*), Donna Ward (*She I Dare Not Name*) and Stephanie Dowrick (*Intimacy and Solitude*), with Anton Enus.  
**\$15**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**21 VERONICA HERITAGE-GORRIE & KATHRYN HEYMAN**  
**April 29, 2–3pm**  
**Carriageworks, Track 8**  
Australian authors Veronica Heritage-Gorrie (*Black and Blue*) and Kathryn Heyman (*Fury*) share insights into their powerful memoirs of adversity and resilience with Bri Lee.  
**\$20/\$15**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**22 THOMAS KENEALLY & STAN GRANT**  
**April 29, 2.30–3.30pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 20**  
Thomas Keneally reflects on his esteemed career in conversation with Stan Grant, who penned the latest instalment of the Writers on Writers series on the Australian literary great.  
Supported by ARA.  
**\$25/\$20**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**CUR23 KRISSY KNEEN: ON HOW MUSHROOMS CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE**  
**April 29, 3.15–3.45pm**  
**Carriageworks, Blacksmith's Workshop**  
Acclaimed author Krissy Kneen (*The Three Burials of Lotty Kneen*) reflects on her deep dive into the world of mushrooms, making the case for why mycologists are the cheeriest scientists and how mycelium might save humankind.  
**Free, bookings essential**  
**02 9256 4200 swf.org.au**

**24 IN CONVERSATION: 2021 STELLA PRIZE WINNER**  
**April 29, 4–5pm**  
**Carriageworks, Elston Room**  
Be among the first to hear from the winner of the 2021 Stella Prize in this intimate live conversation. Presented in partnership with the Stella Prize.  
**Free, bookings essential**  
**02 9256 4200 swf.org.au**





# Festival Highlight

**32 KAZUO ISHIGURO: KLARA AND THE SUN**  
Thursday April 29, 6-7pm  
City Recital Hall  
A master of modern fiction and recipient of the 2017 Nobel Prize in Literature, Kazuo Ishiguro appears live via video to speak about his new novel *Klara and the Sun* and his broader body of work with on-stage interviewer Melanie Kembrey. Supported by ARA.  
**\$40/\$35/\$30 ~~£9~~**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**25 I DON'T HOLD A HOSE MATE: LEADERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY**  
April 29, 4-5pm  
Carriageworks, Bay 17  
As the world faces extraordinary crises, Shalailah Medhora is joined by David Marr, Kate McClymont, Louise Milligan and Nick Feik to ask: who's in charge? And where does the buck stop?  
**\$35/\$25 ~~cc~~**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**26 DISPLACED**  
April 29, 4-5pm  
Carriageworks, Bay 22  
Zoe Holman (*Where the Water Ends*), Adama Kamara and Zaki Haidari talk with *The Guardian's* Ben Doherty about the ongoing refugee crisis, here and abroad, and why we must not allow the conversation to disappear from view.  
**\$20/\$15**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**27 YOUR FAVOURITES' FAVOURITES: HEATHER ROSE & K.M. KRUMINK**  
April 29, 4-5pm  
Carriageworks, Track 12  
Two Tasmanian writers, Stella Prize winner Heather Rose (*Bruny*) and K.M. Krumink, discuss K.M.'s debut novel *A Treacherous Country* about loyalty, wisdom and the freedom to act, which won *The Australian's* Vogel's Literary Award.  
**\$20/\$15**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**28 GUWAYU - FOR ALL TIMES**  
April 29, 4-5pm  
Carriageworks, Track 8  
*Guwayu - For All Times* is a stunning anthology of First Nations poems and languages. Contributors Ellen van Neerven, Nardi Simpson, Kirli Saunders and Joel Davison discuss their pieces with ABC Radio National's Daniel Browning. Presented in partnership with Red Room Poetry.  
**\$20/\$15**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**29 SYDNEY PEN: DAN OAKES AND 'THE AFGHAN FILES'**  
April 29, 4.30-5.30pm  
Carriageworks, Bay 20  
In the latest instalment of Sydney PEN's Free Voices series, Dan Oakes speaks with *The Saturday Paper's* Maddison Connaughton about the ongoing threats to press freedom. This event is a fundraiser for Sydney PEN.  
**\$25/\$20**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**CUR30 RAMONA KOVAL: ON FRIENDSHIPS WITH DEAD WRITERS**  
April 29, 5.15-5.45pm  
Carriageworks, Blacksmith's Workshop  
Beloved broadcaster and author Ramona Koval (*A Letter to Layla*) reflects on her imaginary friendships with dead authors, exploring the disillusionment and delight of getting to know the writers behind our favourite books.  
**Free, bookings essential**  
**02 9256 4200 swf.org.au**

**31 THE ART OF THE INTERVIEW**  
April 29, 6-7pm  
Carriageworks, Bay 17  
Australian television royalty Andrew Denton speaks with Guest Curator Michael Robotham on the art of the interview and how the right interviewer can bring a subject to life.  
**\$35/\$25 ~~cc~~**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**32 KAZUO ISHIGURO: KLARA AND THE SUN**  
April 29, 6-7pm  
City Recital Hall  
SEE FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHT ON THIS PAGE

**33 ABC RADIO NATIONAL LIVE: STOP EVERYTHING!**  
April 29, 6.30-7.30pm  
Carriageworks, Bay 20  
Join us for a recording of *Stop Everything!* from ABC Radio National. Hosts Beverley Wang (appearing live via video) and Benjamin Law talk to Festival guests Carly Findlay (*Growing Up Disabled in Australia*) and Sam van Zweden (*Eating With My Mouth Open*) about their pop culture passions.  
**Free, bookings essential**  
**02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**34 WHO'S AFRAID OF BIG TECH?**  
April 29, 8-9pm  
Carriageworks, Bay 17  
A panel of leading technology experts debate vital questions about ethics, impact and ownership in the online world. Featuring tech reporter Angharad Yeo, cyber policy analyst Ariel Bogle, Reset Australia Executive Director Chris Cooper, and technology editor for *The Australian Financial Review* Paul Smith.  
**\$35/\$25 ~~cc~~**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**35 RACHEL CUSK: SECOND PLACE**  
April 29, 8.30-9.30pm  
City Recital Hall  
Award-winning author Rachel Cusk appears live via video from the UK to discuss her extraordinary career in writing and *Second Place*, her new fable of human destiny and decline, with on-stage interviewer Annabel Crabb. Thanks to Sam Meers AO.  
**\$40/\$35/\$30 ~~£9~~**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**36 THE FULL CATASTROPHE**  
April 29, 8.30-9.30pm  
Carriageworks, Bay 20  
Join Ashe Davenport, Rick Morton, Scott Ludlam and Yumiko Kadota for a live show about life going hilariously wrong, with hosts Rebecca Huntley and ABC Radio Sydney's Sarah Macdonald.  
**\$25/\$20**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**FRIDAY APRIL 30**  
**37 COFFEE & HEADLINES WITH 7AM: RICK MORTON & ARIEL BOGLE**  
April 30, 8.30-9.15am  
Carriageworks, Elston Room  
Osman Faruqi, Editor of Schwartz Media's *7am* podcast, discusses today's news with journalist and author Rick Morton and cyber policy analyst Ariel Bogle. Presented with *7am*.  
**Free, bookings essential**  
**02 9256 4200 swf.org.au**

**38 THE NATURE WRITING PRIZE**  
April 30, 10-11am  
Carriageworks, Elston Room  
Join us for the announcement of this year's Nature Writing Prize. The winner will be revealed by Alison Rowe from The Nature Conservancy and will appear in conversation with *Griffith Review* Editor Ashley Hay.  
**Free, bookings essential**  
**02 9256 4200 swf.org.au**

**39 BARRIE CASSIDY & FRIENDS: BIDEN'S AMERICA**  
April 30, 10-11am  
Carriageworks, Bay 17  
Evan Osnos, author of *Joe Biden*, appears live via video to discuss the Biden presidency with Barrie Cassidy. A panel of experts then join the conversation to talk about an America under pressure.  
**\$35/\$25 ~~cc~~**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**40 SIMPLE PLEASURES**  
April 30, 10-11am  
Carriageworks, Bay 22  
ABC's *The Drum* host Julia Baird; author, comedian and broadcaster Sami Shah; and Krissy Kneen (*The Three Burials of Lotty Kneen*) talk with ABC Radio Sydney's Sarah Macdonald about finding joy in life's simple pleasures. Thanks to Rosie Williams and John Grill AO.  
**\$25/\$15**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**41 CERIDWEN DOVEY & EMILY MAGUIRE**  
April 30, 10-11am  
Carriageworks, Track 8  
Hear from Ceridwen Dovey (*Life After Truth*) and Emily Maguire (*Love Objects*) as they discuss their riveting new novels with Bridie Jabour.  
**\$20/\$15**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**42 BILL HAYES: HOW WE LIVE NOW**  
April 30, 10.30-11.30am  
Carriageworks, Bay 20  
Legendary New York writer and photographer Bill Hayes appears live via video to share photographs and anecdotes from *How We Live Now*, his ode to Manhattan during the pandemic, with Anton Enus. Thanks to Rowena Danziger AM and Ken Coles AM.  
**\$25/\$20**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

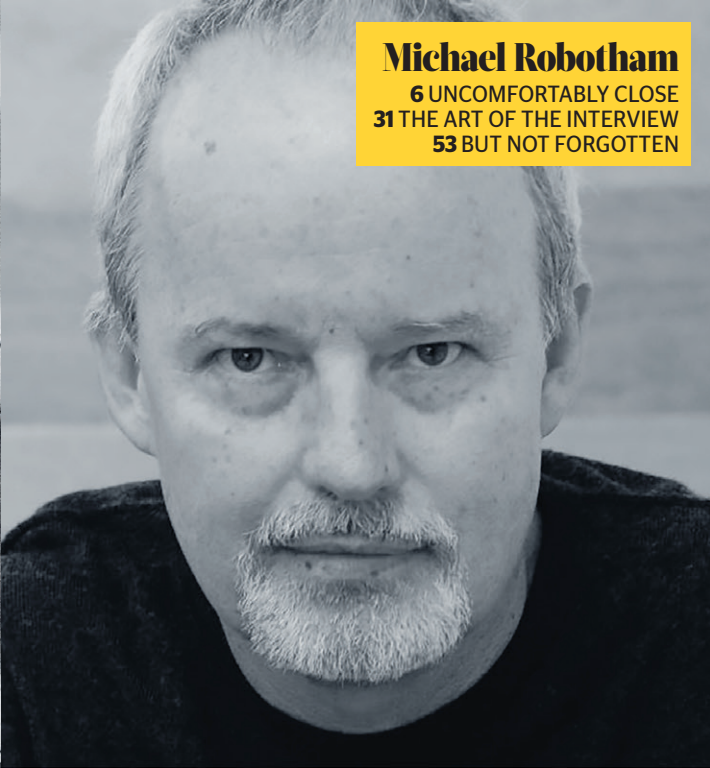
**43 ABC RADIO LIVE: CONVERSATIONS**  
April 30, 11am-12pm  
Carriageworks, Track 12  
Richard Fidler, presenter of ABC Radio's *Conversations*, hosts a live broadcast with Sarah Dingle (*Brave New Humans*), who as an adult learned that her identity was not what she thought it was.  
**Free, bookings essential**  
**02 9256 4200 swf.org.au**

**CUR44 GEORGE MEGALOGENIS: ON AN UNLIKELY AUSTRALIAN ALLIANCE**  
April 30, 11.15-11.45am  
Carriageworks, Blacksmith's Workshop  
Journalist, political commentator and author George Megalogenis shares his theory on why Sydney and Melbourne should form a rebel alliance and take back the country from the 'frontier states' of Queensland and Western Australia.  
**Free, bookings essential**  
**02 9256 4200 swf.org.au**

**45 DANIELLE CELERMAJER & JONICA NEWBY**  
April 30, 12-1pm  
Carriageworks, Elston Room  
Danielle Celermajor (*Summertime*) and Jonica Newby (*Beyond Climate Grief*) explore the relationships between the personal and the global, beauty and loss, and climate despair and hope in their new books. In conversation with Suzanne Leal.  
**Free, bookings essential**  
**02 9256 4200 swf.org.au**



**Nayuka Gorrie**  
**59 BEARING WITNESS**  
**83 WHOSE COUNTRY IS IT ANYWAY?**  
**111 RADICAL BLACK FUTURES**



**Michael Robotham**  
**6 UNCOMFORTABLY CLOSE**  
**31 THE ART OF THE INTERVIEW**  
**53 BUT NOT FORGOTTEN**

# Guest Curators

**Nayuka Gorrie** and **Michael Robotham** bring their incisive eyes to the program this year with sessions that invite us into the world of writers: their perspectives, their challenges, their truths.

