SYDNEY WRITERS'

SHOW ME

THE TRUTH

FESTIVAL

MAY–2026

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MULTIPACK — MULTIPACK — MU

Too many events on your wish list? You're in luck! Purchase more than 4 tickets and receive a discount via our multipacks.

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WITH THANKS TO EDITOR GROUP FOR PROOFREADING THE PROGRAM. ALL DETAILS WERE CORRECT AT TIME OF PUBLICATION.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Sydney Writers' Festival is a time for readers to come together and celebrate the best of local and international writing. Over the week, join us exploring sessions that showcase the diversity of storytelling and lived experiences. Each event is built to inspire real connection between writers and readers. The real joy is the possibility of discovering new ideas and perspectives from some of the most vital and influential voices in contemporary writing. The board is proud we have a world-class festival that showcases the best of the written word in all its complexity and brilliance. We look forward to welcoming you to a week of rigorous debate, creative discovery and the shared thrill of a story well told.

Robert Watkins
CHAIR

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Writers' festivals offer more than the charm of a well-told story or a poem's rhythms; they're a window into the minds of those who think deeply through complex issues and write about them. We bring authors together to reflect on the lives they lead, the environments they inhabit and the experiences that shape their thinking.

At a moment when public conversation is increasingly fractured, we believe stories and the intellects behind them have the power to bring us together.

In recent years, the Festival has continued to evolve, expanding the breadth and depth of its program while staying grounded in what matters most: bringing readers and writers together into shared spaces, offering a rare chance for deep listening, reflection and exploration of the many tonalities of different ideas.

Whether you join us in person, online, through events streamed nationally via Live & Local or at your local library as part of In Your Neighbourhood, you are welcome.

We invite you to read, listen and share in the transformative power of literature.

Brooke Webb
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Sydney Writers' Festival acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this nation. They are the first storytellers of our land and we honour their tradition of passing down stories.

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which our events take place. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

The theme of the Festival, Show Me the Truth, is an invitation to engage with the many ways writers bring the truth to life. At a time when the norms of truth-telling are slipping away and AI hallucinations have joined misinformation and divergent narratives in the public square, truth can feel fractured, slippery and polarising. But it is worth holding on to and the work of writers coming to the Festival shows us the many miraculous ways this can be done. In the Festival you will find histories that unfurl over millennia, as well as vivid political accounts of the here and now. The immersive pleasure of fiction takes us deep into the lives of others. Poetry's truths wander between the collision of ideas and the joy of performance.

This Festival is being launched into the world from Sydney at a very particular moment in time. Writers' festivals are in the news and debates rage about who should speak at them. With freedom of expression a core value, we do not cancel or censor writers – we know that without them there is no Festival.

We are making space for the work of writers with different experiences and different backgrounds and for differences of opinion, among speakers and audiences. In a broad-ranging program you will find stories about first love and conversations about courage, cooking and crime. You can find writers to show you the truth about sorcery or ghosts, about love or war or the stars. For kids and families and young adults, there are events for all ages and interests, featuring everything from vampire fantasy and a guide to the Australian Parliament through to Captain Underpants.

It is up to you, our communities of readers, to choose what you want to engage with and who you want to listen to.

Bringing people together across differences of experience and opinion takes a willingness to talk and a willingness to listen. There is no better place to do this than at Sydney Writers' Festival, with fellow readers and extraordinary writers from Australia and around the world as your companions.

Ann Mossop
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

With thanks

Special thanks go to guest curator Melanie Saward for the conversations she has created and for being such a great collaborator. I'm also grateful to Maeve Marsden and Jennifer Wong for working with us to showcase wonderful storytelling and Lauren Bennett and Edwina Johnson for their many contributions to the program.

Thank you to our long-term partner, Auckland Writers' Festival and to Lyndsey Fineran and Grace Sinclair for their collaboration. Thank you also to our Australian partners, Sian Baker and Margaret River Readers and Writers Festival, Veronica Sullivan and the Melbourne Writers Festival, Jackie Ryan and Brisbane Writers Festival, Gene Smith and the Wheeler Centre, Corrie Perkin and Sorrento Writers Festival and Rosemarie Milsom and Newcastle Writers Festival.

GUEST CURATOR — GUEST CURATOR — GUEST CURATOR — GUEST CU

The 2026 Festival showcases the work of Guest Curator Melanie Saward in three special events bringing important conversations on stage.

MELANIE SAWARD

In curating these sessions, I wanted to centre Blak stories across time – where we come from, what we're making now and what we need next. Across the program, writers share the Blak books that shaped them, talk honestly about their creative process (including the music that gets them writing) and reflect on the responsibilities that come with telling stories about Aboriginal young people and the justice system.

Melanie Saward
2026 GUEST CURATOR

My Writing Soundtrack, see page 19

Dreaming Big: Voices from the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre, see page 37

Past, Present, Emerging, see page 22

HALL SYDNEY TOWN HALL SYDNEY TO

MAY 21
6–7PM

JIMMY WALES: *THE SEVEN RULES OF TRUST*

TICKETS FROM
Adult $40
Concession $35

Wikipedia founder talks trust in the post-truth era

Hear Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales's actionable steps for fighting misinformation in *The Seven Rules of Trust.* In conversation with Richard Fidler.

Jimmy Wales appears thanks to the support of Phillip Keir and Sarah Benjamin.

Presented in partnership with ABC Radio National.

MAY 21
8.15–9.30PM

SWF GREAT DEBATE: WE CAN'T HANDLE THE TRUTH

TICKETS FROM
Adult $35
Concession $30

Wild and risqué Festival favourite event returns to open Pandora's box

Join Annabel Crabb, David Marr, Matilda Boseley, Reuben Kaye, Rhys Nicholson, Yumi Stynes and Jennifer Wong for a saucy and suggestive comedy debate about our appetite for the truth.

Supported by the City of Sydney.

MAY 22
6–7PM

JACINDA ARDERN: *A DIFFERENT KIND OF POWER*

TICKETS FROM
Adult $40
Concession $35

Former prime minister of New Zealand on leading with kindness

Join former prime minister of New Zealand Jacinda Ardern as she shares the story of her deeply personal memoir and unique leadership style, in conversation with Holly Wainwright.

MAY 22
8–9PM

AN EVENING WITH R.F. KUANG

TICKETS FROM
Adult $40
Concession $35

To hell and (hopefully) back again with bestselling fantasy author

Join international sensation R.F. Kuang for a journey through her legendary literary career, from *Yellowface* and *Babel* to *Katabasis*, in conversation with Michaela Kalowski.

MAY 23
3.15–4.30PM

BARRIE CASSIDY AND FRIENDS: STATE OF THE NATION

TICKETS FROM
Adult $40
Concession $35

The substance behind the spin with Australia's leading political journalists

Get the experts' opinions on the current state of Australian politics with political analyst Barrie Cassidy and friends Waleed Aly, Sean Kelly, Amy Remeikis and Niki Savva.

Supported by the City of Sydney.

MAY 23
5.30–6.30PM

THE WORLD ACCORDING TO TRUMP

TICKETS FROM
Adult $40
Concession $35

The geopolitical implications of Trump's second term, one year in

Political analysis experts Nick Bryant, David Moscrop and Jon Sopel examine Trump's second term in office and its impact on Australia and the world. With host Amelia Lester.

Supported by Lonergan Research.

STATE LIBRARY OF NSW

Presented in partnership with the State Library of NSW.

MAY 6
6–7PM
STATE LIBRARY OF NSW, LIBRARY AUDITORIUM
Adult $35
Concession $25

NIALL WILLIAMS IN CONVERSATION

On the idyllic inspiration of Ireland's countryside for bestselling novelist

Much-beloved Irish writer Niall Williams reflects on his writing life and career and the country home that inspired his acclaimed novels. In conversation with ABC Radio National's Kate Evans.

Supported by the Consulate General of Ireland.

MAY 17
10.30–11.30AM
STATE LIBRARY OF NSW, LIBRARY AUDITORIUM
Adult $35
Concession $25

DANIEL HAHN: THE UNLIKELY ART OF SHAKESPEARE IN TRANSLATION

Would a pun in any other language be as funny?

Hear the ins and outs of bringing Shakespeare to audiences all over the world with translator and author of *If This Be Magic* Daniel Hahn, in conversation with Jonty Claypole.

MAY 17
12–1PM
STATE LIBRARY OF NSW, LIBRARY AUDITORIUM
Adult $35
Concession $25

LITERARY LEGACIES: MILES FRANKLIN AND ELIZABETH HARROWER

The lives and works of two iconic Australian women writers

Discuss the legacies of the two august Australian writers Elizabeth Harrower and Miles Franklin with biographer Alexandra Lapierre and writer Susan Wyndham. In conversation with Caroline Baum.

Alexandra Lapierre appears thanks to the support of Rowena Danziger AM.

MAY 17
2–3PM
STATE LIBRARY OF NSW, LIBRARY AUDITORIUM
Adult $35
Concession $25

AFTER BONDI

Jewish writers and artists on the meaning of community, harmony and grief

Hear from writers and artists Jessica Chapnik Kahn, Lee Kofman, Simon Tedeschi and Michael Visontay in a thoughtful meditation on violence and the bonds of community in the aftermath of the tragic Bondi terrorist attack. With host Michaela Kalowski.

MAY 17
3.30–4.30PM
STATE LIBRARY OF NSW, LIBRARY AUDITORIUM
Adult $45
Concession $40

PATRICK RADDEN KEEFE: *SAY NOTHING*

A true story of murder and memory in Northern Ireland

Join journalist Patrick Radden Keefe for a deep-dive into his international bestseller *Say Nothing*, now adapted into a hit TV show. With Fran Kelly.

Patrick Radden Keefe appears thanks to the support of Phillip Keir and Sarah Benjamin.

Supported by the Consulate General of Ireland and Culture Ireland.

CURATE YOUR FESTIVAL

We know that the Festival has plenty of events to choose from so we've curated a selection of event packages to help you decide what to see based on your interests.

We have multipack discounting available so if you book **4 events** you'll get a **5% discount**, book **5 events** and get **10% off** or book **6 or more events** and get **15% off.**

Book all or some of the events in the event packages to receive your discount.

BOOK CLUB OUTINGS

Bringing the Past to Life	Thurs 21 May, 4pm
Found in Translation	Fri 22 May, 11am
Dark Materials	Fri 22 May, 2pm
Past, Present, Emerging	Fri 22 May, 3pm
Florence Knapp: *The Names*	Fri 22 May, 6pm
Tony Tulathimutte: *Rejection*	Fri 22 May, 7pm
Amitav Ghosh in Conversation	Sat 23 May, 10am
Lily King: *Heart the Lover*	Sat 23 May, 8pm

CRIME

True Crimes	Thurs 21 May, 10am
Your Favourites' Favourites: Chris Hammer and Michael Bennett	Thurs 21 May, 3pm
Beyond the Outback	Thurs 21 May, 7pm
S.A. Cosby: *King of Ashes*	Fri 22 May, 1pm
Dervla McTiernan: *Three Reasons for Revenge*	Sat 23 May, 12pm
Where Dunnit?	Sun 24 May, 2pm
Mick Herron in Conversation	Sun 24 May, 4pm

LONG FORM JOURNALISM

An Evening with Patrick Radden Keefe	Tues 19 May, 6pm
Tracey Lee Holmes: This Sporting Life	Thurs 21 May, 3pm
Deborah Baker: *Charlottesville: An American Story*	Fri 22 May, 3pm
Barbara Demick: *Daughters of the Bamboo Grove*	Sat 23 May, 7pm
Lyse Doucet: *The Finest Hotel in Kabul*	Sun 24 May, 4.30pm

AUSSIE TALENTS

Heather Rose: *A Great Act of Love*	Thurs 21 May, 1pm
Drusilla Modjeska: *A Woman's Eye, Her Art*	Thurs 21 May, 3pm
Trent Dalton: *Gravity Let Me Go*	Fri 22 May, 2pm
Melissa Lucashenko: A Writing Life	Sat 23 May, 1pm
Shaun Micallef: *De'Ath Takes a Holiday*	Sat 23 May, 4pm
Randa Abdel-Fattah: *Discipline*	Sat 23 May, 6pm
S. Shakthidharan: *Gather Up Your World in One Long Breath*	Sat 23 May, 8pm
Antoinette Lattouf: *Women Who Win*	Sun 24 May, 2pm

POLITICS

Writing in the Age of Trump	Thurs 21 May, 7pm
Niki Savva: *Earthquake*	Fri 22 May, 4pm
Jacinda Ardern: *A Different Kind of Power*	Fri 22 May, 6pm
The Future of Democracy: Trump's America with Jon Sopel	Sat 23 May, 12pm
Barrie Cassidy and Friends: State of the Nation	Sat 23 May, 3.15pm
The World According to Trump	Sat 23 May, 5.30pm
Whitlam and Howard: Leaders of Consequence	Sun 24 May, 1pm

AWARDS

Yann Martel: *Son of Nobody*	Thurs 21 May, 12pm
Tayari Jones: *Kin*	Thurs 21 May, 2pm
David Szalay: *Flesh*	Thurs 21 May, 6pm
Susan Choi: *Flashlight*	Fri 22 May, 12pm
State of the Art: The Booker Prize	Fri 22 May, 8pm
Roddy Doyle in Conversation	Sat 23 May, 6pm

PARRAMATTA

Join us in Parramatta for workshops, ideas and conversations including a night-time poetry slam.
Supported by the City of Parramatta.