Kurnai/Gunai, Gunditjmara, Wiradjuri and Yorta Yorta writer Nayuka Gorrie celebrates those writers who see, understand and bring to life Country, and invites us to bear witness and trust in hard conversations.

Michael Robotham (*When She Was Good*) examines the art of grasping at edges – of crimes, of fears, of our lives – and asks how we can reach the truth.





# Festival Highlight

**72 WITHIN REACH GALA**  
**Friday April 30, 8.30-10pm**  
**Sydney Town Hall**  
An all-star line-up of guests come together to speak on this year's Festival theme, Within Reach. Featuring Tony Birch, Geraldine Brooks (via video), Trent Dalton, Ceridwen Dovey, Richard Flanagan, Adam Goodes, Alison Lester, Sisonke Msimang, Michael O'Loughlin, Christos Tsiolkas, Maria Tumarkin and Ellen van Neerven.  
Supported by the City of Sydney.  
Thanks to David Paradise.  
**\$50/\$45 /\$40**   
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**46 ARE YOU THERE, SYDNEY? IT'S ME, JUDY BLUME**  
**April 30, 12-1pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 17**  
Judy Blume, the prolific author of irreverent and celebrated books for young and old readers alike, appears live via video to discuss her storied career with on-stage interviewer Sophie Black.  
**\$35/\$25**   
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**47 THE WAR IN NEWSROOMS**  
**April 30, 12-1pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 22**  
What and who is journalism for? Osman Faruqi, Alan Sunderland and Ariel Bogle thrash out its responsibilities, failings and limitations, with host Erik Jensen.  
Supported by the Judith Neilson Institute for Journalism and Ideas.  
**\$25/\$15**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**48 ABC RADIO NATIONAL LIVE: THE BOOKSHELF**  
**April 30, 12-1pm**  
**Carriageworks, Track 12**  
Festival guests Anita Heiss (*Bila Yarrudhanggalangdhuray*), Emily Maguire (*Love Objects*) and Rick Morton (*My Year Of Living Vulnerably*) join hosts Kate Evans and Cassie McCullagh from ABC Radio National's *The Bookshelf* to discuss the books they're enjoying and being challenged by.  
**Free, bookings essential**  
**02 9256 4200 swf.org.au**

**49 YOUR FAVOURITES' FAVOURITES: NAM LE & REBECCA GIGGS**  
**April 30, 12-1pm**  
**Carriageworks, Track 8**  
Award-winning author Nam Le (*The Boat*) speaks with Rebecca Giggs about her narrative non-fiction debut *Fathoms* – a powerful, surprising and compelling view of some of the most urgent issues of our time.  
Supported by the Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund.  
**\$20/\$15**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**50 NIKKI GEMMELL & SOFIE LAGUNA**  
**April 30, 12.30-1.30pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 20**  
Celebrated Australian writers Nikki Gemmell (*The Ripping Tree*) and Sofie Laguna (*Infinite Splendours*) share the stories behind their heart-rending and lyrically drawn new novels, in conversation with Nicole Abadee.  
**\$25/\$20**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**CUR51 SAM VAN ZWEDEN: ON WORKING WITH THE DOG YOU'VE GOT**  
**April 30, 1.15-1.45pm**  
**Carriageworks, Blacksmith's Workshop**  
Sam van Zweden, author of *Eating With My Mouth Open*, delves into the transformative mental health lessons she garnered from her dog and asks what else we can learn from our pets.  
**Free, bookings essential**  
**02 9256 4200 swf.org.au**

**52 ICONIC DUOS: THE NEXT CHAPTER WRITERS AND MENTORS**  
**April 30, 2-3pm**  
**Carriageworks, Elston Room**  
Recipients of The Next Chapter writers' scheme and their mentors – Dan Hogan and Rebecca Giggs; Oliver Reeson and Maria Tumarkin; and Jonathon Slottje and Bruce Pascoe – discuss support for emerging writers with Sophie Black.  
Presented with the Wheeler Centre.  
**Free, bookings essential**  
**02 9256 4200 swf.org.au**

**53 BUT NOT FORGOTTEN**  
**April 30, 2-3pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 17**  
Four Festival guests reflect on the powerful work of four writers taken from us in the past year. Featuring Michelle de Kretser on Sydney literary great Elizabeth Harrower; Kerry O'Brien on legendary political reporter Mungo MacCallum; Guest Curator Michael Robotham on spy master John le Carré; and Sally Warhaft on pioneering travel writer Jan Morris.  
**\$35/\$25**   
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**54 HAVE A GO, GET A GO**  
**April 30, 2-3pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 22**  
Three of our finest economic and political commentators – George Megalogenis, Rick Morton and Kishor Napier-Raman – scrutinise the myth of the 'fair go' in Australian government policy, with Emma Alberici.  
**\$25/\$15**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**55 FUTURE CITIES**  
**April 30, 2-3pm**  
**Carriageworks, Track 12**  
Jess Scully (*Glimpses of Utopia*), Fiona Murphy (*The Shape of Sound*) and Alison Page (*Building on Country*) talk with Manisha Amin about how we might design our way to a better, more inclusive and more sustainable way to live.  
**\$15**   
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**56 RICHARD FIDLER & RAMONA KOVAL**  
**April 30, 2-3pm**  
**Carriageworks, Track 8**  
Beloved broadcasters and celebrated writers Richard Fidler (*The Golden Maze*) and Ramona Koval (*A Letter to Layla*) discuss their latest works of non-fiction with Caroline Baum.  
**\$20/\$15**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**57 THE BEIJING BUREAU**  
**April 30, 2.30-3.30pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 20**  
Contributors to *The Beijing Bureau* – Sue-Lin Wong (appearing live via video), Hamish McDonald and Jane Hutcheon – discuss working as foreign correspondents in China, in conversation with the anthology's editors Melissa Roberts and Trevor Watson.  
**\$25/\$20**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**CUR58 KYLIE MASLEN: ON SPORT AS SHAKESPEARE**  
**April 30, 3.15-3.45pm**  
**Carriageworks, Blacksmith's Workshop**  
*Show Me Where it Hurts* author Kylie Maslen explores the age-old divide between art lovers and sports fans, and highlights the triumphs, tragedies and terrors that captivate both groups.  
**Free, bookings essential**  
**02 9256 4200 swf.org.au**

**59 BEARING WITNESS**  
**April 30, 4-5pm**  
**Carriageworks, Elston Room**  
Guest Curator Nayuka Gorrie speaks with Chelsea Watego, Amy McQuire and Veronica Heritage-Gorrie about the pressures, pain and responsibility carried by Indigenous women to see and make sense of this country.  
**Free, bookings essential**  
**02 9256 4200 swf.org.au**

**60 THE LARRIKIN LIE**  
**April 30, 4-5pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 17**  
We like to think we're a devil-may-care, larrikin-loving country, but David Marr and Rebecca Huntley separate truth from myth as they explore our compliant, obedient, authority-loving ways, with Laura Tingle.  
**\$35/\$25**   
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**61 SCIENCE CLASS**  
**April 30, 4-5pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 22**  
Science communicators Raina MacIntyre, Alice Motion and Karl Kruszelnicki join host ABC's Olivia Willis to consider the changing environment for science journalism and communication in a pandemic-struck world.  
**\$25/\$15**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**62 MALCOLM KNOX & MICHAEL ROBOTHAM**  
**April 30, 4-5pm**  
**Carriageworks, Track 12**  
Prize-winning Australian writers Malcolm Knox (*Bluebird*) and Michael Robotham (*When She Was Good*) discuss the riveting new novels that extend their reputations as masters of their crafts, in conversation with Ashley Hay.  
**\$15**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**63 WRITING THE UNSPEAKABLE**  
**April 30, 4-5pm**  
**Carriageworks, Track 8**  
Lech Blaine (*Car Crash*), Ashe Davenport (*Sad Mum Lady*) and Fiona O'Loughlin (*Truths from an Unreliable Witness*) discuss writing memoirs on difficult topics and finding beauty, humour and redemption. With Michaela Kalowski.  
**\$20/\$15**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

Discover bold First Nations voices from UQP.




# After Dark

The Festival lights up after dark with a line-up of gripping, thought-provoking and titillating sessions.

## SYDNEY TOWN HALL


### 68 PAUL KELLY: WORDS AND MUSIC April 30, 6-7pm Sydney Town Hall

Paul Kelly has spent a career putting words to – and making poetry of – our lives. In a night of performance and storytelling with special guests, he reflects on the influence of the words of others on his work.  
**\$50/\$45/\$40 **  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**


### 72 WITHIN REACH GALA April 30, 8.30-10pm Sydney Town Hall

An all-star line-up of guests come together to speak on this year's Festival theme, Within Reach. Featuring Tony Birch, Geraldine Brooks (via video), Trent Dalton, Ceridwen Dovey, Richard Flanagan, Adam Goodes, Alison Lester, Sisonke Msimang, Michael O'Loughlin, Christos Tsiolkas, Maria Tumarkin and Ellen van Neerven. Supported by the City of Sydney. Thanks to David Paradice.  
**\$50/\$45 /\$40 **  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

### 95 SWF GREAT DEBATE: HOW GOOD IS AUSTRALIA? May 1, 6-7pm Sydney Town Hall

Some of the country's finest thinkers enter the arena to debate: how good *is* Australia? Featuring Elaine Crombie, Don Watson and Benjamin Law in the affirmative corner, and David Marr, Annabel Crabb and Nakkiah Lui in the negative, under the unsparing eye of MC Jennifer Byrne. Supported by the City of Sydney.  
**\$50/\$45/\$40 **  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**


### 99 THE SPACE BETWEEN WORDS May 1, 8.30-10pm Sydney Town Hall

Some of the nation's most accomplished actors bring their skills to bear reading poems that examine the Festival theme, Within Reach, in a gala event at Sydney Town Hall. Supported by the JIBB Foundation.  
**\$50/\$45/\$40 **  
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# Festival Highlight

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## CITY RECITAL HALL

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A master of modern fiction and recipient of the 2017 Nobel Prize in Literature, Kazuo Ishiguro appears live via video to speak about his new novel *Klara and the Sun* and his broader body of work with on-stage interviewer Melanie Kembrey. Supported by ARA.  
**\$40/\$35/\$30 **  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

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**April 29, 8.30-9.30pm  
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Award-winning author Rachel Cusk appears live via video from the UK to discuss her extraordinary career in writing and *Second Place*, her new fable of human destiny and decline, with on-stage interviewer Annabel Crabb. Thanks to Sam Meers AO.  
**\$40/\$35/\$30 **  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

## CARRIAGEWORKS

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Australian television royalty Andrew Denton speaks with Guest Curator Michael Robotham on the art of the interview and how the right interviewer can bring a subject to life.  
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Join Ashe Davenport, Rick Morton, Scott Ludlam and Yumiko Kadota for a live show about life going hilariously wrong, with hosts Rebecca Huntley and ABC Radio Sydney's Sarah Macdonald.  
**\$25/\$20  
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

### 66 BLOWING THE WHISTLE: GOVERNMENT, THE LAW AND SECRECY

**April 30, 6-7pm  
Carriageworks, Bay 17**  
Lawyer Bernard Collaery and barrister Julian Burnside discuss the fraught relationship between our government, the legal system and whistleblowers, in conversation with host Eleanor Hall.  
**\$35/\$25 **  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**


### 67 THE FEMINISTS ARE COMING

**April 30, 6-7pm  
Carriageworks, Bay 22**  
Virginia Trioli (*Generation F*) and Laurie Penny (*Bitch Doctrine*) tease out the shifts and faultlines of being a feminist in public life, with host Sisonke Msimang.  
**\$25/\$15  
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

### 69 WHY WE LOVE A TV VILLAIN

**April 30, 6.30-7.30pm  
Carriageworks, Bay 20**  
A panel of leading Australian TV writers and critics discuss their favourite TV villains and what makes them so compelling. Featuring Benjamin Law, Mithila Gupta and Kodie Bedford in conversation with Chris Taylor.  
**\$25/\$20  
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

### 70 SWAN ON SWAN April 30, 8-9pm Carriageworks, Bay 17

Renowned physician, journalist, broadcaster and ABC's *Coronacast* host Norman Swan (appearing in person) and his son, Jonathan Swan – *Axios* reporter and Trump interviewer (appearing live via video) – discuss their careers and whether there's a Swan family secret to great reporting, with ABC's Geraldine Doogue.  
**\$35/\$25 **  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

### 71 STORY CLUB

**April 30, 8.30-9.30pm  
Carriageworks, Bay 20**  
Hear Fiona O'Loughlin and Kate McClymont share their funniest stories, darkest moments and most shameful secrets in a live storytelling show, hosted by Ben Jenkins and Zoe Norton Lodge.  
**\$25/\$20  
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

### 94 STAN GRANT & KERRY O'BRIEN

**May 1, 6-7pm  
Carriageworks, Bay 17**  
Legendary reporters Stan Grant and Kerry O'Brien discuss all things politics, journalism and Stan's new book, *With the Falling of the Dusk*, as they consider the state of the world.  
**\$35/\$25 **  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

### 96 EROTIC FAN FICTION

**May 1, 6.30-7.30pm  
Carriageworks, Bay 20**  
A Sydney Writers' Festival crowd favourite, Erotic Fan Fiction returns for one seedy night only, with brand-new filth written by some of our most exciting guests. Eddie Sharp hosts the Festival's least family friendly tradition.  
**\$25/\$20  
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**


### 97 QUEERSTORIES

**May 1, 8-9pm  
Carriageworks, Bay 17**  
Maeve Marsden welcomes guests Gary Lonesborough, Oliver Reeson, Alistair Baldwin, Rebecca Starford and Krissy Kneen for an evening of surprising, heartwarming and wildly funny LGBTQI+ storytelling.  
**\$35/\$25 **  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

### 98 COMFORT IN NUMBERS

**May 1, 8.30-9.30pm  
Carriageworks, Bay 20**  
Australia's rockstars of data, ABC's Casey Briggs and Antony Green, appear in conversation with Ange Lavoipierre to discuss how numbers and graphs can offer comfort and clarity in a tumultuous world.  
**\$25/\$20  
Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

### 123 CLOSING NIGHT ADDRESS:

**DAVID MALOUF  
May 2, 6-7pm  
Carriageworks, Bay 17**  
David Malouf is a legend of Australian letters. In this Closing Night Address, he reflects on the world within our reach – and the ideas worth striving for. Thanks to Kathy and Greg Shand.  
**\$40/\$30 **  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**



**64 KATE HOLDEN & LOUISE MILLIGAN**  
**April 30, 4.30–5.30pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 20**  
Renowned authors Kate Holden (*The Winter Road*) and Louise Milligan (*Witness*) speak about the writer’s responsibility to delve into tragedy with sensitivity and compassion.  
**\$25/\$20**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**CUR65 VICKY SHUKUROGLOU: ON WHIMSICAL AUSTRALIA**  
**April 30, 5.15–5.45pm**  
**Carriageworks, Blacksmith’s Workshop**  
*Loving Country* co-author and photographer Vicky Shukuroglou delivers a humorous and eyebrow-raising talk about Australia’s whimsical wonders, from insects that fly backwards and biofluorescent marsupials to rocks that inspire love and deceit.  
**Free, bookings essential**  
**02 9256 4200 swf.org.au**

**66 BLOWING THE WHISTLE: GOVERNMENT, THE LAW AND SECRECY**  
**April 30, 6-7pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 17**  
Lawyer Bernard Collaery and barrister Julian Burnside discuss the fraught relationship between our government, the legal system and whistleblowers, in conversation with host Eleanor Hall.  
**\$35/\$25 cc**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**67 THE FEMINISTS ARE COMING**  
**April 30, 6-7pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 22**  
Virginia Trioli (*Generation F*) and Laurie Penny (*Bitch Doctrine*) tease out the shifts and faultlines of being a feminist in public life, with host Sisonke Msimang.  
**\$25/\$15**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**68 PAUL KELLY: WORDS AND MUSIC**  
**April 30, 6-7pm**  
**Sydney Town Hall**  
Paul Kelly has spent a career putting words to – and making poetry of – our lives. In a night of performance and storytelling with special guests, he reflects on the influence of the words of others on his work.  
**\$50/\$45/\$40 £g**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**



# Festival Highlight

**84 SARAH KRASNOSTEIN & HELEN GARNER**  
**Saturday May 1, 2-3pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 17**  
In a very special conversation, Sarah Krasnostein discusses her new book, *The Believer*, a deftly drawn enquiry into the power of belief, with Helen Garner.  
Thanks to Rosie Black.  
**\$35/\$25 cc £g**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**69 WHY WE LOVE A TV VILLAIN**  
**April 30, 6.30–7.30pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 20**  
A panel of leading Australian TV writers and critics discuss their favourite TV villains and what makes them so compelling. Featuring Benjamin Law, Mithila Gupta and Kodie Bedford in conversation with Chris Taylor.  
**\$25/\$20**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**70 SWAN ON SWAN**  
**April 30, 8-9pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 17**  
Renowned physician, journalist, broadcaster and ABC’s *Coronacast* host Norman Swan (appearing in person) and his son, Jonathan Swan – *Axios* reporter and Trump interviewer (appearing live via video) – discuss their careers and whether there’s a Swan family secret to great reporting, with ABC’s Geraldine Doogue.  
**\$35/\$25 cc**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**71 STORY CLUB**  
**April 30, 8.30–9.30pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 20**  
Hear Fiona O’Loughlin and Kate McClymont share their funniest stories, darkest moments and most shameful secrets in a live storytelling show, hosted by Ben Jenkins and Zoe Norton Lodge.  
**\$25/\$20**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**72 WITHIN REACH GALA**  
**April 30, 8.30–10pm**  
**Sydney Town Hall**  
An all-star line-up of guests come together to speak on this year’s Festival theme, Within Reach. Featuring Tony Birch, Geraldine Brooks (via video), Trent Dalton, Ceridwen Dovey, Richard Flanagan, Adam Goodes, Alison Lester, Sisonke Msimang, Michael O’Loughlin, Christos Tsiolkas, Maria Tumarkin and Ellen van Neerven.  
Supported by the City of Sydney.  
Thanks to David Paradise.  
**\$50/\$45 /\$40 £g**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

## SATURDAY MAY 1

**73 COFFEE & HEADLINES WITH THE SATURDAY PAPER: MIKE SECCOMBE & KAREN MIDDLETON**  
**May 1, 8.30–9.15am**  
**Carriageworks, Elston Room**  
Join Editor of *The Saturday Paper* Maddison Connaughton to discuss the latest news with National Affairs Correspondent Mike Secombe and Chief Political Correspondent Karen Middleton. Presented with *The Saturday Paper*.  
**Free, bookings essential**  
**02 9256 4200 swf.org.au**

**74 BARRIE CASSIDY & FRIENDS: OPPOSITION AND DISSENT**  
**May 1, 10-11am**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 17**  
Former senator Scott Ludlam discusses his new book *Full Circle* with Barrie Cassidy, exploring new approaches to political and environmental change. Barrie and Scott are then joined by a panel of experts to discuss dissent, opposition and protest.  
**\$35/\$25 cc**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**75 BEYOND THE PALE**  
**May 1, 10-11am**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 22**  
The racial justice movement gained momentum around the world in 2020, but what happened in Australia? Amy McQuire, Avani Dias and host Sami Shah look at entrenched racism, structural power and unchallenged whiteness in Australian media and culture.  
**\$25/\$15**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**76 THE ART OF ARMCHAIR TRAVEL**  
**May 1, 10-11am**  
**Carriageworks, Track 12**  
Festival favourites celebrate the power of reading to transport us to other times and places. Featuring Richard Fidler, Maxine Beneba Clarke and Heather Rose.  
**Free, bookings essential**  
**02 9256 4200 swf.org.au**

**77 YOUR FAVOURITES’ FAVOURITES: TONY BIRCH & EVELYN ARALUEN**  
**May 1, 10-11am**  
**Carriageworks, Track 8**  
Bestselling author Tony Birch (*The White Girl*) speaks with Evelyn Araluen about her fierce debut *Dropbear* – a collection of poetry and prose from one of Australia’s most exciting young writers. Supported by Australian Poetry.  
**\$20/\$15**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

## FRIDAY APRIL 30–SATURDAY MAY 1



# Festival Highlight

**79 ISABEL WILKERSON: CASTE - THE LIES THAT DIVIDE US**  
**Saturday May 1, 12-1pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 17**  
Isabel Wilkerson, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author of *Caste*, appears live via video to discuss her internationally bestselling study of the powerful and unspoken social hierarchy that shapes our lives. Challenge your assumptions and take an eye-opening look beneath the surface of ordinary life.  
Supported by ARA.  
**\$35/\$25 cc**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**78 ANITA HEISS & MEG KENEALLY**  
**May 1, 10.30-11.30am**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 20**  
Acclaimed novelists Anita Heiss (*Bila Yarrudhanggalangdhuray*) and Meg Keneally (*The Wreck*) are joined by Roanna Gonsalves to discuss their captivating new works of historical fiction set against the backdrop of our colonial past.  
**\$25/\$20**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**79 ISABEL WILKERSON: CASTE - THE LIES THAT DIVIDE US**  
**May 1, 12-1pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 17**  
SEE FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHT ON THIS PAGE

**80 DISAGREEABLE**  
**May 1, 12-1pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 22**  
Jeff Sparrow (*Fascists Among Us*), Randa Abdel-Fattah (*Coming of Age in the War on Terror*) and journalist Kishor Napier-Raman explore the privilege, responsibilities and dangers of public speech with host Sophie Black.  
**\$25/\$15**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**81 MEET THE SMH BEST YOUNG AUSTRALIAN NOVELISTS**  
**May 1, 12-1pm**  
**Carriageworks, Track 12**  
Each year, *The Sydney Morning Herald* names the authors it considers to be the best young fiction writers in Australia. A panel of the 2021 winners join Jason Steger to discuss and read from their works.  
**Free, bookings essential**  
**02 9256 4200 swf.org.au**

**82 JOHN BELL & VIRGINIA TRIOLI**  
**May 1, 12-1pm**  
**Carriageworks, Track 8**  
Legend of theatre John Bell (*Some Achieve Greatness*) and stellar reporter ABC Melbourne’s Virginia Trioli come together to share their unique insights and life lessons on leadership.  
**\$20/\$15**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**83 WHOSE COUNTRY IS IT ANYWAY?**  
**May 1, 12.30-1.30pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 20**  
Literature has played a significant role in the colonial imagination and the domination of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Melissa Lucashenko (*Too Much Lip*) and Yuwaalaraay musician and author Nardi Simpson (*Song of the Crocodile*) discuss their literary triumphs with Guest Curator Nayuka Gorrie.  
**\$25/\$20**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**84 SARAH KRASNOSTEIN & HELEN GARNER**  
**May 1, 2-3pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 17**  
SEE FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHT ON THIS PAGE

**85 THE CLIMATE CURE: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE**  
**May 1, 2-3pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 22**  
Renowned scientist Tim Flannery assembles experts from across the globe to discuss the next steps for climate action. Featuring climate diplomat Christiana Figueres and energy expert Prasad Menon (both appearing via video) and climate researcher Will Steffen.  
**\$25/\$15**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**86 LAUNCHING RACISM**  
**May 1, 2-3pm**  
**Carriageworks, Track 12**  
Join the powerhouse team from Sweatshop for the launch of *Racism*, a groundbreaking new anthology produced entirely by people of colour, comprising stories of prejudice, bigotry, xenophobia, colonialism and white supremacy.  
Presented in partnership with Sweatshop: Western Sydney Literacy Movement.  
**Free, bookings essential**  
**02 9256 4200 swf.org.au**

**87 PRACTICE AND CRITIQUE**  
**May 1, 2-3pm**  
**Carriageworks, Track 8**  
*The Monthly*’s music critic and author Anwen Crawford (*No Document*), Gomeri poet and essayist Alison Whittaker (*Blakwork*), and writer and artist George Haddad (*Populate and Perish*) take a deep dive into the place where critical and creative practice meet, with *Sydney Review of Books* Editor Catriona Menzies-Pike.  
**\$20/\$15**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**



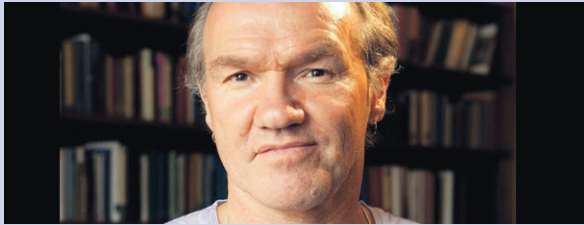
# Your Favourites' Favourites

Join some of your most beloved writers as they interview the author of their favourite Australian debut from the last year. They may be your favourite writers, but they're also some of our country's most insightful and incisive readers – and these sessions reveal what they think makes a story extraordinary. Providing keen insights into the books they're most excited about and the writers they're tipping as new talents to watch, enjoy this special series of conversations between the authors you already love and the new writers they love.