WEDNESDAY MAY 20

MAY 20
6–7PM
EPPING BRANCH LIBRARY
FREE
Bookings required

SIANG LU: *GHOST CITIES*

The absurd and the mundane in highly imaginative novel

Join Siang Lu as he unpacks how his Miles Franklin Literary Award–winning novel *Ghost Cities* draws on Chinese history to explore the absurdity of modern life. In conversation with Jennifer Wong.

SATURDAY MAY 23

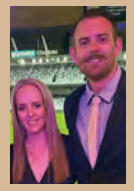
10.30–11.15AM
WENTWORTH POINT COMMUNITY CENTRE AND LIBRARY
FREE
Bookings required

DANCE PARTY AT THE LIBRARY

Stretch, warm-up your body and get ready to boogie

Learn to slither like a snake, jump like a kangaroo, crawl like a goanna and run like an emu with authors of the book *Our Dance* Jacinta Daniher and Taylor Hampton.

Rec. ages 3+



11–11.45AM
PARRAMATTA LIBRARY
FREE
Bookings required

ANIMALS ON COUNTRY STORYTIME

Connect with nature and learn about animals

Come enjoy some storytelling fun with award-winning brother and sister team Victor and Sandra Steffensen, the creators of *Animals on Country, The Trees* and *Looking After Country with Fire*.

Rec. ages 4+

11.30AM–12.30PM
PARRAMATTA TOWN HALL
All tickets $10

WHAT MAKES A WRITER

Writers on their journeys so far and what lies ahead

Hear Maxine Beneba Clarke, the outgoing Parramatta Laureate in Literature Yumna Kassab and new Laureate Eda Gunaydin reflect on the varied paths of their writing careers. With James Jiang.

1.30–2.30PM
PARRAMATTA TOWN HALL
All tickets $10

OMAR MUSA: *FIERCELAND*

An epic story of power, family secrets and legacy

Join multi-disciplinary artist and writer Omar Musa for a conversation about his ambitious and gripping new novel *Fierceland*. In conversation with Sara M. Saleh.

2–5PM
PARRAMATTA TOWN HALL
All tickets $10

HOW TO GROW A POEM WORKSHOP WITH BANKSTOWN POETRY SLAM

An invaluable workshop for aspiring spoken-word poets

Join Artistic Director of Bankstown Poetry Slam Bilal Hafda for an incredible workshop to take your work from the seed of an idea into a fully grown spoken-word poem.

Rec. ages 15+

Presented in partnership with Bankstown Poetry Slam.

3.30–4.30PM
PARRAMATTA TOWN HALL
All tickets $10

NIKITA GILL: *HEKATE*

Reimagining myth and legend with bestselling Irish Indian poet

Join poet and playwright Nikita Gill for a discussion of the legend behind her latest book, *Hekate: The Witch*. In conversation with Kate Fagan.

Supported by the Consulate General of Ireland and Culture Ireland.

6–7.30PM
PARRAMATTA TOWN HALL
All tickets $10

BANKSTOWN POETRY SLAM

Welcome to the largest ongoing poetry slam in the country

Hear the former champions of Bankstown Poetry Slam's National Youth Poetry Slam take the stage in a night of storytelling and transformation. Hosted by Bilal Hafda.

Presented in partnership with Bankstown Poetry Slam.

CARRIAGEWORKS CARRIAGEWORKS

TUESDAY MAY 19

6–7PM
BAY 17

Adult $45
Concession $40

AN EVENING WITH PATRICK RADDEN KEEFE

Riveting stories of greed, power and violence

Hear masterful and award-winning author Patrick Radden Keefe unpack his catalogue of bestselling non-fiction – *Empire of Pain*, *Say Nothing* and, his latest, *London Falling* – with Sarah Krasnostein.

Patrick Radden Keefe appears thanks to the support of Phillip Keir and Sarah Benjamin.

Supported by the Consulate General of Ireland and Culture Ireland.

7.45–9PM
BAY 17
Adult $45
Concession $40

THE STORY THAT CHANGED MY LIFE

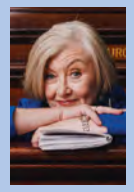
Behind every good story is the journalist witnessing it

Hear an array of real-world anecdotes and behind-the-page insights into stories that changed the lives of journalists Lorena Allam, Avani Dias, Lyse Doucet, Anton Enus, Kate McClymont and Patrick Radden Keefe.

Patrick Radden Keefe appears thanks to the support of Phillip Keir and Sarah Benjamin.

Supported by *The Guardian*.

Supported by Consulate General of Ireland and Culture Ireland.



WEDNESDAY MAY 20

3–5PM
ELSTON ROOM
Adult $150
Concession $120

READING AS A WRITER: MASTERCLASS WITH TONY TULATHIMUTTE

Hone the skill of reading as a writer

Take to the page with author and writing teacher Tony Tulathimutte to learn the subtle art of how a story works with a line by line look into Raymond Carver's "One More Thing".

Support fearless, independent journalism.
The Guardian

6–7PM
BAY 17

Adult $50
Concession $45

SHOW ME THE TRUTH GALA

Finding nuance, connection and truth in words and stories

Hear from writers Robbie Arnott, Nikita Gill, Lily King, Michael Pedersen and Kirli Saunders with her band Cooee as they reflect on the 2026 Festival theme, Show Me the Truth.

Supported by the City of Sydney.

Supported by the Consulate General of Ireland and Culture Ireland.

Supported by Publishing Scotland.

6–7PM
BAY 20

Adult $40
Concession $35

SARAH WILSON: LIVING FULLY AND BEAUTIFULLY IN A COLLAPSING WORLD

Find beauty in the breakdown with *Wild* podcast host

Consider creativity, existential risk and technofascism in our collapsing world with bestselling author, speaker and podcaster Sarah Wilson in her latest book *I Eat the Stars*. In conversation with Yumi Stynes.

8–9PM
BAY 20

Adult $40
Concession $35

ART AND CULTURE IN THE AGE OF AI

What do we risk losing with the rise of AI?

Join writers Anna Goldsworthy, Richard King and Steve Toltz as they consider how AI impacts our creativity and humanity. With AI expert Toby Walsh.

THURSDAY MAY 21

9–9.30AM
BAY 24

BACK TO BACK BARRIES LIVE

FREE

See page 36 for details

10–10.30AM
BAY 24

THE WRITERS WHO MADE US

FREE

See page 36 for details

EVERY STORY DESERVES A GREAT WINE
From the heart of Mudgee, Bunnamagoo Estate Wines blend the best of tradition with modern sustainable winemaking techniques. Just as every story is shaped by its setting, our wines are born from our unique terroir – crafted with care, to be savoured with words that inspire.
Bunnamagoo Estate Wines is a proud partner of the Sydney Writers' Festival.
BUNNAMAGOO
BUNNAMAGOOWINES.COM.AU

ILIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGH

10–10.55AM THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY: FIGHTING AUTHORITARIANISM WITH A.C. GRAYLING

BAY 17

Adult $45
Concession $40

Festival favourite philosopher on why democracy is something we can't lose

Hear how Professor of Philosophy A.C. Grayling outlines the fragility of democracy in the face of rising authoritarianism in *For The People*, followed by a discussion chaired by Nick Bryant and Rosalind Dixon.

Presented in collaboration with UNSW Resilient Democracy Lab.

10–10.55AM TRUE CRIMES

BAY 20

Adult $40
Concession $35

The truth, trust and testimony behind writing about crime

Join Walkley Award winners Sarah Krasnostein and Debbie Whitmont for an investigation into what makes crime fascinating and how to write it well. In conversation with host Rosemarie Milsom.

11–11.45AM SECRETS OF THE LODGE

BAY 24

FREE

See page 36 for details

11–11.55AM SUSAN WYNDHAM ON ELIZABETH HARROWER

BAY 19, THE BOOKTOPIA STAGE

Adult $30
Concession $20

Unmasking a literary legend with new definitive biography

Untangle the mysterious life of remarkable and enigmatic Australian novelist Elizabeth Harrower with researcher and author Susan Wyndham. In conversation with Nicole Abadee.

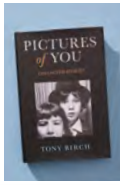
11–11.55AM SHORTS

TRACK 12

Adult $30
Concession $20

Great things come in small packages

Discuss the delight and craft of the short story form as a potent literary morsel with writers Tony Birch, Moreno Giovannoni and Tony Tulathimutte in conversation with Carody Culver.



11–11.55AM KEEPING SCORE

TRACK 8

Adult $30
Concession $20

Kicking goals on the field, page and stage

Hear ex–Sydney Swans player Brandon Jack (*Pissants*) and playwright Suzie Miller (*Prima Facie*, *Strong Is the New Pretty*) discuss writing the game. With host Matthew Condon.

ILIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGH

YANN MARTEL: *SON OF NOBODY*

12–12.55PM
BAY 17

Adult $45
Concession $40

A Trojan War epic retold by the common man

Unravel ancient traditions of storytelling with the Booker Prize–winning author of *Life of Pi*, Yann Martel, as he discusses his new novel, *Son of Nobody*. With ABC Radio National's Claire Nichols.

12–12.55PM BOB CARR: *BRING BACK YESTERDAY*

BAY 20

Adult $40
Concession $35

On the other side of great love is great loss

Find hope in the aftermath of profound grief with former NSW premier Bob Carr in his memoir *Bring Back Yesterday*. In conversation with Jennifer Byrne.

Supported by Bookoccino.

1–1.55PM ALEXANDRA LAPIERRE: *THE VERY SECRETIVE AND PASSIONATE STELLA MILES FRANKLIN*

BAY 19, THE BOOKTOPIA STAGE

Adult $30
Concession $20

Her brilliant career around the world and back again

Hear the exhilarating story of Australian literary and feminist icon Stella Miles Franklin in the first novelisation of her bold, blazingly modern life from writer Alexandra Lapierre. With Caroline Baum.

Alexandra Lapierre appears thanks to the support of Rowena Danziger AM.

1–1.55PM HOW AUSTRALIA WORKS

BAY 24

FREE

See page 36 for details

1–1.55PM HEATHER ROSE: *A GREAT ACT OF LOVE*

TRACK 12

Adult $30
Concession $20

Rewriting a family legacy in the new colony

Hear Australian Book Industry Award and Stella Prize winner Heather Rose share a story of love and reinvention set in the colony of Van Diemen's Land. In conversation with Melanie Kembrey.

ILIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGH

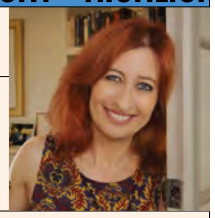
HOLDING UP THE MIRROR

1–1.55PM
TRACK 8

Adult $30
Concession $20

Writers reflect on antisemitism now

In a timely and prescient conversation, hear Jewish writers Lee Kofman, Jon Sopel and Michael Visontay discuss antisemitism today, with host Avril Alba.



STEPHANIE ALEXANDER: *THE COOK'S COMPANION* 30TH ANNIVERSARY

2–2.55PM
BAY 17

Adult $45
Concession $40

Instilling a love of food one kitchen at a time

Hear from Australia's beloved chef Stephanie Alexander on the 30th anniversary of her essential kitchen resource and one of our favourite cookbooks, *The Cook's Companion*. With chef Adam Liaw.

2–2.55PM TAYARI JONES: *KIN*

BAY 20

Adult $40
Concession $35

From the cradle to the grave, some relationships are forever

Hear Tayari Jones, author of Women's Prize for Fiction winner *An American Marriage*, discuss the bonds of mothers, daughters and sisterhood in her novel, *Kin*. With Shankari Chandran.

3–3.55PM
BAY 19, THE BOOKTOPIA STAGE

Adult $30
Concession $20

YOUR FAVOURITES' FAVOURITES: CHRIS HAMMER AND MICHAEL BENNETT

The stars herald change in Māori investigator's hard-won peace

Uncover the dark underworld behind a rogue shooting in the latest Hana Westerman thriller *Carved in Blood* with award-winning Māori author and filmmaker Michael Bennett, in conversation with Chris Hammer.

3–3.55PM
BAY 24

YOUR NEXT FAVOURITE BOOK

FREE

See page 36 for details

3–3.55PM
TRACK 12

Adult $30
Concession $20

TRACEY LEE HOLMES: THIS SPORTING LIFE

A pioneering sports journalist's stories from behind the scoreboard

Revel in the love of the game and life lived through sport with sports journalist Tracey Lee Holmes, author of memoir *The Eye of the Dragonfly*. In conversation with Rosemarie Milsom.

3–3.55PM
TRACK 8

Adult $30
Concession $20

DRUSILLA MODJESKA: *A WOMAN'S EYE, HER ART*

How artist-women's perspectives changed the focus of Modernism

Hear acclaimed Australian writer Drusilla Modjeska discuss the courage and lasting significance of Modernist artist-women who challenged the way we see the female body – and so much else. In conversation with Anna Funder.

ILIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGH

4–4.55PM
BAY 17

BRINGING THE PAST TO LIFE

Adult $45
Concession $40

Novel and familiar stories of families across time

Sink into stories from near and far in this Festival favourite event with Robbie Arnott, Yann Martel and Tasma Walton, in conversation with ABC Radio National's Kate Evans.

4–4.55PM
BAY 20

Adult $40
Concession $35

WISDOM OF THE AGES

Solving modern problems with ancient knowledge from Australia, Greece and Japan

Find a path through the 21st century as Paul Callaghan, Brigid Delaney and Hiroko Yoda bring ancient wisdom to life for contemporary times. In conversation with host Ashley Hay.

5–5.55PM
BAY 24

SECOND NOVEL SYNDROME?

FREE

See page 36 for details

5–5.55PM
BAY 19, THE BOOKTOPIA STAGE

Adult $30
Concession $20

MY WRITING SOUNDTRACK

Writers on the meaning behind and within music

Hear from Lay Maloney, Ellen van Neerven and Mark Chester Harding and Kirli Saunders of Cooee as they explore the connection between music, writing and creativity, with Melanie Saward. Including a special musical performance.

5–5.55PM
TRACK 12

Adult $30
Concession $20

POETICS OF RESISTANCE

Poetry as feminist resistance with esteemed women poets

Hear Evelyn Araluen, Maxine Beneba Clarke and Nikita Gill perform readings of their work and discuss the forces of feminist resistance behind their poetry. With host Sara M. Saleh.

Supported by the Consulate General of Ireland and Culture Ireland.

5–5.55PM
TRACK 8

Adult $30
Concession $20

COVERING THE GLOBE: *GLOBAL ROAMING* LIVE

Getting the story means going to the source

Join Geraldine Doogue and Hamish Macdonald for a live recording of Festival favourite ABC Radio National's *Global Roaming* with special guests international correspondents and writers Barbara Demick and Lyse Doucet.

Presented in partnership with ABC Radio National.

5.30–7PM
ELSTON ROOM

All tickets $20

BRAVE CONVERSATIONS WORKSHOP

Daniel Heller and Farid Zaid on how to disagree well

A hands-on workshop to explore how to have better conversations about the hardest issues of our time. Expect interactive activities, small-group discussion and strategies for speaking up and listening well.

ILIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGH

6–6.55PM
BAY 17

DAVID SZALAY: *FLESH*

Adult $45
Concession $40

2025 Booker Prize winner on the complexity of identity

Hear 2025 Booker Prize winner David Szalay trace the evolution of his singular, propulsive novel *Flesh* and the slowly unravelling life of its protagonist. With Michelle de Kretser.

7–7.55PM
TRACK 12

Adult $30
Concession $20

BEYOND THE OUTBACK

Defying readers' expectations in Aussie crime fiction

Dive deep into the limits and possibilities of writing Australian crime fiction with three names of the subgenre, Chris Hammer, Angie Faye Martin and Dervla McTiernan, with host Matthew Condon.

7–7.55PM
TRACK 8

Adult $30
Concession $20

WRITING IN THE AGE OF TRUMP

How writers bear witness to changing and troubling times

Join American writers Deborah Baker, S.A. Cosby and Tayari Jones as they share their insights into the state of literature in the current political climate. In conversation with Sisonke Msimang.

7–7.55PM
BAY 19, THE BOOKTOPIA STAGE

Adult $30
Concession $20

MIDDLE OF THE AIR: MUSIC AND LYRICS

Riding the airwaves between poetry and song

Join songwriters DOBBY, Ziggy Ramo and Leah Senior as they consider the connection between music and language and perform their work, with host of ABC Radio National's *The Music Show* Andrew Ford.

Presented in partnership with ABC Radio National and Red Room Poetry.

7–7.55PM
BAY 24

SIMPLY THE BEST

FREE

See page 37 for details

HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGH

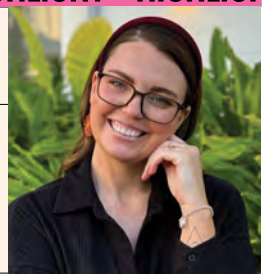
8–9.15PM
BAY 17

BRAVE CONVERSATIONS: WHEN WORDS OFFEND

Adult $45
Concession $40

Come prepared to think deeply, feel challenged and imagine new ways forward

Join panellists Waleed Aly, Cordelia Fine, Antoinette Lattouf, Greg Sheridan and Amy Thunig-McGregor for a powerful and persuasive conversation with Brave Conversations hosts Daniel Heller and Farid Zaid.



8–9.15PM
BAY 20

Adult $40
Concession $35

RHYTHM OF TRUTH POETRY GALA

Poetry as truth and meaning, beauty and feeling, resistance and connection

A spectacular evening of poetry performances from Australian and international wordsmiths Evelyn Araluen, Maxine Beneba Clarke, Nikita Gill, Omar Musa and Mariel Roberts Musa, Michael Pedersen and David Stavanger, with host Sara M. Saleh.

Supported by the Consulate General of Ireland and Culture Ireland.

Supported by Publishing Scotland.

FRIDAY MAY 22

8.30–9.30AM
BAY 24

COFFEE AND HEADLINES WITH *THE SATURDAY PAPER*

FREE

See page 37 for details

10–10.30AM
BAY 24

THE WRITERS WHO MADE US

FREE

See page 37 for details

10–10.55AM
TRACK 12

ABC RADIO NATIONAL: *THE BOOKSHELF*

FREE
Bookings required

See page 37 for details

HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGH

10–10.55AM
BAY 17

BIG HISTORIES

Adult $45
Concession $40

If history is a story, we can change the narrative

Revisit the past to find solutions for the present and future with bestselling author Amitav Ghosh and existential risk researcher Luke Kemp, with host Clare Wright.

11–11.55AM
BAY 19, THE BOOKTOPIA STAGE

DREAMING BIG: VOICES FROM THE BRISBANE YOUTH DETENTION CENTRE

FREE
Bookings required

See page 37 for details

11–11.55AM
BAY 24

WRITING FUNNY

FREE

See page 38 for details

11–11.55AM
TRACK 8

Adult $30
Concession $20

FOUND IN TRANSLATION

On making the foreign familiar and the familiar foreign

Hear video game translator Matt Alt, South Korean writer and translator Bora Chung and Argentinian writer Mariana Enriquez share their insights into translating and being translated. In conversation with award-winning translator Daniel Hahn.

Supported by the Literature Translation Institute of Korea and the Korean Cultural Centre Australia.

12–12.55PM
BAY 20

Adult $40
Concession $35

SUSAN CHOI: *FLASHLIGHT*

A young girl searches for light after a tragic loss

Join 2025 Booker Prize–shortlisted writer Susan Choi as she discusses family, absence and alienation in her new novel *Flashlight*, in conversation with Beejay Silcox.

Supported by the Literature Translation Institute of Korea and the Korean Cultural Centre Australia.

12–12.55PM
BAY 17

Adult $45
Concession $40

TONY ABBOTT: *AUSTRALIA: A HISTORY*

The highlights of Australia's democratic development

Reflect on Australian values, our pioneering democracy and shared history with former prime minister and author of *Australia: A History* Tony Abbott, with journalist and biographer Troy Bramston.

1–1.55PM
BAY 19, THE BOOKTOPIA STAGE

Adult $30
Concession $20

CLOSE TO HOME

Illuminating individual stories of family and community in the wake of the Holocaust

Reflect on works of cultural memory with writers Katia Ariel and Jane Messer as they blend history, biography and memoir to explore Jewish lives. With host Michaela Kalowski.

1–1.55PM
BAY 24

IN THE CLUB

FREE

See page 38 for details

1–1.55PM
TRACK 12

Adult $30
Concession $20

S.A. COSBY: *KING OF ASHES*

For master of Southern noir, where there's smoke, there's fire

Dig through a family's secrets and betrayals in *King of Ashes* by *New York Times*–bestselling crime novelist S.A. Cosby, in conversation with Matthew Condon.

1–1.55PM
TRACK 8

Adult $30
Concession $20

RICHARD KING: CAN TECHNOLOGY REALLY SAVE THE PLANET?

The price of climate-saving technology might just be our humanity

In *Here Be Monsters* and his new book *Brave New Wild*, Richard King tackles the big questions about the collision of new technologies and their billionaire backers in the urgent crisis of climate change. With host Rae Johnston.

ILIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGH

2–2.55PM
BAY 17

TRENT DALTON: *GRAVITY LET ME GO*

Adult $45
Concession $40

Uncovering the truth isn't easy

Join multi-award-winning writer Trent Dalton to discuss his latest novel, *Gravity Let Me Go*, and its themes of love, family, ambition and deception. In conversation with Cassie McCullagh.

Supported by Vision Australia.

2–2.55PM
BAY 20

Adult $40
Concession $35

DARK MATERIALS

Writing realism from the light and dark sides of life

Hear novelists Michael Mohammed Ahmad, Florence Knapp and David Szalay as they discuss the dark themes that were the impetus for their new novels, with host Jacqueline Maley.

Florence Knapp appears thanks to the support of The Salon.

3–3.55PM
BAY 24

STOP BEING STUCK

FREE

See page 38 for details

3–3.55PM
TRACK 12

Adult $30
Concession $20

PAST, PRESENT, EMERGING

On First Nations writing yesterday, today and tomorrow

Hear from Tony Birch, Melissa Lucashenko, Bruce Pascoe and Tasma Walton as they discuss their literary lineages, in conversation with Melanie Saward.

Supported by the Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund.

3–3.55PM
TRACK 8

Adult $30
Concession $20

DEBORAH BAKER: *CHARLOTTESVILLE: AN AMERICAN STORY*

All that came before the 2017 protests

Hear Pulitzer Prize finalist Deborah Baker illuminate the actions behind the 2017 neo-Nazi protests in *Charlottesville* to understand the links between America's past and present. With Nick Bryant.

3–3.55PM
BAY 19, THE BOOKTOPIA STAGE

Adult $30
Concession $20

GREG SHERIDAN ON CHRISTIANITY IN THE WORLD TODAY

On rediscovering the transcendent message at the heart of Christianity

Hear journalist and writer Greg Sheridan share how the values of the earliest Christians can build meaning, purpose and community today in *How Christians Can Succeed Today*, with Richard Glover.

ILIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGH

4–4.55PM
BAY 17

GREAT ADAPTATIONS

Adult $45
Concession $40

Award-winning stories across page, stage and screen

Get behind-the-scenes insight into adapting stories from page to screen with writers Mick Herron (*Slow Horses*) and Suzie Miller (*Prima Facie*) in conversation with Benjamin Law.

4–4.55PM
BAY 20

Adult $40
Concession $35

NIKI SAVVA: *EARTHQUAKE*

Niki Savva and Barrie Cassidy unpack the election that shook Australia

Hear two of Australia's most esteemed political analysts, Niki Savva and Barrie Cassidy, discuss Niki's new book, *Earthquake*, and dissect the landslide upset for the Liberal–National Coalition Party in May 2025.

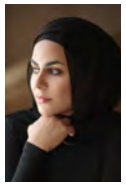
5–5.55PM
BAY 19, THE BOOKTOPIA STAGE

Adult $30
Concession $20

YOUR FAVOURITES' FAVOURITES: YUMNA KASSAB AND RAAZA JAMSHED

Coming-of-age story amid political turmoil and looming threat of violence

Hear former Parramatta Laureate in Literature Yumna Kassab introduce debut novelist Raaza Jamshed and her poetic work of survival and identity, *What Kept You?*



5–5.55PM
BAY 24

THE GUARDIAN'S ARE YOU GAME SHOW

FREE

See page 38 for details

5–5.55PM
TRACK 12

Adult $30
Concession $20

WRITING ABOUT WOMEN, WRITING ABOUT WAR

New perspectives on conflicts past and present

Reflect on women's perspectives on war with journalist Barbara Demick, writer Sofi Oksanen and novelist Maria Reva. With Maria Tumarkin.

Maria Reva appears thanks to the support of Kristina Stefanova.

5–5.55PM
TRACK 8

Adult $30
Concession $20

THE FUTURE LIBRARY

Books for the next century

Why is Amitav Ghosh writing a book no one will read until 2114? Find out with Future Library Trust Chair Anne Beate Hovind and Amitav as they discuss this extraordinary project. With host Ashley Hay.

ILIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGH

6–6.55PM FLORENCE KNAPP: *THE NAMES*

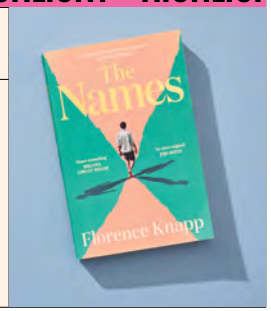
BAY 17

Adult $45
Concession $40

Can a name change the trajectory of a life?

Explore the profound force of family and the life-defining act of naming a child with bestselling debut novelist of *The Names*, Florence Knapp, in conversation with ABC Radio National's Claire Nichols.

Florence Knapp appears thanks to the support of The Salon.



6–6.55PM BORA CHUNG: *THE MIDNIGHT TIMETABLE*

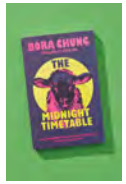
BAY 20

Adult $40
Concession $35

Behind every good ghost story lies the truth

Enter the strange, shadowy world of *The Midnight Timetable*, a modern horror fable, with International Booker Prize–shortlisted South Korean author Bora Chung in conversation with Siang Lu.

Supported by the Literature Translation Institute of Korea and the Korean Cultural Centre Australia.



6.30–7PM *IF QUEERS WEREN'T MEANT TO HAVE KIDS* FREE

BAY 24

See page 38 for details

7–7.55PM MICHAEL PEDERSEN: *MUCKLE FLUGGA*

BAY 19, THE BOOKTOPIA STAGE

Adult $30
Concession $20

Scotland's rocky shores won't keep your secrets

Wind through the myths and traditions of a remote Scottish island as award-winning poet and Edinburgh Makar (Poet Laureate) Michael Pedersen discusses the family at the heart of his debut novel, *Muckle Flugga*. With Michael Williams.

Supported by Publishing Scotland.

7–7.55PM TONY TULATHIMUTTE: *REJECTION*

TRACK 12

Adult $30
Concession $20

Neuroticism, spiralling, delusion: the three horsemen of online life

Plumb the depths of millennial malaise with Tony Tulathimutte, Thai American author of *Rejection*, a darkly funny and satirical novel-in-stories. In conversation with Benjamin Law.

7–7.55PM FIRST LOVES

TRACK 8

Adult $30
Concession $20

Loves that last a lifetime

Join Australian author Madeleine Gray and *New York Times*–bestselling author Lily King as they discuss life-defining young love. In conversation with Sarah Macdonald.

7–8PM AUNTY JONNY DJ SET FREE

BAY 24

See page 38 for details

ILIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGH

8–9.15PM STATE OF THE ART: THE BOOKER PRIZE

BAY 17

Adult $45
Concession $40

The Booker Prize's real impact from authors who'd know

Hear Booker Prize–winning and –shortlisted writers read from their works and reflect on their journey to recognition. With Susan Choi, Roddy Doyle, Yann Martel, David Szalay, Charlotte Wood and host ABC Radio National's Kate Evans.

Supported by the Literature Translation Institute of Korea and the Korean Cultural Centre Australia.

Supported by the Consulate General of Ireland and Culture Ireland.

8–9.30PM QUEERSTORIES

BAY 20

Adult $40
Concession $35

Vulnerable and fierce, hilarious and heartbreaking

Celebrating the culture and creativity of the LGBTQIA+ community one true story at a time. Featuring Raewyn Connell, Victoria Falconer, George Kemp, Steve MinOn and Sofi Oksanen. Hosted by Maeve Marsden.

SATURDAY MAY 23

8.30–9.30AM COFFEE AND HEADLINES WITH *THE SATURDAY PAPER* FREE

BAY 24

See page 38 for details

10–10.30AM THE WRITERS WHO MADE US FREE

BAY 24

See page 39 for details

10AM–4PM STORY FACTORY: PLANT-A-POEM FREE

MAIN FOYER

See page 39 for details

ILIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGH

10–10.55AM AMITAV GHOSH IN CONVERSATION

BAY 17

Adult $45
Concession $40

Storytelling, memory and the fate of our fragile planet

Join acclaimed writer Amitav Ghosh to explore the themes of history, post-colonialism and environmentalism behind his rich body of work, including his new novel *Ghost-Eye*. In conversation with Michael Williams.

10–10.55AM CHRONICALLY CONTEMPORARY

BAY 20

Adult $40
Concession $35

Writers mastering the algorithm of your attention

Discuss the here and now of contemporary fiction and writing in the internet age with novelists Maria Reva, Josh Silver and Tony Tulathimutte in conversation with host Carody Culver.

Maria Reva appears thanks to the support of Kristina Stefanova.

11–11.55AM
BAY 19, THE BOOKTOPIA STAGE

Adult $30
Concession $20

STORIES OF SYDNEY

The homes and haunts of Sydney's queer past

Reflect on Sydney's history of corruption with novelist Fiona Kelly McGregor, whose latest book *The Trap* exhumes queer subversion during WWII. With writer Belinda Castles.

11–11.55AM
BAY 24

THE *GOOD WEEKEND* QUIZ

FREE

See page 39 for details

11–11.55AM
TRACK 8

Adult $30
Concession $20

LUKE KEMP: *GOLIATH'S CURSE*

The history and future of societal collapse

At a time of unprecedented uncertainty and crisis, explore what we can learn from a radical re-examination of how cultures and civilisations rise and fall with existential risk scholar Luke Kemp. With James Bradley.

HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGH

12–12.55PM
BAY 17

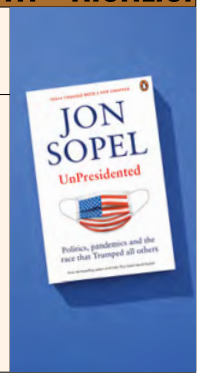
Adult $45
Concession $40

THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY: TRUMP'S AMERICA WITH JON SOPEL

How democracies can bounce back

Join journalist and writer Jon Sopel as he considers how to withstand the forces eroding democracies worldwide, in conversation with Nick Bryant and Rosalind Dixon.

Presented in collaboration with the UNSW Resilient Democracy Lab.



12–12.55PM
BAY 20

Adult $40
Concession $35

DERVLA MCTIERNAN: *THREE REASONS FOR REVENGE*

Taut treat for crime readers with three interconnected targets

Untangle a sticky web of revenge with internationally bestselling author Dervla McTiernan in her latest thriller, *Three Reasons for Revenge*. In conversation with Hayley Scrivenor.

1–1.55PM
BAY 19, THE BOOKTOPIA STAGE

Adult $30
Concession $20

SOFI OKSANEN: PUTIN'S WAR ON WOMEN

Exploring Russia's impact on women's lives then and now

Hear how Russia uses misogyny and violence against women to maintain state power in *Same River, Twice* with writer and playwright Sofi Oksanen, in conversation with Maria Tumarkin.

1–1.55PM
BAY 24

FEAST: FOOD FIGHTS

FREE

See page 39 for details

HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGH

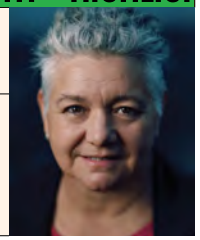
1–1.55PM
TRACK 8

Adult $30
Concession $20

MELISSA LUCASHENKO: A WRITING LIFE

A national treasure on her storied career

Hear award-winning writer Melissa Lucashenko reflect on the life of letters behind her oeuvre, including her new book, *Not Quite White in the Head*. In conversation with Winnie Dunn.



1.30–2.30PM
MEET IN THE MAIN FOYER

WALKING EVELEIGH WITH JAZZ MONEY AND BELINDA CASTLES

See page 39 for details

FREE
Bookings required

HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGH

2–2.55PM
BAY 17

Adult $45
Concession $40

SILENCED

A critical dialogue about the things we aren't allowed to say, but do

Join Randa Abdel-Fattah, Michael Mohammed Ahmad and Antoinette Lattouf as they discuss their new books about being able to speak in the face of challenges, in conversation with journalist Jan Fran.

Presented in partnership with Sweatshop Literacy Movement.

2–2.55PM
BAY 20

Adult $40
Concession $35

THEATRE KIDS

Writers bringing the drama to their debut books

Three theatre kids turned authors, George Kemp, S. Shakthidharan and Zoe Terakes, discuss how their theatre careers have influenced their debut books. With Victoria Falconer.

3–3.55PM
BAY 19, THE BOOKTOPIA STAGE

Adult $30
Concession $20

REWRITING HISTORIES

Retelling the history of Australian colonisation and the frontier wars

Join co-editors of *The Australian Wars*, filmmaker Rachel Perkins and historians Stephen Gapps and Henry Reynolds to discuss truth-telling and First Nations people's perspectives on colonisation with Clare Wright.

Supported by the Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund.

3–3.55PM
BAY 24

SMH BEST YOUNG NOVELISTS

FREE

See page 39 for details

3–3.55PM
TRACK 8

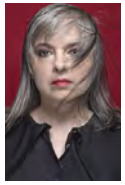
Adult $30
Concession $20

WEIRD FICTION

Out of dreams (or nightmares) and onto the page

Join masters of weird fiction and stories of the unexpected, Bora Chung, Mariana Enriquez and Chloe Wilson as they discuss writing between definitions. With Beejay Silcox.