**7 MICHELLE DE KRETZER & ANDREW PIPPOS**  
April 29, 10-11am  
Carriageworks, Track 8

"In Andrew Pippas' *Lucky's*, the grand story of the Greek diaspora is rendered beautifully intimate. Pippas writes lively, evocative prose while handling structure and characterisation with flair."  
– Michelle de Kretser, *The Life to Come*  
Supported by the Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund.  
**\$20/\$15**  
Bookings 02 9256 4200, [swf.org.au](http://swf.org.au)



**77 TONY BIRCH & EVELYN ARALUEN**  
May 1, 10-11am  
Carriageworks, Track 8

"Evelyn Araluen's *Dropbear* is a remarkable work. The poems spark with energy and life. Araluen is a dynamic voice that demands to be heard."  
– Tony Birch, *The White Girl*  
Supported by Australian Poetry.  
**\$20/\$15**  
Bookings 02 9256 4200, [swf.org.au](http://swf.org.au)



**115 CHRISTOS TSIOLKAS & JESSIE TU**  
May 2, 2-3pm  
Carriageworks, Track 8

"As soon as I started reading Jessie Tu's *A Lonely Girl is a Dangerous Thing*, it was like a drug rush. I experienced what all of us who love reading desire: to hear a voice – bold and coherent – that we have not heard before. I was elated."  
– Christos Tsiolkas, *Damascus*  
Supported by the Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund.  
**\$20/\$15**  
Bookings 02 9256 4200, [swf.org.au](http://swf.org.au)



**49 NAM LE & REBECCA GIGGS**  
April 30, 12-1pm  
Carriageworks, Track 8

"What I love about *Fathoms* is its language: the wonder in it, and of it. I found it a book of rare beauty and ambition."  
– Nam Le, *The Boat*  
Supported by the Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund.  
**\$20/\$15**  
Bookings 02 9256 4200, [swf.org.au](http://swf.org.au)



**92 MELISSA LUCASHENKO & ADAM THOMPSON**  
May 1, 4-5pm  
Carriageworks, Track 8

"For decades Australia was told that Tasmanian Aboriginal people were 'extinct'. With *Born Into This*, Adam Thompson is here, a burning talent with great yarns and short stories from his Pakana people's grassroots lives. He's completely alive – and totally unmissable."  
– Melissa Lucashenko, *Too Much Lip*  
**\$20/\$15**  
Bookings 02 9256 4200, [swf.org.au](http://swf.org.au)



**27 HEATHER ROSE & K.M. KRUIMINK**  
April 29, 4-5pm  
Carriageworks, Track 12

"K.M. Kruijink's first novel *A Treacherous Country* will surprise readers with its characters and wit. I'm delighted to encourage more readers to discover this talented fellow Tasmanian author."  
– Heather Rose, *Bruny*  
**\$20/\$15**  
Bookings 02 9256 4200, [swf.org.au](http://swf.org.au)

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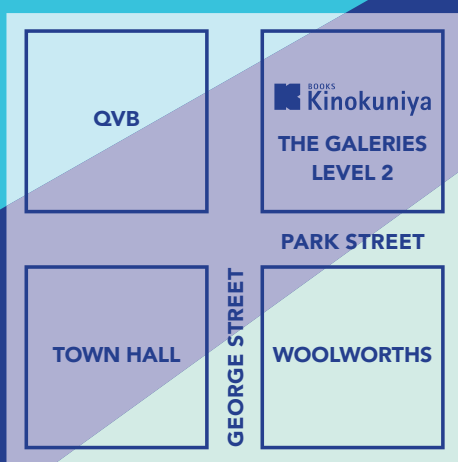
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# Festival Highlight

**112 JAN FRAN & JUDITH LUCY**  
**Sunday May 2, 2-3pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 17**  
Walkley Award-winning reporter Jan Fran and much-loved comedian Judith Lucy (*Turns Out, I'm Fine*) talk about humour and memoir, coping and not coping, and what it means to be fine.  
Thanks to David Fite.  
**\$35/\$25**   
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

# All-Day YA

This past year, young adult fiction offered firm ground when the rest of the world felt like it was slipping away.

With sessions specially curated by the Sydney Writers' Festival Youth Curators, All-Day YA is a celebration of the stories that snuck into our bunkers, bringing epic adventures, devastating romance and magical worlds to life.

On Saturday May 1, we're delighted to bring young people and their favourite authors together again at Carriageworks to share stories of resilient teens navigating love, loss and even the afterlife. And don't miss a special evening event where beloved YA authors reflect on the characters they love most.

**Tickets are \$10 for each event.**

**YA1 BETTER LIVING THROUGH FANTASY**  
**May 1, 10-11am**  
**Carriageworks, Elston Room**  
Does fantasy help us answer life's big questions? Or do we read it to escape asking them? Garth Nix (*The Left-Handed Booksellers of London*), Alicia Jasinska (*The Dark Tide*) and Kathryn Barker (*Waking Romeo*) discuss whether fantasy can solve our real-life struggles, with Youth Curator Munira Tabassum Ahmed.  
**\$10**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**YA2 GARY LONESBOROUGH: THE BOY FROM THE MISH**  
**May 1, 12-1pm** Carriageworks, Elston Room  
SEE FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHT ON THIS PAGE

**YA3 DISASTER KIDS IN LOVE**  
**May 1, 2-3pm**  
**Carriageworks, Elston Room**  
Will we ever tire of the foibles and frivolities of our favourite characters in their pursuit of love? Rawah Arja (*The F Team*), Frances Chapman (*Stars Like Us*) and Jenna Guillaume (*You Were Made for Me*) talk troublesome love with Youth Curator Rodah Elemam.  
**\$10**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**YA4 THIS IS GOING TO HURT**  
**May 1, 4-5pm**  
**Carriageworks, Elston Room**  
Grief hits hard - especially when you're young. Authors Leanne Hall (*The Gaps*), Zana Fraillon (*The Lost Soul Atlas*) and Cath Moore (*Metal Fish, Falling Snow*) join Youth Curator Neva Mikulic to discuss loss, grief and simply coping.  
**\$10**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**YA5 YA GALA: PROTECT THEM AT ALL COSTS**  
**May 1, 6-7.30pm**  
**Carriageworks, Track 12**  
Each of us - including your favourite YA authors - has a treasured protagonist, antagonist or side character who we firmly believe should have nothing bad ever happen to them. Join Zana Fraillon, Garth Nix, Will Kostakis, Gary Lonesborough, Jenna Guillaume and Leanne Hall as they share which characters they would protect at all costs from malevolent authors and literary harm.  
**\$10**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**88 FARUQI ON FARUQI**  
**May 1, 2.30-3.30pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 20**  
Greens Senator Mehreen Faruqi and her son, journalist Osman Faruqi, come together to reflect on politics, media, activism and public life.  
**\$25/\$20**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**89 RICHARD FLANAGAN & LAURA TINGLE**  
**May 1, 4-5pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 17**  
Richard Flanagan's latest book, *The Living Sea of Waking Dreams*, offers a tender, haunting portrait of a world disappearing around us. With Laura Tingle, he reflects on capturing in words the things we're losing. Supported by ARA.  
**\$35/\$25**   
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**90 BEYOND FIRE, FLOOD AND PLAGUE**  
**May 1, 4-5pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 22**  
Contributors to *Fire Flood Plague* reflect on how we are progressing after an extraordinary year. Featuring Nyadol Nyuon, James Bradley, Omar Sakr and Alison Croggon in conversation with Santilla Chingaipe.  
**\$25/\$15**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**91 COLLISIONS**  
**May 1, 4-5pm**  
**Carriageworks, Track 12**  
Exciting new voices from the inaugural Liminal Fiction Prize longlist share genre-bending stories of the future. *Liminal* founder Leah Jing McIntosh is joined by Naima Ibrahim, Mykaela Saunders, Bryant Apolonio and Eda Gunaydin.  
**Free, bookings essential**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200 swf.org.au**

**92 YOUR FAVOURITES' FAVOURITES: MELISSA LUCASHENKO & ADAM THOMPSON**  
**May 1, 4-5pm**  
**Carriageworks, Track 8**  
Miles Franklin Award winner Melissa Lucashenko (*Too Much Lip*) loved Adam Thompson's *Born Into This*. In this special conversation, Melissa interviews Adam about his brilliant debut collection of short stories.  
**\$20/\$15**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**93 KRISSY KNEEN & RICK MORTON**  
**May 1, 4.30-5.30pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 20**  
Australian literary sensations Krissy Kneen (*The Three Burials of Lotty Kneen*) and Rick Morton (*My Year Of Living Vulnerably*) take to the stage with Benjamin Law to reveal the personal quests that underpin their new memoirs.  
**\$25/\$20**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**94 STAN GRANT & KERRY O'BRIEN**  
**May 1, 6-7pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 17**  
Legendary reporters Stan Grant and Kerry O'Brien discuss all things politics, journalism and Stan's new book, *With the Falling of the Dusk*, as they consider the state of the world.  
**\$35/\$25**   
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**95 SWF GREAT DEBATE: HOW GOOD IS AUSTRALIA?**  
**May 1, 6-7pm**  
**Sydney Town Hall**  
Some of the country's finest thinkers enter the arena to debate: how good is Australia? Featuring Elaine Crombie, Don Watson and Benjamin Law in the affirmative corner, and David Marr, Annabel Crabb and Nakkiah Lui in the negative, under the unsparing eye of MC Jennifer Byrne.  
Supported by the City of Sydney.  
**\$50/\$45/\$40**   
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**96 EROTIC FAN FICTION**  
**May 1, 6.30-7.30pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 20**  
A Sydney Writers' Festival crowd favourite, Erotic Fan Fiction returns for one seedy night only, with brand-new filth written by some of our most exciting guests. Eddie Sharp hosts the Festival's least family friendly tradition.  
**\$25/\$20**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**




# Festival Highlight

**YA2 GARY LONESBOROUGH: THE BOY FROM THE MISH**  
**Saturday May 1, 12-1pm**  
**Carriageworks, Elston Room**  
Exploring who you are takes a lot of courage. Yuin writer Gary Lonesborough's first book *The Boy from the Mish* is a funny and big-hearted queer Indigenous young adult novel set in a rural Australian community. It's a branch of hope extended to teenagers who think they're alone. Benjamin Law speaks to Gary about this beautifully written story about finding love - and yourself.  
**\$10**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**



**97 QUEERSTORIES**  
**May 1, 8-9pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 17**  
Maeve Marsden welcomes guests Gary Lonesborough, Oliver Reeson, Alistair Baldwin, Rebecca Starford and Krissy Kneen for an evening of surprising, heartwarming and wildly funny LGBTQI+ storytelling.  
**\$35/\$25**   
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**


**98 COMFORT IN NUMBERS**  
**May 1, 8.30-9.30pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 20**  
Australia's rockstars of data, ABC's Casey Briggs and Antony Green, appear in conversation with Ange Lavopierre to discuss how numbers and graphs can offer comfort and clarity in a tumultuous world.  
**\$25/\$20**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**99 THE SPACE BETWEEN WORDS**  
**May 1, 8.30-10pm**  
**Sydney Town Hall**  
Some of the nation's most accomplished actors bring their skills to bear reading poems that examine the Festival theme, Within Reach, in a gala event at Sydney Town Hall.  
Supported by the JIBB Foundation.  
**\$50/\$45/\$40**   
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

SUNDAY MAY 2

**100 COFFEE & HEADLINES WITH THE MONTHLY: SCOTT LUDLAM & JESS HILL**  
**May 2, 8.30-9.15am**  
**Carriageworks, Elston Room**  
Editor of *The Monthly* Nick Feik unravels today's headlines with former Australian Greens senator and writer Scott Ludlam and Walkey Award-winning investigative journalist and author Jess Hill.  
Presented with *The Monthly*.  
**Free, bookings essential**  
**02 9256 4200 swf.org.au**

**101 WRITING THE INVISIBLE**  
**May 2, 10-11am**  
**Carriageworks, Elston Room**  
Australian authors Kylie Maslen (*Show Me Where it Hurts*), Fiona Murphy (*The Shape of Sound*) and Jacinta Parsons (*Unseen*) talk to Chloe Sargeant about their searing memoirs of navigating the world while living with invisible disabilities or chronic conditions.  
**Free, bookings essential**   
**02 9256 4200 swf.org.au**

**102 BARRIE CASSIDY & FRIENDS: THE CANBERRA BUBBLE**  
**May 2, 10-11am**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 17**  
Barrie Cassidy interviews political academic and journalist Peter van Onselen about his new biography of Scott Morrison. Barrie and Peter are then joined by a panel of experts to explore the insights political biographies offer into Canberra.  
**\$35/\$25**   
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**103 WRITING AND RACISM**  
**May 2, 10-11am**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 22**  
How can literature combat racism? Award-winning author Michael Mohammed Ahmad leads an urgent and critical discussion with writers and editors from Aboriginal, Asian, Pasifika and African-American backgrounds.  
Presented in partnership with Sweatshop: Western Sydney Literacy Movement.  
**\$25/\$15**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**104 FLOCK**  
**May 2, 10-11am**  
**Carriageworks, Track 8**  
Some of the most exciting voices in Indigenous writing discuss the new anthology *Flock*. Featuring its editor, Ellen van Neerven, and contributors Adam Thompson, Tony Birch, Gayle Kennedy and Mykaela Saunders.  
**\$20/\$15**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**105 LAND OF PLENTY**  
**May 2, 10.30-11.30am**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 20**  
Australia has long struggled to manage its land, water and wildlife. Richard Beasley (*Dead in the Water*), Bruce Pascoe (*Dark Emu* and *Loving Country*), Rebecca Giggs (*Fathoms*) and Victor Steffensen (*Fire Country*) discuss their hopes for change with ABC Radio's Philip Clark.  
**\$25/\$20**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**106 LEE TRAN LAM & SAM VAN ZWEDEN**  
**May 2, 12-1pm**  
**Carriageworks, Elston Room**  
Lee Tran Lam and Sam van Zweden write about food in ways you've never read before. They speak with publisher Robert Watkins about their latest books and how the food we eat defines us.  
**Free, bookings essential**  
**02 9256 4200 swf.org.au**

**107 GEORGE MILLER: BEYOND THUNDERDOME**  
**May 2, 12-1pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 17**  
George Miller is a legend of cinema. From *Mad Max* to *Babe* to the recent triumph of *Fury Road* (with a *Happy Feet* or two along the way), it's hard to think of a more revolutionary creative figure in Australia today.  
**\$35/\$25**   
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**108 GROWING UP DISABLED IN AUSTRALIA**  
**May 2, 12-1pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 22**  
Contributors to the powerful new anthology *Growing Up Disabled in Australia* - Fiona Murphy, Alistair Baldwin, Gayle Kennedy and Belinda Downes - share their stories of navigating disability with editor Carly Findlay.  
**\$25/\$15**   
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**109 SARAH DINGLE & KAYA WILSON**  
**May 2, 12-1pm**  
**Carriageworks, Track 8**  
Two new memoirs explore the discovery of long-held family secrets and their resounding intergenerational effects on how we understand ourselves. Kaya Wilson (*As Beautiful as Any Other*) and Sarah Dingle (*Brave New Humans*) discuss their brilliant books with Maeve Marsden.  
**\$20/\$15**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**110 WOMEN IN POLITICS**  
**May 2, 12.30-1.30pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 20**  
Labor MP Kate Ellis (*Sex, Lies and Question Time*), Greens Senator Mehreen Faruqi, former independent MP Cathy McGowan (*Cathy Goes to Canberra*) and national treasure Annabel Crabb talk about the harsh cost of the gender divide in politics, with political reporter and historian Clare Wright.  
**\$25/\$20**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**111 RADICAL BLACK FUTURES**  
**May 2, 2-3pm**  
**Carriageworks, Elston Room**  
In the words of Guest Curator Nayuka Gorrie, "The future is black, abolitionist and whatever we want it to be." A panel joins Nayuka to consider those futures - hopeful, defiant and clear-eyed - and asks how we might radically reimagine black stories.  
**Free, bookings essential**  
**02 9256 4200 swf.org.au**

**112 JAN FRAN & JUDITH LUCY**  
**May 2, 2-3pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 17**  
Walkley Award-winning reporter Jan Fran and much-loved comedian Judith Lucy (*Turns Out, I'm Fine*) talk about humour and memoir, coping and not coping, and what it means to be fine.  
Thanks to David Fite.  
**\$35/\$25**   
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

Coffee & Headlines

Grab a coffee with the editorial teams behind *7am*, *The Saturday Paper* and *The Monthly* as they reveal what the morning's headlines really mean. A great way to start your day at the Festival, leading reporters and editors, including hosts Osman Faruqi, Maddison Connaughton and Nick Feik, explore the news and politics shaping the country.

**Coffee & Headlines takes place in the Elston Room at Carriageworks at 8.30am on Friday April 30, Saturday May 1 and Sunday May 2.**  
**All talks are free, bookings essential.**

**37 COFFEE & HEADLINES WITH 7AM: RICK MORTON & ARIEL BOGLE**  
**April 30, 8.30-9.15am**  
**Carriageworks, Elston Room**  
Osman Faruqi, Editor of Schwartz Media's *7am* podcast, discusses today's news with journalist and author Rick Morton and cyber policy analyst Ariel Bogle.  
Presented with *7am*.  
**Free, bookings essential**  
**02 9256 4200 swf.org.au**

**73 COFFEE & HEADLINES WITH THE SATURDAY PAPER: MIKE SECCOMBE & KAREN MIDDLETON**  
**May 1, 8.30-9.15am**  
**Carriageworks, Elston Room**  
Join Editor of *The Saturday Paper* Maddison Connaughton to discuss the latest news with National Affairs Correspondent Mike Seccombe and Chief Political Correspondent Karen Middleton.  
Presented with *The Saturday Paper*.  
**Free, bookings essential**  
**02 9256 4200 swf.org.au**

**100 COFFEE & HEADLINES WITH THE MONTHLY: SCOTT LUDLAM & JESS HILL**  
**May 2, 8.30-9.15am**  
**Carriageworks, Elston Room**  
Editor of *The Monthly* Nick Feik unravels today's headlines with former Australian Greens senator and writer Scott Ludlam and Walkey Award-winning investigative journalist and author Jess Hill.  
Presented with *The Monthly*.  
**Free, bookings essential**  
**02 9256 4200 swf.org.au**

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 Coffee & Headlines

 Curiosity Series

 Family










 YA

 Guest Curators









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SATURDAY MAY 1

CARRIAGEWORKS								
	BAY 17	BAY 20	BAY 22	TRACK 8	TRACK 12	ELSTON ROOM	BLACKSMITH'S WORKSHOP	
8.30am						73 Coffee & Headlines With <i>The Saturday Paper</i> : Mike Seccombe & Karen Middleton	Carriageworks Markets	8.30am
9am								9am
9.30am								9.30am
10am	74 Barrie Cassidy & Friends: Opposition & Dissent		75 Beyond the Pale	77 Your Favourites' Favourites: Tony Birch & Evelyn Araluen	76 The Art of Armchair Travel	YA1 Better Living Through Fantasy		10am
10.30am		78 Anita Heiss & Meg Keneally						10.30am
11am								11am
11.30am								11.30am
12pm	79 Isabel Wilkerson: Caste - The Lies That Divide Us		80 Disagreeable	82 John Bell & Virginia Trioli	81 Meet the SMH Best Young Australian Novelists	YA2 Gary Lonesborough: The Boy From the Mish		12pm
12.30pm		83 Whose Country Is It Anyway?						12.30pm
1pm								1pm
1.30pm								1.30pm
2pm	84 Sarah Krasnostein & Helen Garner		85 The Climate Cure: A Global Perspective	87 Practice & Critique	86 Launching Racism	YA3 Disaster Kids in Love		2pm
2.30pm	 	88 Faruqi on Faruqi						2.30pm
3pm								3pm
3.30pm								3.30pm
4pm	89 Richard Flanagan & Laura Tingle		90 Beyond Fire, Flood & Plague	92 Your Favourites' Favourites: Melissa Lucashenko & Adam Thompson	91 Collisions	YA4 This Is Going to Hurt		4pm
4.30pm		93 Krissy Kneen & Rick Morton						4.30pm
5pm								5pm
5.30pm								5.30pm
6pm	94 Stan Grant & Kerry O'Brien				YA5 YA Gala: Protect Them at All Costs			6pm
6.30pm		96 Erotic Fan Fiction						6.30pm
7pm								7pm
7.30pm								7.30pm
8pm	97 Queerstories			ALSO TODAY  SYDNEY TOWN HALL 95 SWF Great Debate: How Good Is Australia? 6-7pm  99 The Space Between Words 8.30-10pm 				8pm
8.30pm		98 Comfort in Numbers						8.30pm
9pm								9pm
9.30pm								9.30pm
10pm								10pm

SUNDAY MAY 2

CARRIAGEWORKS								
	BAY 17	BAY 20	BAY 22	TRACK 8	TRACK 12	ELSTON ROOM	BLACKSMITH'S WORKSHOP	
8.30am						100 Coffee & Headlines With <i>The Monthly</i> : Scott Ludlam & Jess Hill		8.30am
9am								9am
9.30am								9.30am
10am	102 Barrie Cassidy & Friends: The Canberra Bubble		103 Writing & Racism	104 Flock	CH12 Alison Lester: Through the Seasons	101 Writing the Invisible	CH11 Happy 100th Birthday, Ginger Meggs	10am
10.30am		105 Land of Plenty						10.30am
11am							CH13 Caring for Country With Kirli & Dub	11am
11.30am								11.30am
12pm	107 George Miller: Beyond Thunderdome		108 Growing Up Disabled in Australia	109 Sarah Dingle & Kaya Wilson	CH15 Jessica Townsend: What a Wondrous World	106 Lee Tran Lam & Sam van Zweden		12pm
12.30pm		110 Women in Politics					CH14 Bonjour! It's Claris!	12.30pm
1pm								1pm
1.30pm							CH16 The Real Pigeons Live Mystery	1.30pm
2pm	112 Jan Fran & Judith Lucy		113 After Australia	115 Your Favourites' Favourites: Christos Tsiolkas & Jessie Tu	114 Jacqueline Maley & Debra Oswald	111 Radical Black Futures		2pm
2.30pm	 	116 Bruce Pascoe & Vicky Shukuroglou						2.30pm
3pm							CH17 Illustrator Battle Rounds	3pm
3.30pm								3.30pm
4pm	118 Great Adaptations: Margaret & David Return		119 Laughing at the News	121 Voices of Our Future	120 Cop This Lot	117 Kavita Bedford & Jamie Marina Lau	CH18 Nat Amooore's Amazing Trivia Challenge	4pm
4.30pm		122 The Unacknowledged Legislators						4.30pm
5pm								5pm
5.30pm								5.30pm
6pm	123 Closing Night Address: David Malouf							6pm
6.30pm								6.30pm
7pm			124 SWF Debutante Ball		ALSO TODAY  BLACKSMITH'S WORKSHOP The Big Backyard 10am-4pm			7pm
7.30pm								7.30pm
8pm								8pm
8.30pm								8.30pm
9pm								9pm
9.30pm								9.30pm
10pm								10pm

**113 AFTER AUSTRALIA**  
**May 2, 2-3pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 22**  
Some of Australia's boldest Indigenous writers and writers of colour discuss their contributions to the anthology *After Australia*, and the public reception of the book. Editor Michael Mohammed Ahmad is joined by contributors Hannah Donnelly, Michelle Law and Roanna Gonsalves.  
**\$25/\$15**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**114 JACQUELINE MALEY & DEBRA OSWALD**  
**May 2, 2-3pm**  
**Carriageworks, Track 12**  
Novelists Jacqueline Maley (*The Truth About Her*) and Debra Oswald (*The Family Doctor*) sit down with Susan Wyndham to discuss their new works of fiction, which are bound by sudden tragedy, motherhood and rage.  
**\$15**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**115 YOUR FAVOURITES' FAVOURITES: CHRISTOS TSIOLKAS & JESSIE TU**  
**May 2, 2-3pm**  
**Carriageworks, Track 8**  
Beloved author Christos Tsiolkas (*Damascus*) speaks with Jessie Tu about her debut novel, *A Lonely Girl is a Dangerous Thing*, a story of female desire and the consequences of wanting too much and never getting it. Supported by the Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund.  
**\$20/\$15**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**116 BRUCE PASCOE & VICKY SHUKUROGLOU**  
**May 2, 2.30-3.30pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 20**  
Bruce Pascoe and co-author and photographer Vicky Shukuroglou shed light on *Loving Country*, their travel guide for exploring Australia through an Indigenous lens, in conversation with ABC Radio National's Daniel Browning.  
**\$25/\$20**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**117 KAVITA BEDFORD & JAMIE MARINA LAU**  
**May 2, 4-5pm**  
**Carriageworks, Elston Room**  
Kavita Bedford (*Friends & Dark Shapes*) and Jamie Marina Lau (*Gunk Baby*) speak with Winnie Dunn about their new novels, which explore the relationships between identity and place, and constancy and change.  
**Free, bookings essential**  
**02 9256 4200 swf.org.au**

**118 GREAT ADAPTATIONS: MARGARET AND DAVID RETURN**  
**May 2, 4-5pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 17**  
Margaret Pomeranz and David Stratton, Australia's favourite film critics, reunite on stage to debate the best and worst movie adaptations of Australian books. Supported by PlayfairTan.  
**\$35/\$25**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**119 LAUGHING AT THE NEWS**  
**May 2, 4-5pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 22**  
Australian news comedy writers Alistair Baldwin, Alex Lee and Rebecca Shaw talk about the role of laughter and political satire in troubled times. Moderated by Jan Fran.  
**\$25/\$15**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**



# Festival Highlight

**123 CLOSING NIGHT ADDRESS: DAVID MALOUF**

**Sunday May 2, 6-7pm**

**Carriageworks, Bay 17**

David Malouf is a legend of Australian letters. For almost half a century, starting with the release of his semi-autobiographical debut *Johnno* in 1975, his many award-winning and celebrated novels, short stories and essays have offered peerless insights into our inner lives. In this Closing Night Address, David reflects on the world within our reach - and the ideas worth striving for.