Supported by the Literature Translation Institute of Korea and the Korean Cultural Centre Australia.



ILIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGH

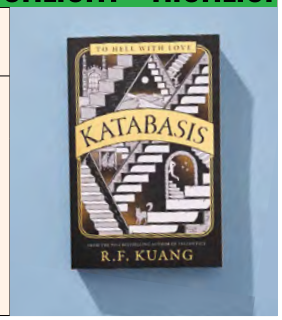
4–4.55PM FANTASTICAL WORLDS

BAY 17

Adult $45
Concession $40

The masters, myths and magic that keep readers hooked

Hear international bestselling writers Lev Grossman, R.F. Kuang and Garth Nix discuss their careers, their enthusiasm for fantasy and the genre's dedicated readers. With host Carody Culver.



4–4.55PM SHAUN MICALLEF: *DE'ATH TAKES A HOLIDAY*

BAY 20

Adult $40
Concession $35

Before Bram Stoker's *Dracula* there was De'Ath

Romp through a satirical take on the vampyre story in *De'Ath Takes a Holiday* with comedian and writer Shaun Micallef. In conversation with comedian Jennifer Wong.

5–5.55PM THE JAPAN EFFECT

BAY 19, THE BOOKTOPIA STAGE

Adult $30
Concession $20

How Japanese culture influences the rest of the world

Join writers Matt Alt and Hiroko Yoda as they explore all things Japanese to uncover what so fascinates the Western world. In conversation with host Yumi Stynes.

5–5.55PM DICEY TOPICS

FREE

BAY 24

See page 40 for details

5–5.55PM TAREQ BACONI: *FIRE IN EVERY DIRECTION*

TRACK 8

Adult $30
Concession $20

Queer Palestinian writer reckons with history and inheritance

Hear Tareq Baconi talk about weaving together his experiences of being split between continents, identities and cultures in his intimate memoir *Fire in Every Direction*. With Sisonke Msimang.

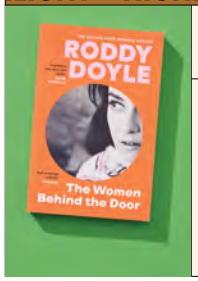
6–6.45PM FIRESIDE: SKY STORIES

FREE

BLACKSMITH'S WORKSHOP

See page 40 for details

ILIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGH



6–6.55PM RODDY DOYLE IN CONVERSATION

BAY 17

Adult $45
Concession $40

The laureate of ordinary lives on his writing life

Listen as Irish author of Booker Prize–winning *Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha* Roddy Doyle discusses his life's work and latest novel, *The Women Behind the Door*. With ABC Radio National's Kate Evans.

Supported by the Consulate General of Ireland and Culture Ireland.

6–6.55PM RANDA ABDEL-FATTAH: *DISCIPLINE*

BAY 20

Adult $40
Concession $35

How do we confront the cost of speaking up?

Hear award-winning writer Randa Abdel-Fattah unpack complex personal and political demands in her prescient new novel *Discipline*, in conversation with Bernadette Brennan.

7–7.45PM FIRESIDE: SPOOKY STORIES

FREE

BLACKSMITH'S WORKSHOP

See page 40 for details

7–7.55PM BIG BEGINNINGS

FREE

BAY 24

See page 40 for details

7–7.55PM YOUR FAVOURITES' FAVOURITES: YUMI STYNES AND DURKHANAI AYUBI

BAY 19, THE BOOKTOPIA STAGE

Adult $30
Concession $20

A taste of Afghanistan's rich, complex history and culture

Find shared understanding in a love of culture and food with renowned Afghan restaurateur Durkhanai Ayubi and her new memoir *She Who Tastes, Knows*. In conversation with Yumi Stynes.

ILIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGH

7–7.55PM BARBARA DEMICK: *DAUGHTERS OF THE BAMBOO GROVE*

TRACK 8

Adult $30
Concession $20

The true story of twins separated by China's one-child policy

Hear Pulitzer Prize–shortlisted investigative journalist Barbara Demick uncover a chilling story of abduction and trafficking for international adoption under China's one-child policy. In conversation with Katrina Strickland.

Supported by Bookoccino.

8–9PM LILY KING: *HEART THE LOVER*

BAY 17

Adult $45
Concession $40

You never forget your first love

Revel in this unforgettable story of love, desire, friendship and loss as *New York Times*–bestselling author Lily King discusses her latest novel, *Heart the Lover*, with Melanie Kembrey.

Supported by Bookoccino.

8–9PM MARIA REVA: *ENDLING*

BAY 20

Adult $40
Concession $35

Darkly funny story of science, love, money and war

Hear Maria Reva discuss her Booker Prize–longlisted debut novel *Endling*, about three angry women and one endangered snail road tripping across contemporary Ukraine. In conversation with Beejay Silcox.

Maria Reva appears thanks to the support of Kristina Stefanova.

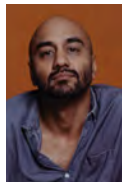
8–9PM
TRACK 12

Adult $30
Concession $20

S. SHAKTHIDHARAN: *GATHER UP YOUR WORLD IN ONE LONG BREATH*

One family's search for belonging, from Colombo to Western Sydney

Hear acclaimed playwright of *Counting and Cracking* S. Shakthidharan share an intimate portrait of his family in *Gather Up Your World in One Long Breath*. In conversation with Benjamin Law.



SUNDAY MAY 24

8.30–9.30AM
BAY 24

COFFEE AND HEADLINES WITH *THE MONTHLY*

FREE

See page 40 for details

10AM–4PM
MAIN FOYER

STORY FACTORY: PLANT-A-POEM

FREE

See page 39 for details

ILIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGH

10–10.55AM
BAY 17

THE FUTURE OF TRUTH

Adult $45
Concession $40

In a time of deceit, telling the truth is a powerful act

Join international correspondent Barbara Demick, philosopher A.C. Grayling, Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales and AI researcher Toby Walsh as they share their perspectives on the value of truth today. With ABC Radio National's Natasha Mitchell.

Jimmy Wales appears thanks to the support of Phillip Keir and Sarah Benjamin.

10–10.55AM
BAY 20

Adult $40
Concession $35

FLIP THE SCRIPT

Three lauded playwrights on writing women's stories for stage and page

Hear award-winning playwrights Lally Katz, Suzie Miller and Sofi Oksanen discuss their successful stage careers and their recent forays into new forms of writing. In conversation with host Jo Dyer.

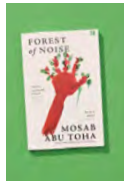
11–11.55AM
BAY 19, THE BOOKTOPIA STAGE

Adult $30
Concession $20

MOSAB ABU TOHA: *FOREST OF NOISE*

Powerful poetry from one of Palestine's greatest voices. Appearing via video.

Hear Palestinian poet Mosab Abu Toha discuss his newest collection *Forest of Noise*, full of astounding visceral poetry, and the land and culture that influence his work, in conversation with Sara M. Saleh. Mosab will appear via video.



11–11.55AM
TRACK 8

Adult $30
Concession $20

WHEN WE WRITE ABOUT MEN

Depicting the complex, nuanced, emotional and resilient nature of masculinity

Hear how writers Robbie Arnott, Brandon Jack, Daniel Nour and Michael Pedersen represent men and their relationships on and off the page. With Benjamin Law.

Supported by Publishing Scotland.

12–12.55PM
BAY 20

Adult $40
Concession $35

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT GAZA

Understanding the devastation of Gaza and what the future holds

Hear Palestinian writer and activist Tareq Baconi and Walkley Book Award winner and journalist Antony Loewenstein discuss the ongoing tragedy in Gaza. With journalist Nour Haydar.

12–12.55PM
TRACK 12

Adult $30
Concession $20

RADICAL HOPE

Why hope is the best motivator in times of crisis

Find radical hope and a path towards a better future with manager of Norway's *Future Library* project Anne Beate Hovind, environmentalist Natalie Kyriacou and activist Jack Toohey. With host Ashley Hay.

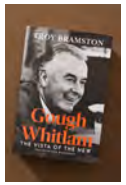
1–1.55PM
BAY 19, THE BOOKTOPIA STAGE

Adult $30
Concession $20

WHITLAM AND HOWARD: LEADERS OF CONSEQUENCE

How they shaped Australia, from policy to national identity

Hear journalist and biographer Troy Bramston and political analyst Amy Remeikis articulate the legacies of ex–prime ministers Gough Whitlam and John Howard. With Fran Kelly.



1–1.55PM
TRACK 8

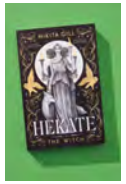
Adult $30
Concession $20

MYTHS RETOLD

Writers resisting erasure through mythic reinterpretation

Breathe new life into ancient stories with Nikita Gill's verse novel and goddess origin story *Hekate* and Zoe Terakes's collection of queer mythic reimaginings *Eros*. In conversation with host Amy Sambrooke.

Supported by Consulate General of Ireland and Culture Ireland.



ILIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGH

2–2.55PM
BAY 17

ANTOINETTE LATTOUF: *WOMEN WHO WIN*

Adult $45
Concession $40

Women of courage and conviction who shattered the glass ceiling

Reflect on powerful examples of feminist victories throughout history with journalist and human rights advocate Antoinette Lattouf in her latest book *Women Who Win*. In conversation with Jo Dyer.

2–2.55PM
BAY 20

Adult $40
Concession $35

WHERE DUNNIT?

The hills are alive with compelling atmosphere

Hear masters of crime Michael Bennett, S.A. Cosby and Chris Hammer discuss the importance of crafting compelling settings for their bestselling novels. With host Hayley Scrivenor.

3–3.55PM
BAY 19, THE BOOKTOPIA STAGE

Adult $30
Concession $20

THE LOVE FEST

Love in all its glittering, mesmerising facets

A celebration of the mesmerising new anthology *Love* with editor Shirley Le and contributing writers Tyree Barnette, Natalia Figueroa Barroso, Mark Mariano and Daniel Nour. With host Winnie Dunn.

Presented in partnership with Sweatshop Literacy Movement.

3–3.55PM
TRACK 12

Adult $30
Concession $20

LOST AND FOUND

Lose yourself in the latest edition of *Griffith Review*

Join Kate Evans, Ahona Guha and Kathryn Heyman as they explore the intimacies and intricacies of loss, love and grief. With *Griffith Review* editor Carody Culver.

Presented in partnership with *Griffith Review*.

3–3.55PM
TRACK 8

Adult $30
Concession $20

FAMILY SECRETS

Stories of the beauty and burdens families share

Hear fascinatingly different perspectives on family secrets and home from Korean American writer Susan Choi, Bornean Australian artist and writer Omar Musa and Sri Lankan Australian writer S. Shakthidharan. With host Sisonke Msimang.

Supported by the Literature Translation Institute of Korea and the Korean Cultural Centre Australia.

ILIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGH

4–5PM
BAY 17

Adult $45
Concession $40

MICK HERRON IN CONVERSATION

Spy stories reinvented from *Slow Horses* to *Clown Town*

Listen as Mick Herron reveals the details of the latest instalment in the Slough House thrillers, where theft, secrets and blackmail unnerve his band of failed spies. With Michael Williams.

Supported by Vision Australia.

4–5PM
BAY 20

Adult $40
Concession $35

ABC *THE MINEFIELD* LIVE

On the return of nationalism and what it means

In this live recording of ABC Radio National's *The Minefield*, hosts Waleed Aly and Scott Stephens and guest David Moscrop look at the nature of 21st century nationalism and how it comes to life in Canadian politics in the face of US threats.

Presented in partnership with ABC Radio National.

4.30–5.30PM
BAY 19, THE BOOKTOPIA STAGE

Adult $30
Concession $20

HIROKO YODA: *EIGHT MILLION WAYS TO HAPPINESS*

How meaning, purpose and gratitude are woven into Japanese culture

Be inspired by the spiritual wisdom embedded in Japanese culture with writer and cultural historian Hiroko Yoda and her book, part-memoir, part-cultural history, *Eight Million Ways to Happiness*. With Ailsa Piper.