Thanks to Kathy and Greg Shand.

**\$40/\$30**

**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**120 COP THIS LOT**  
**May 2, 4-5pm**  
**Carriageworks, Track 12**  
Contributors to the *Cop This Lot* anthology debate Australia's complex relationship with class. Featuring Peter Polites, Sheila Ngoc Pham and Chris Fleming, with the anthology's editor Tobias McCorkell.  
**\$15**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**121 VOICES OF OUR FUTURE**  
**May 2, 4-5pm**  
**Carriageworks, Track 8**  
Leading youth activists Jean Hinchliffe (*Lead the Way*), Daisy Jeffrey (*On Hope*) and Varsha Yajman speak with Santilla Chingaipe about taking climate action into their own hands.  
**\$20/\$15**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**122 THE UNACKNOWLEDGED LEGISLATORS**  
**May 2, 4.30-5.30pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 20**  
For generations, poets have shaped and defined their societies. This special event features readings from Ellen van Neerven, Maxine Beneba Clarke, Alison Whittaker, Omar Sakr, Erik Jensen, Eileen Chong and Felicity Plunkett - some of the finest working poets in Australia. Hosted by Declan Fry.  
**\$25/\$20**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

**123 CLOSING NIGHT ADDRESS: DAVID MALOUF**  
**May 2, 6-7pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 17**  
SEE FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHT ON THIS PAGE

**124 SWF DEBUTANTE BALL**  
**May 2, 7-9pm**  
**Carriageworks, Bay 22**  
A Closing Night party to celebrate the Australian writers whose first books were swallowed up by 2020. Come welcome these literary debutantes of fiction and memoir into the world. Supported by ARA.  
**\$45**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, swf.org.au**

## SUPPORT YOUR SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL

We warmly thank our Patrons and donors for their generosity. With their support, we were able to bring the Festival back this year. Please consider joining our visionary group of supporters with a donation to Sydney Writers' Festival.

As a registered charity and a not-for-profit organisation, donations of every size make a huge difference to us. Gifts over \$2 are **tax deductible** and gifts over \$1,000 welcome you to our Patron Program.

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# The Curiosity Lecture Series

Some of the Festival's most inquisitive minds deliver lectures on eclectic topics that spark their curiosity. From Australia's whimsical wildlife wonders to the untapped magic of mycelium, our speakers guide you through unexpected territory and probe the status quo.

All Curiosity Lectures take place at the Blacksmith's Workshop on Thursday 29 April and Friday 30 April.  
All talks are free, bookings essential.



**CUR16 BERNARD COLLAERY:  
ON RESCUING**  
April 29, 1.15–1.45pm  
Carriageworks, Blacksmith's Workshop  
Join lawyer and author Bernard Collaery (*Oil Under Troubled Water*) as he explores whether it's everyone for themselves in Australia or if mateship is enshrined in law.  
Free, bookings essential  
02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

**CUR23 KRISSY KNEEN: ON HOW  
MUSHROOMS CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE**  
April 29, 3.15–3.45pm  
Carriageworks, Blacksmith's Workshop  
SEE FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHT ON THIS PAGE

**CUR30 RAMONA KOVAL: ON  
FRIENDSHIPS WITH DEAD WRITERS**  
April 29, 5.15–5.45pm  
Carriageworks, Blacksmith's Workshop  
Beloved broadcaster and author Ramona Koval (*A Letter to Layla*) reflects on her imaginary friendships with dead authors, exploring the disillusionment and delight of getting to know the writers behind our favourite books.  
Free, bookings essential  
02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

**CUR44 GEORGE MEGALOGENIS:  
ON AN UNLIKELY AUSTRALIAN  
ALLIANCE**  
April 30, 11.15–11.45am  
Carriageworks, Blacksmith's Workshop  
Journalist, political commentator and author George Megalogenis shares his theory on why Sydney and Melbourne should form a rebel alliance and take back the country from the 'frontier states' of Queensland and Western Australia.  
Free, bookings essential  
02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

**CUR51 SAM VAN ZWEDEN: ON  
WORKING WITH THE DOG YOU'VE GOT**  
April 30, 1.15–1.45pm  
Carriageworks, Blacksmith's Workshop  
Sam van Zweden, author of *Eating With My Mouth Open*, delves into the transformative mental health lessons she garnered from her dog and asks what else we can learn from our pets.  
Free, bookings essential  
02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

**CUR9 ROB BROOKS: ON AI AND INTIMACY**  
April 29, 11.15–11.45am  
Carriageworks, Blacksmith's Workshop  
As the COVID-19 pandemic hastens a new era of remote communication, machines are being programmed to mimic human intimacy and friendship. Evolutionary biologist Rob Brooks (*Artificial Intimacy*) argues that this sophisticated artificial intimacy is nothing to fear.  
Free, bookings essential  
02 9256 4200, swf.org.au



## Festival Highlight

**CUR23 KRISSY KNEEN:  
ON HOW MUSHROOMS CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE**  
Thursday April 29, 3.15–3.45pm  
Carriageworks, Blacksmith's Workshop  
Faced with the mental health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, award-winning author Krissy Kneen (*Affection*, *An Uncertain Grace* and *The Three Burials of Lotty Kneen*) was forced to rethink her writing practice and took an unexpected deep dive into the world of mushrooms. Join Krissy as she makes the case for why mycologists are the cheeriest scientists and delves into how mycelium might become the saviour of our planet and humankind.  
Free, bookings essential  
02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

**CUR58 KYLIE MASLEN:  
ON SPORT AS SHAKESPEARE**  
April 30, 3.15–3.45pm  
Carriageworks, Blacksmith's Workshop  
*Show Me Where it Hurts* author Kylie Maslen explores the age-old divide between art lovers and sports fans, and highlights the triumphs, tragedies and terrors that captivate both groups.  
Free, bookings essential  
02 9256 4200, swf.org.au

**CUR65 VICKY SHUKUROGLOU:  
ON WHIMSICAL AUSTRALIA**  
April 30, 5.15–5.45pm  
Carriageworks, Blacksmith's Workshop  
*Loving Country* co-author and photographer Vicky Shukuroglou delivers a humorous and eyebrow-raising talk about Australia's whimsical wonders, from insects that fly backwards and biofluorescent marsupials to rocks that inspire love and deceit.  
Free, bookings essential  
02 9256 4200, swf.org.au



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## Conversations that connect us







# Family Day at Carriageworks

On Sunday May 2, roll on up to Carriageworks for the marvellous magic of Family Day, a riotous celebration of storytelling and creativity that will captivate kids of all ages.

There are three unique Family Day spaces at Carriageworks, all offering their own kind of literary fun. Don't miss a line-up of dazzling events on the Family Stage, talks from two of Australia's favourite children's authors at Track 12 and a world of bookish activities in the Big Backyard.

Kick off your Family Day with a birthday party for the red-haired rascal Ginger Meggs with **Tristan Bancks**. Kids learn how to care for Country with **Kirli Saunders** and **Dub Leffler**, travel to Paris with **Megan Hess** and her glamorous mouse Claris, solve a mischievous mystery with pigeon detectives **Andrew McDonald** and **Ben Wood**, watch the ultimate illustrator showdown, and become trivia champions with **Nat Amore**. And enjoy enchanting stories with **Alison Lester** and delve into fantastical, breathtaking worlds with Nevermoor series author **Jessica Townsend**.

For information on how we are making Family Day a fun and COVID Safe event, visit [swf.org.au/stay-covid-safe](https://swf.org.au/stay-covid-safe).

## Track 12

Come be enchanted and delighted in these two very special sessions.

**Tickets are \$5, bookings essential.**



### CHI2 ALISON LESTER: THROUGH THE SEASONS May 2, 10-10.45am

Thirty years after the publication of *Magic Beach*, Alison Lester remains one of the most beloved children's writers in Australia. In this special event, she shares stories, draws one of her favourite characters and reads from her new picture book, *Sing Me the Summer*.

**Rec. 4+**  
**\$5**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, [swf.org.au](https://swf.org.au)**



### CHI5 JESSICA TOWNSEND: WHAT A WUNDROUS WORLD May 2, 12-12.45pm

When it comes to creating fantastical and beautiful worlds, Jessica Townsend – author of the bestselling Nevermoor series – knows it all. In conversation with Jeremy Lachlan, Jessica takes you beyond the dragons to discover the magic of kindness and loyalty.

**Rec. 8+**  
**\$5**  
**Bookings 02 9256 4200, [swf.org.au](https://swf.org.au)**

## Family Stage

The Family Stage is hosted by **Oliver Phommavanh**.  
**Blacksmith's Workshop. Free, bookings essential.**



### CHI1 HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY, GINGER MEGGS May 2, 10-10.30am

At 100 years old, Ginger Meggs proves that great storytelling never ages. Join Tristan Bancks (great-great-nephew of creator Jimmy Bancks) to celebrate four new stories about this iconic Aussie character.

**Rec. 6+**  
**Free, bookings essential**  
**02 9256 4200 [swf.org.au](https://swf.org.au)**



### CHI4 BONJOUR! IT'S CLARIS! May 2, 12.30-1pm

Join world-renowned fashion illustrator Megan Hess for a charming celebration of the chickest mouse in Paris, Claris. Megan invites the audience to enjoy her magnifique tales of friendship and adventure.

**Rec. 4+**  
**Free, bookings essential**  
**02 9256 4200 [swf.org.au](https://swf.org.au)**



### CHI7 ILLUSTRATOR BATTLE ROUNDS May 2, 3-3.30pm

The ultimate live drawing battle is back! In this storytelling showdown, some of our favourite children's book illustrators put pencil to paper and push one another to the artistic limit.

**Rec. 5+**  
**Free, bookings essential**  
**02 9256 4200 [swf.org.au](https://swf.org.au)**



### CHI3 CARING FOR COUNTRY WITH KIRLI AND DUB May 2, 11.15-11.45am

Proud Gunaï author Kirli Saunders and Bigambul and Mandandanji illustrator Dub Leffler invite you to a celebration of Country and community as they share their extraordinary verse novel *Bindi*.

**Rec. 6+**  
**Free, bookings essential**  
**02 9256 4200 [swf.org.au](https://swf.org.au)**



### CHI6 THE REAL PIGEONS LIVE MYSTERY May 2, 1.45-2.15pm

Celebrate the release of *Real Pigeons Flex Feathers* by helping Andrew McDonald and Ben Wood, the minds behind our favourite pigeons, solve a mystery!

**Rec. 6+**  
**Free, bookings essential**  
**02 9256 4200 [swf.org.au](https://swf.org.au)**



### CHI8 NAT AMOORE'S AMAZING TRIVIA CHALLENGE May 2, 4.15-5pm

Jam-packed with puzzles, prizes and maybe even a surprise guest or two, come test your knowledge of all your favourite books at author Nat Amore's side-splitting, curiosity-tickling trivia challenge! Supported by ARA.

**Rec. 8+**  
**Free, bookings essential**  
**02 9256 4200 [swf.org.au](https://swf.org.au)**

## Big Backyard

The Big Backyard returns on Sunday May 2 from 10am to 4pm with free activities that will whisk kids away into a world of wonder. Draw a llama with **Matt Cosgrove**, watch **Mick Elliott** create your portrait, see an ugly animal come to life with **Sami Bayly**, make a Festival memento with **Cheryl Orsini** – and more!

There will be QR check-in on entry. A COVID Safe capacity will be kept at all times.

**Blacksmith's Workshop. All events are free (no bookings required) and run from 10am to 4pm.**

### BBY1 ILLUSTRATION SPACE

Prepare to be inspired and delighted as five of Australia's most talented picture book artists take turns creating an illustration, live at the Big Backyard. Featuring Sami Bayly, Matt Cosgrove, Gus Gordon, Dub Leffler and Marjorie Crosby-Fairall.

**Rec. 4+**

### BBY2 RUSS THE STORY BUS

It's our magical library on wheels, Russ the Story Bus! Borrow one of the hundreds of available books and be transported in an instant.

**All ages.**

### BBY3 STORYTIME CLUBHOUSE

Settle in to hear your favourite children's authors and illustrators read their stories at the Clubhouse Corner. With a different storyteller dropping by every half-hour, you never know who you might meet.