4.30–5.30PM
TRACK 12

Adult $30
Concession $20

QUEER LOVE AND LONGING

Thorny stories of queer love through the ages

Join Tareq Baconi, Daniel Nour and Zoe Terakes to reflect on modern and everlasting stories of queer love. With Maeve Marsden.

4.30–5.30PM
TRACK 8

Adult $30
Concession $20

LYSE DOUCET: *THE FINEST HOTEL IN KABUL*

A people's history of Afghanistan over 40 years

Join international war correspondent Lyse Doucet to reflect on the story of modern Afghanistan as told by its people in *The Finest Hotel in Kabul*. In conversation with Debbie Whitmont.

ILIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGH

5.45–7PM
BAY 17

CLOSING ADDRESS: A BRAVER AUSTRALIA

Adult $50
Concession $45

Words of courage from Australia's leading readers, writers and thinkers

Hear from Tony Birch, Shankari Chandran, Ben Quilty, Amy Remeikis, Amy Thunig-McGregor and Jack Toohey as they reflect on courage in the face of great challenges. With host Sisonke Msimang.

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CAN'T MAKE IT DOWN TO CARRIAGEWORKS DURING THE FESTIVAL?

This year, we are streaming our events live from Bay 17 for everyone, wherever you are, to access at home for $35 per day.

Find out more on **page 54** or on our website **swf.org.au/livestream**

More than a bookstore - a destination.

Nestled in Avalon's creative village on Sydney's Northern Beaches, we bring people together through books, events, coffee and conversation. Come for a walk to Barrenjoey Lighthouse, a swim at the beach, and stay for our stories, music and community - it's worth the trip.

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CITY OF SYDNEY

FREE EVENTS – FREE EVENTS – FREE EVENTS – FREE EVENTS –

MAY 21
9–9.30AM
BAY 24
FREE
No bookings required

BACK TO BACK BARRIES LIVE

Unpack politics in this special live recording of favourite podcast

Join political commentators and former major party insiders Barrie Cassidy and Tony Barry, hosts of *The Guardian*'s political podcast *Back to Back Barries*, for an insightful and illuminating discussion.

Presented in partnership with *The Guardian*.

MAY 21
10–10.30AM
BAY 24
FREE
No bookings required

THE WRITERS WHO MADE US

The lasting influence of iconic Australian women writers

Hear writers Lily King, Alexandra Lapierre and Susan Wyndham speak to the influence of Australian literary icons Shirley Hazzard, Miles Franklin and Elizabeth Harrower in this free talk series.

Alexandra Lapierre appears thanks to the support of Rowena Danziger AM.

MAY 21
11–11.45AM
BAY 24
FREE
No bookings required

SECRETS OF THE LODGE

What you didn't know you needed to know about life in The Lodge

Hear writers and political analysts Troy Bramston, Sean Kelly, Amy Remeikis and Niki Savva share insights into the lives of Australian leaders past and present.

MAY 21
1–1.55PM
BAY 24
FREE
No bookings required

HOW AUSTRALIA WORKS

The ins and outs of what makes a nation

Hear ABC writer and presenter Annabel Crabb and authors of *The People's Guide to the Australian Constitution* Rosalind Dixon and William Partlett discuss our unique democracy, with host Rosemarie Milsom.

MAY 21
3–3.55PM
BAY 24
FREE
No bookings required

YOUR NEXT FAVOURITE BOOK

New and noteworthy books to add to your TBR pile

Whatever type of reader you are, find your next favourite book with the Festival's most exciting new releases from Rebecca Armitage, Tyree Barnette, Raaza Jamshed, George Kemp and Chloe Wilson. Hosted by Michael Williams.

MAY 21
5–5.55PM
BAY 24
FREE
No bookings required

SECOND NOVEL SYNDROME?

If writing one book is hard, imagine writing two

Join authors Moreno Giovannoni, Madeleine Gray and Andrew Pippos as they discuss overcoming second novel syndrome after their successful debuts.
With host Amy Sambrooke.

MAY 21
7–7.55PM
BAY 24
FREE
No bookings required

SIMPLY THE BEST

Before and after winning the country's biggest literary prizes

Join literary prize winners 2025 Miles Franklin Literary Award winner Siang Lu, the 2026 Stella Prize winner and the 2026 Christina Stead Prize for Fiction winner as they share their insights for success and what comes after winning. With host Beejay Silcox.

Presented in partnership with the State Library of NSW and Stella.

MAY 22
8.30–9.30AM
BAY 24
FREE
No bookings required

COFFEE AND HEADLINES WITH *THE SATURDAY PAPER*

Start your day at Carriageworks with coffee and the latest news

Join Founding Editor of *The Saturday Paper* and editor-in-chief of Schwartz Media Erik Jensen to discuss the latest news with journalist David Moscrop.

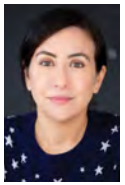
Presented in partnership with *The Saturday Paper*.

MAY 22
10–10.30AM
BAY 24
FREE
No bookings required

THE WRITERS WHO MADE US

On the inimitable power of our favourite writers

Hear writers Michael Bennett, Brandon Jack and Sarah Krasnostein reflect on the influence of esteemed writers Peter Carey, Helen Garner and more in this free talk series.



MAY 22
10–10.55AM
TRACK 12
FREE
Bookings required

ABC RADIO NATIONAL: *THE BOOKSHELF*

***The Bookshelf* launches the 2026 Top 100 Books countdown**

Join Festival guests Tony Birch, Lily King and Siang Lu in conversation with ABC Radio National's Kate Evans and Cassie McCullagh as they launch and debate the 2026 Top 100 Books campaign.

Presented in partnership with ABC Radio National.

MAY 22
11–11.55AM
BAY 19,
THE BOOKTOPIA STAGE
FREE
Bookings required

DREAMING BIG: VOICES FROM THE BRISBANE YOUTH DETENTION CENTRE

Writers lending voice to First Nations teens

Hear First Nations writers Gary Lonesborough, Bruce Pascoe, Luke Patterson and Melanie Saward explore the challenges and responsibilities of authentic storytelling about the effects of the justice system on Indigenous young people.

Presented in partnership with Ngana Barangarai (Black Wallaby).

FREE EVENTS – FREE EVENTS – FREE EVENTS – FREE EVENTS –

MAY 22
11–11.55AM
BAY 24
FREE
No bookings required

WRITING FUNNY

On set-ups, punch lines, call-backs and all things comedy

Hear seasoned comedy writers Shaun Micallef, Debra Oswald and Steve Toltz discuss the highs and lows of making people laugh on stage, page and screen, with host Jennifer Wong.

MAY 22
1–1.55PM
BAY 24
FREE
No bookings required

IN THE CLUB

On the particular power of a celebrity book club

Hear Rebecca Armitage (*The Heir Apparent*) and Charlotte McConaghy (*Wild Dark Shore*) share their experiences of being Reese's Book Club picks and what international audiences mean to them. With host Holly Wainwright.

MAY 22
3–3.55PM
BAY 24
FREE
No bookings required

STOP BEING STUCK

On learning how to overcome life's challenges

Gain insights into and strategies for resilient mental health with psychologist Ahona Guha and writers Osher Günsberg and Josh Silver, with Sana Qadar.

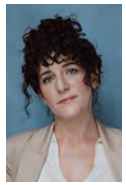
MAY 22
5–5.55PM
BAY 24
FREE
No bookings required

THE GUARDIAN'S ARE YOU GAME SHOW

Extremely enjoyable, deeply chaotic brain battle returns!

Play along with *The Guardian*'s wild and wonderful game show where two teams of writers put their knowledge to the test with team captains Matilda Boseley and Lucy Clark. Hosted by Steph Harmon.

Presented in partnership with *The Guardian*.



MAY 22
6.30–7PM
BAY 24
FREE
No bookings required

IF QUEERS WEREN'T MEANT TO HAVE KIDS

Then why were turkey basters invented?

Join Narelda Jacobs and Karina Natt for a free, fun and thoughtful conversation about their cheeky picture book for adults *If Queers Weren't Meant to Have Kids*...

MAY 22
7–8PM
BAY 24

AUNTY JONNY DJ SET

Join a mainstay of Sydney's queer nightlife for an electric and joyful set

FREE
No bookings required

MAY 23
8.30–9.30AM
BAY 24
FREE
No bookings required

COFFEE AND HEADLINES WITH *THE SATURDAY PAPER*

Start your day at Carriageworks with coffee and the latest news

Join Founding Editor of *The Saturday Paper* and editor-in-chief of Schwartz Media Erik Jensen to discuss the latest news with writer Brigid Delaney and columnist Sean Kelly.

Presented in partnership with *The Saturday Paper*.

MAY 23
10–10.30AM
BAY 24
FREE
No bookings required

THE WRITERS WHO MADE US

On the impact of iconic thinkers on writers today

Hear writers Jumaana Abdu, Fiona Kelly McGregor and Steve MinOn reflect on the writers who have influenced their writing lives and work in this free talk series.

MAY 23–24
10AM–4PM
MAIN FOYER
FREE
No bookings required

STORY FACTORY: PLANT-A-POEM

Plant a poem for the year ahead

What are your hopes for 2026? Receive a personalised poem by young writers from Western Sydney, with seeds to match. Plant the seeds and watch your hopes bloom.

Presented in partnership with Story Factory.

MAY 23
11–11.55AM
BAY 24
FREE
No bookings required

THE *GOOD WEEKEND* QUIZ

Free, interactive and live edition of a beloved weekend ritual

Calling all trivia buffs! The Festival favourite event returns for a special literary edition of *Good Weekend*'s Saturday institution, The Quiz. With quizmaster Brian Yatman and host Benjamin Law.

Presented in partnership with *Good Weekend*.

MAY 23
1–1.55PM
BAY 24
FREE
No bookings required

FEAST: FOOD FIGHTS

A veritable Festival feast of wild stories and raucous laughter

Comedian Jennifer Wong gathers a pot luck of Festival friends to share their wild stories of food. With Durkhanai Ayubi, Natalia Figueroa Barroso, Shirley Le, Debra Oswald and Michael Shaikh.

MAY 23
1.30–2.30PM
MEET IN MAIN FOYER
FREE
Bookings required

WALKING EVELEIGH WITH JAZZ MONEY AND BELINDA CASTLES

Connecting to history and place through our feet

Join writers Belinda Castles and Jazz Money as they recreate their *Walking Sydney* walk through Carriageworks and Eveleigh and share unique and insightful perspectives of the site's living history.

MAY 23
3–3.55PM
BAY 24
FREE
No bookings required

SMH BEST YOUNG NOVELISTS

Meet these award-winning emerging novelists

Join *Spectrum*'s Melanie Kembrey to celebrate the winners of the SMH Best Young Novelist award in its 30th year with this must-see event for emerging writers and supporters of Australian literature.

FREE EVENTS – FREE EVENTS –

MAY 23
5–5.55PM
BAY 24
FREE
No bookings required

DICEY TOPICS

Roll the die and dive deep into taboo topics

A Festival favourite returns with this live edition of *Good Weekend*'s Dicey Topics. Join Benjamin Law with a special guest as they discuss the taboo subjects we are told to keep private.

Presented in partnership with *Good Weekend*.

MAY 23
6–6.45PM
BLACKSMITH'S WORKSHOP
FREE
No bookings required

FIRESIDE: SKY STORIES

Sharing First Nations' knowledge of the universe and stars above

Explore astronomy, astrophysics and climate crisis through science and philosophy with astrophysicist Ray Norris and Aboriginal farmer and writer Bruce Pascoe in this free fireside event.

MAY 23
7–7.45PM
BLACKSMITH'S WORKSHOP
FREE
No bookings required

FIRESIDE: SPOOKY STORIES

Ghosts, ghouls and other things that go bump in the night

Gather round the campfire for an evening of horrors and delights with spooky storytellers Bora Chung, Mariana Enriquez and Shaun Micallef, with host Maeve Marsden.