**Rec. 3+**

### BBY4 SQUIDGE'S SPEEDY PORTRAITS

See yourself drawn in cartoon form by writer-illustrator Mick Elliott (*Squidge Dibley Destroys the School*) in just 60 seconds. But be warned – your cartoon portrait might be a work of art ... or of fart!

**Rec. 4+**

### BBY5 BADGE MAKING WITH CHERYL ORSINI

Take home a magical memento of your time at Family Day by making a badge with Cheryl Orsini, the much-loved author and illustrator of picture books including *The Magic Bookshop* and *Caravan Fran*.

**Rec. 4+**

### BBY6 ART CLASS

Join some of our favourite illustrators in drawing their most beloved characters or even imagining your own! Happening all day, our guided art classes give you the chance to sketch with the best. Featuring Jules Faber, Remy Lai, Aura Parker, Marjorie Crosby-Fairall, Georgia Norton Lodge and Ben Wood.

**Rec. 5+**



### BBY7 IT'S BLUEY! GIANT COLOURING IN

Cheese and crackers! Bluey's gone missing and we need your help to find her! Colour in a GIANT activity wall featuring a scene inspired by *Where's Bluey?*, the new wackadoo activity book from Puffin. (And no dollarbucks needed!)

**Rec. 3+**







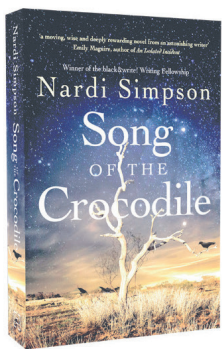
WE SEEK OUT  
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STORIES.

WE NURTURE  
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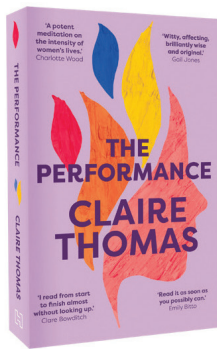
THEN WE SHARE  
THEM WITH YOU.

# Join the Conversation

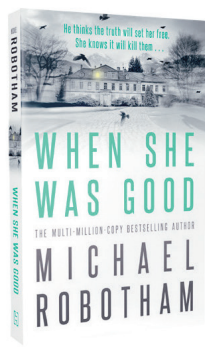
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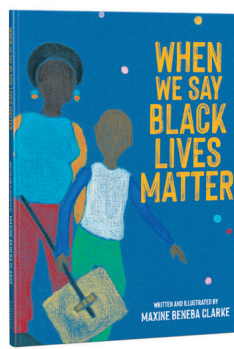
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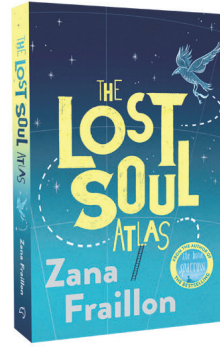
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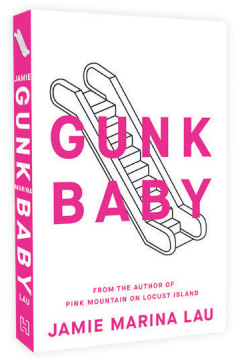
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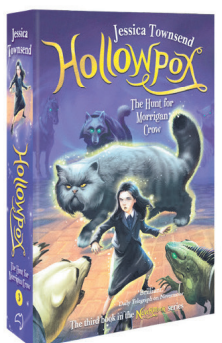
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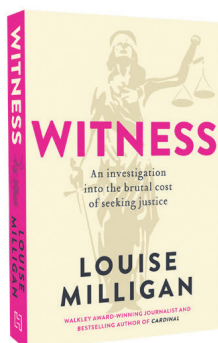
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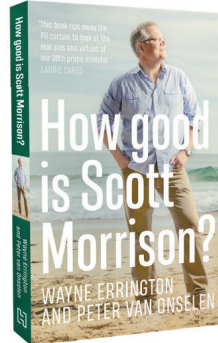
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TOWNSEND



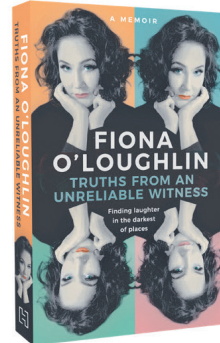
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BENNETT



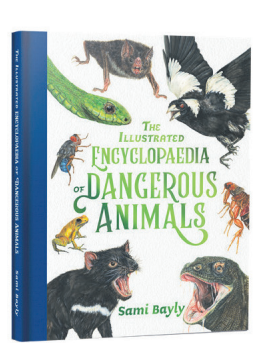
LOUISE  
MILLIGAN



PETER VAN  
ONSELEN



FIONA  
O'LOUGHLIN



SAMI  
BAYLY



# In Your Neighbourhood

The Festival takes over Sydney and beyond with events from Hornsby to Wollongong, Parramatta to Sutherland. Don't miss these sessions with acclaimed writers in your neighbourhood.

## AUBURN

**N1 HOW DISTANCE CAN KEEP US TOGETHER**  
April 29, 7-8.30pm  
Auburn Centre for Community  
Auburn Poets and Writers Group uses verse, sketch, story and song to overcome distance and confinement, and to foster connection. Presented with Auburn Poets and Writers Group.  
\$10  
Bookings [eventbrite.com.au](https://eventbrite.com.au)

## CASULA

**N2 NEW VOICES ON FOOD: CELEBRATING THE DIVERSE STORIES THAT FLAVOUR AUSTRALIA'S FOOD LANDSCAPE**  
May 1, 11am-12pm  
Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre  
This intimate conversation between Lee Tran Lam and Sydney-based contributors to *New Voices on Food* adds flavour to your understanding of food writing and brings new perspectives to the table. Presented with Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre.  
\$25/\$20  
Bookings [casulapowerhouse.com](https://casulapowerhouse.com)

## CHATSWOOD

**N3 TRENT DALTON: ALL OUR SHIMMERING SKIES**  
April 30, 6-7pm  
The Concourse Concert Hall, Chatswood  
SEE FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHT ON THIS PAGE

## CHIPPENDALE

**N4 MICROLIT IMPROV**  
April 28, 8-9.30pm  
Knox Street Bar and online  
Join MC Jane Watt, actors from *Bang Bang Rodeo* and musical comedian Sarah Gaul for a night in which Spineless Wonders microliterature meets improv. A hilarious evening of edgy entertainment, creativity and mayhem. Presented with Spineless Wonders.  
\$25/\$10  
Bookings [crowdcast.io](https://crowdcast.io)



# Festival Highlight

**N3 TRENT DALTON: ALL OUR SHIMMERING SKIES**  
Friday April 30, 6-7pm  
The Concourse Concert Hall, Chatswood  
Australian literary phenomenon Trent Dalton returns to discuss *All Our Shimmering Skies*, the blockbuster follow-up to his globally bestselling debut, *Boy Swallows Universe*. Supported by Willoughby City Council. Thanks to David Paradice.  
\$35/\$25 ~~£9~~  
Bookings [theconcourse.com.au](https://theconcourse.com.au)

## DARLINGHURST

**N5 WORDS: POWERFUL, POSITIVE AND PROFOUND**  
May 2, 3-4pm  
Sydney Jewish Museum  
Holocaust survivor Eddie Jaku OAM (age 101) wrote a memoir, *The Happiest Man on Earth*, that has inspired thousands of people of all ages to live a more positive life. Eddie shares a few of the powerful and memorable letters he has received in response to people reading his story. Presented with Sydney Jewish Museum.  
\$25  
Bookings 02 9360 7999  
[sydneyjewishmuseum.com.au](https://sydneyjewishmuseum.com.au)

## PARRAMATTA

**N6 WORDS/SOUNDS BLOCK PARTY**  
April 29, 6.30-8.30pm  
Parramatta, check website for venue details  
Join five writers and five electronica artists under the stars and let the power of storytelling transport you through the roadways, construction zones and secret green spaces of Parramatta's CBD. Presented by the City of Parramatta.  
Free, bookings essential  
[eventbrite.com.au](https://eventbrite.com.au)

**N7 ABC SYDNEY DRIVE WITH RICHARD GLOVER FEATURING THANK GOD IT'S FRIDAY!**  
April 30, 5-6.30pm  
Riverside Theatre, Parramatta  
SEE FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHT ON THIS PAGE

## SYDNEY

**N8 NSW PREMIER'S LITERARY AWARDS**  
April 26, 7.30-8.30pm  
Online  
The NSW Premier's Literary Awards recognise excellence in Australian writing and the contribution of writers to our cultural life. Join us online as the winners for 2021 are announced. Presented with the State Library of NSW.  
Free  
[sl.nsw.gov.au/pla](https://sl.nsw.gov.au/pla)

**N9 AND THE AWARD GOES TO...**  
April 27, 11.30am-12.30pm  
State Library of NSW, Metcalfe Auditorium  
Be among the first to hear from some of the 2021 winners of the prestigious NSW Premier's Literary Awards. Presented with the State Library of NSW.  
Free, bookings essential  
[sl.nsw.gov.au/awards](https://sl.nsw.gov.au/awards)

**N10 HISTORIES OF MAYHEM AND MARGINS**  
April 27, 2.30-4pm  
State Library of NSW, Metcalfe Auditorium  
Winners of the 2020 NSW Premier's History Awards reveal how and why they wrote their award-winning histories. Presented with the History Council of NSW.  
Free, bookings essential  
[eventbrite.com.au](https://eventbrite.com.au)

**N11 ZINE FUTURES: A PARTICIPATORY PANEL DISCUSSION**  
May 1, 2-3.30pm  
Museum of Contemporary Art  
What role can zines play in a post-pandemic future? Join this participatory panel of zine makers as we reimagine the possibilities of zines and zine fairs. Presented with the Museum of Contemporary Art.  
Free, bookings essential  
[mca.com.au/whats-on](https://mca.com.au/whats-on)

## WALSH BAY

**N12 PATRICK WHITE PLAYWRIGHTS AWARD AND FELLOWSHIP**  
May 4, 6.45-8.15pm  
Richard Wherrett Studio  
Join Sydney Theatre Company Artistic Director Kip Williams as he announces the winners of the 2020 Patrick White Playwrights Award and Fellowship. A reading of the award-winning play will follow. Presented with Sydney Theatre Company.  
Free, bookings essential  
02 9250 1777 [sydneytheatre.com.au](https://sydneytheatre.com.au)

## WOLLONGONG

**N13 NGANA BARANGARAI DREAMING INSIDE VOLUME 9**  
April 29, 6-8.30pm  
Wollongong Art Gallery  
Anita Heiss launches *Dreaming Inside Volume 9*, this year's anthology of writing from First Nations inmates at Juncie Correctional Centre, exploring their culture, feelings and experiences through poetry, prose and lyrics. This event is auspiced by the South Coast Writers Centre and initiated by Wadi Wadi Elder Aunty Barbara Nicholson.  
No bookings required. Entry is a gold coin donation upon arrival, with 100% of funds raised going towards future Ngana Barangarai (Black Wallaby) projects.



# Festival Highlight

**N7 ABC SYDNEY DRIVE WITH RICHARD GLOVER FEATURING THANK GOD IT'S FRIDAY!**  
Friday April 30, 5-6.30pm  
Riverside Theatre, Parramatta  
Join ABC Radio Sydney's Richard Glover for a special Festival edition of *Thank God It's Friday!* and after-the-show interviews with three of the Festival's literary stars at Parramatta's Riverside Theatre. Supported by the City of Parramatta.  
Free, bookings essential  
02 9256 4200 [swf.org.au](https://swf.org.au)

# Nights at the Library

Enter the minds behind your most borrowed books with the Sydney Writers' Festival's Suburban and Regional Library Program. Presented in partnership with the State Library of NSW, and live streamed to your local library.  
Enjoy hearing award-winning and bestselling Australian authors **Kate Grenville**, **Anita Heiss** and **Candice Fox** in an illuminating conversation each evening from Tuesday April 27 to Thursday April 29. Bookings are essential through your local participating library.  
For booking information, visit [swf.org.au/nightsatthelibrary](https://swf.org.au/nightsatthelibrary).



**N14 KATE GRENVILLE: A ROOM MADE OF LEAVES**  
April 27, 6.30-7.30pm  
Online  
Celebrated writer Kate Grenville (*The Secret River* and *The Idea of Perfection*) discusses her latest novel, *A Room Made of Leaves*, which draws on the life of Elizabeth Macarthur – wife of the notorious wool baron John Macarthur.



**N15 ANITA HEISS: BILA YARRUDHANGGALANGDHURAY**  
April 28, 6.30-7.30pm  
Online  
Anita Heiss, award-winning author of *Tiddas* (currently being adapted for the stage) and *Barbed Wire and Cherry Blossoms*, discusses her latest novel, *Bila Yarrudhanggalangdhuray*, an engrossing portrayal of love, loss and belonging on Wiradjuri Country.



**N16 CANDICE FOX: THE CHASE**  
April 29, 6.30-7.30pm  
Online  
"One of Australia's finest new gen crime writers" (*The Sydney Morning Herald*), Candice Fox, discusses her latest novel, *The Chase*, an electrifying cat-and-mouse thriller set in the Nevada desert after a mass prison breakout lets loose 650 of the country's most dangerous prisoners.

- Participating local libraries include:
- Blacktown City Libraries
  - Camden Libraries
  - Campbelltown City Libraries
  - City of Canada Bay Libraries
  - City of Ryde Libraries
  - Hawkesbury Library Service
  - Hornsby Library
  - Inner West Libraries
  - Ku-ring-gai Library
  - Barry O'Keefe Library (Mosman)
  - Penrith Library
  - Randwick City Library
  - Georges River Libraries
  - Sutherland Shire Libraries
  - The Hills Shire Library Service
  - Willoughby City Library
  - Wentworth Point Community Centre and Library
- Supported by Willoughby City Council.







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# WE'RE ON THE SAME PAGE

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Important cultural events like Sydney Writers' Festival could not happen without the support of the people of Sydney. Your participation makes all the difference. We're pleased to join you in keeping creativity alive and well in our city.

Find more events at [whatson.sydney](https://whatson.sydney)

**CITY OF SYDNEY** 



22

THE FESTIVAL PRECINCT

SYDNEY WRITERS FESTIVAL

SWF.ORG.AU

# The Festival Precinct

Carriageworks will come to life for a week of literary culture showcasing the best of public discourse: imaginings and arguments, polemics and poetry, declarations and conversations.

Start the day with coffee and conversation as leading journalists discuss the news of the day at Coffee and Headlines (page 11). Between sessions, pop into our new Festival Hub in Bay 25, where you can browse the bookshop, settle in for a reading session or relax with friends as you enjoy food, coffee or a drink.

In addition to Festival dining at the Hub, the Precinct has a wide array of pop-up eateries, providing everything you need for sustenance between sessions. Food Truck Park introduces COVID Safe outdoor dining to the Festival. Along Carriageworks Way, you'll find sweet and savoury delights. And head to specialty roastery Coffee Corner for your fresh brew and to one of the many Festival bars around the Precinct for an afternoon tippie.

It's not just your minds that are in for some serious nourishment, the Festival Precinct has everything you need to immerse yourself in the 2021 Sydney Writers' Festival.

AREA MAP

CARRIAGEWORKS:  
Bay 17  
Bay 20  
Bay 22  
Track 8  
Track 12  
Blacksmith's Workshop  
Festival Hub (Bay 25)  
Elston Room

TO MACDONALDTOWN STATION

Golden Grove St  
Abercrombie St  
Darlington Rd  
Butlin Ave  
Maze Cres  
City Rd  
Codrington St  
Wilson Ln  
UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY  
Shepherd St  
Blacksmiths Creek Ln  
Ivy St  
Abercrombie St  
Lawson St  
Gibbons St  
REDFERN STATION

KEY

Box Office

Train Station

Festival Bus Stop

Shepherd Street Car Park (parking on weekday evenings and all day on weekends)

Suggested walking routes (each approx. 10 mins)

CARRIAGEWORKS

Track 8  
Track 12  
Bay 17  
Bay 20  
Bay 22  
Bay 25  
Food Truck Park  
Book Signing  
Festival Hub (Bay 25)  
Elston Room  
Carriageworks Exhibition  
Blacksmith's Workshop  
Box Office  
Carriageworks Entrance  
Bays 17 & 20 Entrance  
Carriageworks Way  
Wilson Street  
To Redfern Station  
To Macdonaldtown Station

KEY

Info Booth

Cloakroom

Food & Drink

Toilets

ATM

Festival Bus Stop

Box Office

Bookshop

Coffee Corner

First Aid

Entrances

COVID Check-in Point



BOOKINGS	 <div> SYDNEY WRITERS FESTIVAL </div>	SWF.ORG.AU	23		
HOW TO BOOK		ACCESS AND INCLUSION			
<p>Tickets for events at Carriageworks, City Recital Hall and Sydney Town Hall can be booked directly through the Sydney Writers' Festival. For all other tickets, please refer to the individual event listings in this guide for booking information.</p> <p>Transaction fees apply for all tickets purchased online and over the phone. Bookings for free events will not incur transaction fees.</p> <p><b>ONLINE - <a href="https://swf.org.au">swf.org.au</a></b></p> <p><b>PHONE - (02) 9256 4200</b></p> <p>Monday-Friday: 9am-5pm Select weekends: 10am-4pm (March 13 &amp; 14; April 24 &amp; 25; May 1 &amp; 2) Closed Good Friday-Easter Monday.</p> <p><b>IN PERSON</b></p> <p><b>Carriageworks Box Office</b> Tuesday April 27: 12-6pm Wednesday April 28-Sunday May 2: 9am until the last event of the day starts (sales will be card only).</p> <p><b>Other venue box offices</b> Open on days of events from a minimum of one hour prior to event start times.</p>		<p>We welcome all visitors to Sydney Writers' Festival events and make every effort to ensure the program is accessible to our whole audience.</p> <p><b>ACCESSIBLE SEATS</b> All Festival venues are accessible and have wheelchair and level access.</p> <p>To book accessible seats (including Auslan-interpreted and open-captioned bookings) for events at Carriageworks and Sydney Town Hall, please contact the Sydney Writers' Festival Box Office on 02 9256 4200 or email <a href="mailto:ticketing@swf.org.au">ticketing@swf.org.au</a>.</p> <p>To book accessible seats (including Auslan-interpreted and open-captioned bookings) for events at City Recital Hall and The Concourse, please contact venue box offices directly.</p> <p><b>The Concourse</b> <a href="mailto:concourse_boxoffice@centuryvenues.com.au">concourse_boxoffice@centuryvenues.com.au</a></p> <p><b>City Recital Hall</b> 02 8256 2222 <a href="mailto:admin@cityrecitalhall.com">admin@cityrecitalhall.com</a></p> <p><b>NATIONAL RELAY SERVICE</b> Sydney Writers' Festival accepts phone calls via the National Relay Service. TTY users can phone 133 677, then ask for 02 9256 4200. Speak and Listen users can phone 1300 555 727, then ask for 02 9256 4200. Internet relay users can visit <a href="https://relayservice.gov.au">relayservice.gov.au</a>, then ask for 02 9256 4200.</p> <p><b>ACCESSIBLE PARKING</b> Accessible parking is available at Carriageworks. Please call 02 8571 9099 for Carriageworks parking information.</p>			
<p><b>CONCESSIONS - Proof required</b> Concession prices are available for children under the age of 16, full-time students, Health Care Card holders and Pensioner Concession Card holders.</p> <p><b>TICKETS - Print or show on mobile</b> All tickets for the 2021 Festival will be issued electronically in line with COVID safety measures. Please consult your booking confirmation email for e-ticket delivery dates.</p> <p>Before you queue for entry into your venue(s), please retrieve your e-ticket(s) and have the barcode(s) ready to be scanned. You can either bring a physical printout of your e-ticket(s) or show it on a mobile device at the door.</p> <p>If you can't access your e-ticket(s), please contact the Sydney Writers' Festival Box Office at least one hour prior to the event to have a ticket reissued.</p> <p><b>HOW TO BOOK FREE EVENTS</b> Free events will require bookings this year as part of our COVID-19 Safety Plan. Please refer to individual event listings for booking information.</p>		<p><b>AUSLAN-INTERPRETED EVENTS </b> The following events will be Auslan interpreted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>32 Kazuo Ishiguro: Klara and the Sun</li> <li>35 Rachel Cusk: Second Place</li> <li>55 Future Cities</li> <li>68 Paul Kelly: Words And Music</li> <li>72 Within Reach Gala</li> <li>84 Sarah Krasnostein &amp; Helen Garner</li> <li>95 SWF Great Debate: How Good Is Australia?</li> <li>99 The Space Between Words</li> <li>101 Writing the Invisible</li> <li>108 Growing Up Disabled in Australia</li> <li>112 Jan Fran &amp; Judith Lucy</li> <li>N3 Trent Dalton: All Our Shimmering Skies.</li> </ul> <p>If you would like Auslan interpretation at an event that is not listed here, we will do our best to provide it. Please contact us at <a href="mailto:ticketing@swf.org.au">ticketing@swf.org.au</a>. We require two weeks' notice to confirm an interpreter.</p> <p><b>OPEN CAPTIONING </b> All events in Bay 17 will be open captioned (excluding the Australian Book Industry Awards 2021).</p> <p><b>ASSISTIVE LISTENING SYSTEMS</b> The following venues are fitted with assistive listening systems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City Recital Hall, Angel Place</li> <li>The Concourse Concert Hall, Chatswood</li> <li>Riverside Theatre, Parramatta.</li> </ul> <p><b>COMPANION CARD</b> Companion Card holders qualify for a complimentary ticket for their companion. Proof of concession is required.</p> <p>For more information on the Festival's accessibility and inclusion practices, visit <a href="https://swf.org.au/access">swf.org.au/access</a>.</p>			
VENUE CAPACITY AND SEATING					
<p>Please be aware that when you attend a Festival event, you will be seated according to the NSW public health orders in place at the time of the event, not at the time of buying your ticket.</p> <p>Venues are currently operating at 75% capacity under guidelines set by the NSW Department of Health. Should venue capacity be increased before your event, there will be ticketholders in the seats directly next to you. You will be contacted directly if significant changes are made to your booking (this may include changes to venue capacity and seat allocations).</p> <p>Patrons must sit in their allocated seat as directed by venue management, including at free events.</p>					

# COVID Information



Sydney Writers’ Festival works closely with the NSW Department of Health and is committed to the wellbeing of all Festival attendees, participants and staff. We want everyone to enjoy the Festival and stay safe. The Sydney Writers’ Festival will be delivered under approved COVID-19 Safety Plans and will follow strict guidelines set by the NSW Department of Health. All of our venues, including Carriageworks, are registered as COVID Safe. To access all venues’ COVID-19 Safety Plans, and check for any specific conditions of entry, please visit [swf.org.au/stay-covid-safe/](https://swf.org.au/stay-covid-safe/).

## COVID SAFETY AT CARRIAGEWORKS

To ensure a safe and comfortable environment for everyone, we have made some changes to the way the Festival operates:

- All patrons are required to wear a mask while inside the venues. Children 12 years and under are exempt.
- All patrons must check in upon entry to Carriageworks via the QR codes at entrances. Please download the Service NSW app prior to arriving at the Festival (assistance will be available if you do not have a smartphone).
- Enhanced cleaning procedures will be in place across the Precinct. This includes regular cleaning of high-traffic areas and high-touch surfaces using hospital-grade disinfectant, and cleaning of theatre spaces between events.
- Hand sanitiser stations will be available throughout frequently accessed areas.
- Only cashless payments will be accepted onsite, this includes for tickets.
- Events have been carefully scheduled to reduce crowding and allow time for cleaning between events.
- Free events will require bookings and all seats are allocated.
- Additional seats and tables will be onsite (including at the Festival Hub in Bay 25) to use between events.
- Additional food and beverage options will be available (operating in accordance with NSW Health guidelines).
- All Festival staff members and volunteers will have undertaken COVID Safe training.
- All queues will be socially distanced at 1.5 metres.

We are closely following all NSW Government health guidelines and will continue to update our procedures as necessary. We will share all relevant information and any updates with ticketholders about their event(s) in an email closer to the Festival. Please ensure that you supply an email and mobile number at the time of booking to facilitate this.

For more information about our safety measures, visit [swf.org.au/stay-covid-safe/](https://swf.org.au/stay-covid-safe/).

All details were correct at the time of publication.

## HELP US HAVE A COVID SAFE FESTIVAL

Being COVID Safe is a shared responsibility. All Festival attendees must adhere to NSW Department of Health guidelines and follow these COVID Safe practices when attending Festival events:



Check in on arrival using the QR codes on display at our venues. Download the Service NSW app prior to attending events (assistance will be available if you do not have a smartphone).



Wear a mask inside the venues and where physical distancing is not possible.



Stay home if you feel unwell or if you are displaying any of the COVID symptoms as identified by the NSW Department of Health.



Practise social distancing (1.5 metres whenever possible) and follow the guidance provided by our staff and signage.



Practise good hand hygiene.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. We look forward to welcoming you to the Festival.



Principal Partner of the **Sydney Writers' Festival**



# Some stories are meant to be shared.

We believe celebrating writing, sharing ideas and telling stories is more important than ever. That's why we are the Principal Partner of the Sydney Writers' Festival.

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