Supported by the Literature Translation Institute of Korea and the Korean Cultural Centre Australia.

MAY 23
7–7.55PM
BAY 24
FREE
No bookings required

BIG BEGINNINGS

Debut novelists shooting for the stars

Hear from debut novelists Florence Knapp, Steve MinOn and Michael Pedersen on the journey to publication and their stories of family, history and challenges, with host Madeleine Gray.

Florence Knapp appears thanks to the support of The Salon.

Supported by the Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund.

Supported by Publishing Scotland.

MAY 24
8.30–9.30AM
BAY 24
FREE
No bookings required

COFFEE AND HEADLINES WITH *THE MONTHLY*

Start your day at Carriageworks with coffee and the latest news

Join editor of *The Monthly* Michael Williams to discuss the headlines with special Festival guests writer James Bradley and critic Beejay Silcox.

Presented in partnership with *The Monthly*.

ALL-DAY YA – ALL-DAY YA – ALL

All-Day YA is an epic celebration of all things YA (Young Adult Fiction). All events are located at Carriageworks, Track 12.

All-Day YA is supported by Walker Books.

SATURDAY MAY 23

10–10.55AM
TRACK 12
Adult $25
Concession $15
Child $15

ANATOMY OF A VERSE NOVEL

Every word counts

YA verse novelists Robbie Coburn, Karen Comer, Jason Gent and Pip Harry discuss all things verse novel related, from their writing processes through to the appeal and response from readers of all abilities.

12–12.55PM
TRACK 12
Adult $25
Concession $15
Child $15

ON THE VERGE

Growing up is one of life's natural disasters

Gary Lonesborough, Allayne L. Webster and Scott Woodard discuss the endurance of coming-of-age stories and share their thoughts on the most relevant and pressing topics for today's young readers.

2–2.55PM
TRACK 12
Adult $25
Concession $15
Child $15

MURDER, MYSTERY & MAYHEM

Dare to be caught in these tangled webs?

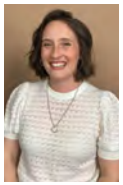
Adam Cece, Amy Doak and Josh Silver discuss YA thrillers and intriguing readers with complex and deceptive narratives. With Nathan Luff.

4–4.55PM
TRACK 12
Adult $25
Concession $15
Child $15

YOUNG HEARTS RUN FREE

The longing, the first kiss... and the awkwardness of it all

With the market for YA romance growing fast, Zoe Gaetjens, Alexandra Moody and Melanie Saward are on hand to discuss why the popular genre is delivering all the feels. Chaired by Melissa Luckman.



6–6.55PM
TRACK 12
Adult $25
Concession $15
Child $15

SHADOW PLAY

The darkness beckons...

Hidden secrets. Dark forces. Vampires. YA fantasy authors Ruby Jean Cottle, Tigest Girma and Jasmin McGaughey discuss their methods of merging worlds real and imagined. With Annie McCann.

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FAMILY DAY – FAMILY DAY – FA

Family Day is filled with activities that will whisk kids away into a world of wonder. Enjoy talks, storytelling sessions, arts and craft stations, a mobile library, live music and more. All events take place on Sunday 24 May. Events in Bays 22–24, Carriageworks are **FREE** (no bookings required). Ticketed events are held in Track 12 and Bay 17. Ticket prices are listed below.

Yoto is the major supporter of Family Day.

SUNDAY MAY 24

9.30–10.15AM
TRACK 12
All tickets $10

FUNNY BOOKS FOR FUNNY KIDS

What are you laughing at?

We're joined by three of Australia's funniest children's authors. Mick Elliott, Tanya Hennessy and Matt Stanton take to the stage for explosive laughter, daring drawings and a joyous good time.

Rec. ages 7+

10–10.30AM
BAY 24
FREE

STORYTIME WITH VICTOR AND SANDRA STEFFENSEN

Become one with nature

Come enjoy some storytelling fun with award-winning brother and sister team Victor and Sandra Steffensen, the creators of *Animals on Country*, *The Trees* and *Looking After Country with Fire*.

Rec. ages 4+

10.30–11AM
BAY 24
FREE

STORYTIME WITH GABRIEL EVANS

It all begins with a brush and a pencil

Come enjoy some storytelling fun with Gabriel Evans, the author and illustrator of *Listen*, *Hippo!*, *A Job for Kingsley* and *Scotty and the Scotties*.

Rec. ages 4+

10.45–11.30AM
TRACK 12
All tickets $10

ENTER THE ELLA-VERSE

All the Ella book creators all together for the first time ever

We are assembling the creators of Ella and Olivia and the many spin-off series designed for early childhood readers through to tweens. Meet Meredith Costain, Serena Geddes, Danielle McDonald, Rebecca McRitchie, Yvette Poshoglian and Laura Sieveking.

Rec. ages 4–12.

11–11.30AM
BAY 24
FREE

THE STORY THINGY

Prepare for a wild, interactive storytime

What is Sue Whiting's Story Thingy? How does it help her writing? And what happens when she disappears into the Story Thingy? Bring your imagination and be ready to participate.

Rec. ages 5+

FAMILY DAY – FAMILY DAY – FAMILY DAY – FAMILY DAY – FAMILY

11.30AM–12PM
BAY 24
FREE

WEIRD AND WONDERFUL ANIMALS

The strangest things can be found in nature

Learn all about the weird and wonderful natural world with Sami Bayly in this jam-packed event of stories, quizzes and drawing tutorials.

Rec. ages 6+

12–1PM
BAY 17
All tickets $20

POWER UP WITH DAV PILKEY

Tra-la-laaaaa!

See Dav Pilkey (Captain Underpants, Dog Man) draw his beloved characters live and hear his inspiring life story. Prepare yourself for some hilarious onstage antics!

Rec. ages 6+

12–1PM
BAY 24
FREE

MICK'S CARTOON PORTRAIT COUNTDOWN

Get a cartoon drawing of yourself

Roll on up and be drawn as a cartoon character by Mick Elliott. How many cartoons can he draw in an hour?

All ages.

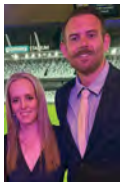
1–1.30PM
BAY 24
FREE

KIDS' DANCE PARTY

Stretch, warm-up your body and get ready to boogie

Learn to slither like a snake, jump like a kangaroo, crawl like a goanna, run like an emu and fly like an eagle with authors of the celebratory book *Our Dance* Jacinta Daniher and Taylor Hampton.

Rec. ages 3+



1.30–2PM
BAY 24
FREE

FALSE VERSUS FACTS

The truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth

Bust 42 common myths with writer Dan Marshall and sharpen your chops by illustrating your own facts.

Rec. ages 6+

1.30–2.15PM
TRACK 12
All tickets $10

RIVETING READS FOR TWEENS

Reading on the edge of your seat

Hear how Tristan Bancks, Suzanne Leal and Sue Whiting hook their readers with gripping middle-grade novels filled with intrigue, mystery and adrenaline.

Rec. ages 9+

2–2.30PM
BAY 24
FREE

CHOOSE YOUR CHAOS!

You choose how this story unfolds...

Join Andrew Cranna and Nathan Luff for a live interactive story where so many different things could happen and it's up to you to decide what does!

Rec. ages 6+

2.30–3PM
BAY 24
FREE

THE EPIC ILLUSTRATOR BATTLE

There can only be one winner

Illustrators Sami Bayly, Mick Elliott, Gabriel Evans and Sandra Steffensen are pitted against each other in a ferocious battle to determine the illustrator champion of champions. Hosted by Annie McCann.

Rec. ages 3+

3–3.30PM
BAY 24
FREE

THERE'S A PRAWN IN PARLIAMENT HOUSE

The kids' guide to Australia's democracy

Annabel Crabb answers the burning questions kids have about Australia's democracy, voting and government.

Rec. ages 8+

KIDS ACTIVITIES – KIDS ACTIVITI

10AM–3.30PM
BAYS 22–24
FREE

RUSS THE STORY BUS

A magical library on wheels

Russ the Story Bus is no ordinary bus – he's a mobile library covered in illustrations with a belly full of books. Russ is open all day to borrow from.

All ages.

10AM–3.30PM
BAYS 22–24
FREE

BADGEMAKING WITH CHERYL ORSINI

Design and make your own badge

Take home a magical memento of your time at Family Day by making a badge with Cheryl Orsini, the much-loved author and illustrator.

Rec. ages 4+

10AM–3.30PM
BAYS 22–24
FREE

CRAFTING STATIONS

Time to get your craft on!

Let your imagination soar as we dive into the world of craft and stories, hosted by craft connoisseurs Amanda Lieber and Jo Staker.

All ages.

KIDS ACTIVITIES — KIDS ACTIVIT

10AM–3.30PM
BAYS 22–24
FREE

THE BIG FAMILY DAY BACKDROP

Unleash the artist within...

Attention artists of all ages! We need your help to create an amazing backdrop for our Family Day shenanigans. You might even get to hang out with a real-life famous illustrator.

All ages.

10AM–3.30PM
BAYS 22–24
FREE

YOTO LISTENING ZONE

Screens off. Imagination on.

Visit the Yoto Listening Zone and have fun exploring a range of Yoto audio players that put kids safely in control of their listening, learning and play. No microphones. No cameras. No ads.

All ages.

Supported by Yoto.

10AM–3.30PM
BAYS 22–24
FREE

WHERE'S WALLY? ACTIVITY STATION

Can you spot him?

Come meet Wally, go on a treasure hunt and engage in a range of fun activities.

All ages.

Presented by Walker Books Australia.

KIDS' ACTIVITIES AT SLNSW — KIDS' ACTIVITIES AT SLNSW — KIDS' ACT

MAY 17
10.30–11.15AM
12–12.45PM
1.30–2.15PM

CHILDREN'S WRITING WORKSHOPS AT THE LIBRARY

STATE LIBRARY OF NSW, DIXSON ROOM

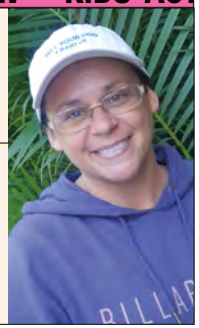
All tickets $10

Writing and illustrating workshops for kids

Visit the State Library of NSW for wonderful workshops with Clayton Zane Comber, Kristin Darell, Kate Foster and Conor McCammon.

Rec. ages 6–12.

Presented in partnership with the State Library of NSW.



IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

The Festival takes over the city and beyond. Tickets for In Your Neighbourhood events are available from participating venues. **See swf.org.au for more details.**

SYDNEY SUBURBS — SYDNEY SUBURBS — SYDNEY SUBURBS — SYDN

MAY 22
6–7PM
BANKSTOWN LIBRARY AND KNOWLEDGE CENTRE
All tickets $5

CHRIS HAMMER: *LEGACY*

Legendary Australian crime author on his propulsive new novel

Join Chris Hammer, one of Australia's best-loved crime writers, to discuss his new thrilling novel *Legacy*, in conversation with Hayley Scrivenor.

MAY 17
5–6PM
SHOPFRONT ARTS CO-OP, THE NICHOLAS HOGAN STUDIO, CARLTON
All tickets $10

ALEXANDRA LAPIERRE ON STELLA MILES FRANKLIN

Celebrate the life and work of a local literary legend

Join novelist Alexandra Lapierre for an insightful conversation about Miles Franklin's life and legacy. With Belinda Castles.

Alexandra Lapierre appears thanks to the support of Rowena Danziger AM.

MAY 19
6–8PM
WHARF 2, SYDNEY THEATRE COMPANY
FREE
Bookings required

26TH PATRICK WHITE PLAYWRIGHTS AWARD

Showcasing daring new Australian stories through STC's celebrated playwrighting award

Celebrate bold new Australian playwriting as Sydney Theatre Company announces the winner of this year's Patrick White Playwrights Award, followed by a special reading of the award-winning play.

MAY 20
6.15–7.15PM
WOOLLAHRA LIBRARY AT DOUBLE BAY
All tickets $10

LOVE AND LEGACY

The power of fiction to bring the past to life

Join Australian writers Heather Rose and Tasma Walton in a conversation about their compelling works of historical fiction. With host Sarah Macdonald.

MAY 19
6.30–7.30PM
GORDON LIBRARY
FREE
Bookings required

SEEKING WISDOM WITH BRIGID DELANEY

We're all going to die, so how should we live?

Discover what Brigid Delaney learned from a mysterious town whose citizens are reported to be the happiest on Earth in *The Seeker and the Sage*.

MAY 21
6.30–7.30PM
HORNSBY LIBRARY
FREE
Bookings required

RICHARD KING: *BRAVE NEW WILD*

AI, technology and the future of the planet

Our approach to the ecological crisis is in need of a radical rethink. Join culture and technology expert Richard King for an insightful talk about his book *Brave New Wild*.

MAY 22
6–7PM
KIRRAWEE LIBRARY
FREE
Bookings required

CRIMES OF NATURE

Past wrongs infiltrate the present in these compelling crime stories

Hear award-winning New Zealand author Michael Bennett and debut novelist Angie Faye Martin discuss writing crime from a First Nations' perspective. With Dinuka McKenzie.

SYDNEY SUBURBS — SYDNEY SUBURBS — SYDNEY SUBURBS — SYDN

MAY 21
6.30–7.30PM
MANLY LIBRARY
All tickets $5

SARAH WILSON IN CONVERSATION

Finding wisdom, joy and meaning in the metacrisis

Bestselling author and founder of the I Quit Sugar movement Sarah Wilson discusses her new book *I Eat the Stars*. With Jan Fran.

MAY 20
6–7PM
ESTER SPIRITS, MARRICKVILLE
All tickets $20, includes a drink.

MADELEINE GRAY AND ELLENA SAVAGE IN CONVERSATION

Stories of chaotic love, lust and longing

Grab a drink and join Madeleine Gray (*Green Dot* and *Chosen Family*) and Ellena Savage (*Blueberries* and *The Ruiners*) for an intimate conversation about their new novels.

MAY 23
2–3PM
MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL
FREE
Bookings required

THE KIDS ARE ALRIGHT

Unpack the big issues with two influencers-turned-authors

The Guardian journalist Matilda Boseley and activist Jack Toohey chat about some of the hot trending topics – including mental health, cost of living and the housing crisis. With Amy Thunig-McGregor.

MAY 24
12–1PM
MARRICKVILLE LIBRARY
FREE
Bookings required

JOSH SILVER: *FRUIT FLY*

Authenticity sells, even if it's not your own

Join Josh Silver for a conversation about his multifaceted career and razor sharp new novel *Fruit Fly*, in conversation with Maeve Marsden.

Take the festival home with Penguin Books

Looking for more Penguin author events, great reads and exclusive giveaways?
Subscribe to the Penguin newsletter by scanning the QR code or visit penguin.com.au/signup

SYDNEY SUBURBS — SYDNEY SUBURBS — SYDNEY SUBURBS — SYDN

MAY 21
8–9.15PM
PETERSHAM BOWLING CLUB
All tickets $20

READERS: BOOKS AND CONVERSATIONS WITH LALLY KATZ

A heartfelt and humorous conversation about love, life and fortune

Award-winning playwright and screenwriter Lally Katz explores sex, dating, marriage and motherhood in her personal and hilarious memoir *My Cursed Vagina*. In conversation with Michaela Kalowski.

MAY 24
1–2PM
MARGARET MARTIN LIBRARY, RANDWICK
FREE
Bookings required

JANE MESSER: *RAVEN MOTHER*

Weaving together a family's compelling and tragic story across continents

In *Raven Mother*, Jane Messer retraces the steps of her Jewish grandmother, as she tries to understand her life from pre-war Berlin to post-war Australia. In conversation with Michaela Kalowski.

MAY 23
5–6PM
ROCKDALE TOWN HALL
All tickets $10

KATHRYN HEYMAN: *CIRCLE OF WONDERS*

An extraordinary novel about facing death while rediscovering life

Join Kathryn Heyman for a conversation about her uplifting homage to human resilience, *Circle of Wonders*. With host Jane Caro.

MAY 21
6.15–7.15PM
RYDE LIBRARY
FREE
Bookings required

AHONA GUHA: *HOW WE RELATE*

An illuminating journey through the psychology of human connection

Join clinical and forensic psychologist Ahona Guha for a discussion about her new book *How We Relate: a psychologist's guide to building and maintaining good relationships*. With host Julie Fitness.

MAY 21
6–7PM
STATE LIBRARY OF NSW, LIBRARY AUDITORIUM
Adult $30
Concession $25
SLNSW Friends $20

THE LIBRARY THAT MADE ME

An illustrious line-up of writers reflects on the libraries that shaped them

In connection with the State Library's 200th anniversary book, *The Library That Made Me*, an illustrious line-up of writers reflects on the libraries that shaped them. Including Jonty Claypole, Winnie Dunn, Anne Beate Hovind, Suzie Miller and Jazz Money.

MAY 18
6–9.30PM
STATE LIBRARY OF NSW, LIBRARY AUDITORIUM
FREE
Bookings required

2026 NSW LITERARY AWARDS

Celebrate Australia's finest writers at the 2026 NSW Literary Awards

Join us as we announce the winners of 2026 NSW Literary Awards and celebrate the contribution of writers to our cultural lives.

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THE ELOCUTION OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN
By steve j. spears

SISTREN
By Iolanthe

SAVIOR
By Happy Feraren

MUM CLUB
By Jorjia Gillis

WAKE IN FRIGHT
By Declan Greene & Zahra Newman

RUSS THE STORY BUS NEEDS YOUR HELP!

To keep our beloved Russ on the road, we need to raise funds for a new bus.

After **10 incredible years** and visiting over **100,000** students from lower socio-economic schools across Greater Western Sydney and Regional NSW, our bus is showing signs of a well-loved journey.

Without a new bus Sydney Writers' Festival **will no longer be able** to run our much loved and very needed Russ the Story Bus Program.

We can't imagine a future without Russ — and we hope you can't either.

PLEASE DONATE TO THE RUSS THE STORY BUS FUND BY SCANNING THE QR CODE BELOW.

Thank you for helping us keep Russ on the road. You can experience the magic of Russ the Story Bus each day during the 2026 Sydney Writers' Festival in Bays 22–24.

Alternatively, please contact Lauren Dixon at **lauren.dixon@swf.org.au** to discuss your support.

As a not-for-profit organisation and registered charity all donations of $2 or more to Sydney Writers' Festival are tax-deductible.

PARTICIPANTS

Explore the 2026 Festival participants below via name and Guide page number.

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THURSDAY MAY 21

Free Events | Childrens & YA

	TRACK 8	TRACK 12	BAY 17	BAY 19, THE BOOKTOPIA STAGE	BAY 20	BAY 24
8:30am	**SYDNEY TOWN HALL** **6pm** Jimmy Wales: *The Seven Rules of Trust* **8.15pm** SWF Great Debate: We Can't Handle the Truth					
9am						*Back to Back Barries* LIVE
9.30am						
10am			The Future of Democracy: Fighting Authoritarianism with A.C. Grayling		True Crimes	The Writers Who Made Us
10.30am						
11am	Keeping Score	Shorts		Susan Wyndham on Elizabeth Harrower		Secrets of The Lodge
11.30am						
12pm			Yann Martel: *Son of Nobody*		Bob Carr: *Bring Back Yesterday*	
12.30pm						
1pm	Holding Up the Mirror	Heather Rose: *A Great Act of Love*		Alexandra Lapierre: *The Very Secretive And Passionate Stella Miles Franklin*		How Australia Works
1.30pm						
2pm			Stephanie Alexander: *The Cook's Companion* 30th Anniversary		Tayari Jones: *Kin*	
2.30pm						
3pm	Drusilla Modjeska: *A Woman's Eye, Her Art*	Tracey Lee Holmes: This Sporting Life		Your Favourites' Favourites: Chris Hammer and Michael Bennett		Your Next Favourite Book
3.30pm						
4pm			Bringing the Past to Life		Wisdom of the Ages	
4.30pm						
5pm	Covering the Globe: *Global Roaming* LIVE	Poetics of Resistance		My Writing Soundtrack		Second Novel Syndrome?
5.30pm						
6pm			David Szalay: *Flesh*			
6.30pm						
7pm	Writing in the Age of Trump	Beyond the Outback		Middle of the Air: Music and Lyrics		Simply the Best
7.30pm						
8pm			Brave Conversations: When Words Offend		Rhythm of Truth Poetry Gala	
8.30pm						
9pm						

FRIDAY MAY 22

Free Events | Childrens & YA

	TRACK 8	TRACK 12	BAY 17	BAY 19, THE BOOKTOPIA STAGE	BAY 20	BAY 24
	SYDNEY TOWN HALL **6pm** Jacinda Ardern: *A Different Kind of Power* **8pm** An Evening with R.F. Kuang					
8.30am						Coffee and Headlines with *The Saturday Paper*
9am						
9.30am						
10am		ABC Radio National: *The Bookshelf*	Big Histories			The Writers Who Made Us
10.30am						
11am	Found in Translation			Dreaming Big: Voices from the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre		Writing Funny
11.30am						
12pm			Tony Abbott: *Australia: A History*		Susan Choi: *Flashlight*	
12.30pm						
1pm	Richard King: Can Technology Really Save the Planet?	S.A. Cosby: *King of Ashes*		Close to Home		In the Club
1.30pm						
2pm			Trent Dalton: *Gravity Let Me Go*		Dark Materials	
2.30pm						
3pm	Deborah Baker: *Charlottesville: An American Story*	Past, Present, Emerging		Greg Sheridan on Christianity in the World Today		Stop Being Stuck
3.30pm						
4pm			Great Adaptations		Niki Savva: *Earthquake*	
4.30pm						
5pm	The Future Library	Writing About Women, Writing About War		Your Favourites' Favourites: Yumna Kassab and Raaza Jamshed		*The Guardian's* Are You Game Show
5.30pm						
6pm			Florence Knapp: *The Names*		Bora Chung: *The Midnight Timetable*	
6.30pm						*If Queers Weren't Meant to Have Kids*
7pm	First Loves	Tony Tulathimutte: *Rejection*		Michael Pedersen: *Muckle Fluggo*		Aunty Jonny DJ Set
7.30pm						
8pm			State of the Art: The Booker Prize		Queerstories	
8.30pm						
9pm						

SATURDAY MAY 23

Free Events | Childrens & YA

	TRACK 8	TRACK 12	BAY 17	BAY 19, THE BOOKTOPIA STAGE	BAY 20	BAY 24	BLACKSMITH'S WORKSHOP	MAIN FOYER
8.30am	**SYDNEY TOWN HALL** **3.15pm** Barrie Cassidy and Friends: State of the Nation **5.30pm** The World According to Trump					Coffee and Headlines with *The Saturday Paper*		
9am								
9.30am								
10am		YA Anatomy of a Verse Novel	Amitav Ghosh in Conversation		Chronically Contemporary	The Writers Who Made Us		Story Factory: Plant-a-Poem
10.30am								
11am	Luke Kemp: *Goliath's Curse*			Stories of Sydney		The *Good Weekend* Quiz		
11.30am								
12pm		YA On the Verge	The Future of Democracy: Trump's America with Jon Sopel		Dervla McTiernan: *Three Reasons for Revenge*			
12.30pm								
1pm	Melissa Lucashenko: A Writing Life			Sofi Oksanen: Putin's War on Women		FEAST: Food Fights		
1.30pm								Walking Eveleigh with Jazz Money and Belinda Castles
2pm		YA Murder, Mystery & Mayhem	Silenced		Theatre Kids			Story Factory: Plant-a-Poem
2.30pm								
3pm	Weird Fiction			Rewriting Histories		SMH Best Young Novelists		
3.30pm								
4pm		YA Young Hearts Run Free	Fantastical Worlds		Shaun Micallef: *De'Ath Takes a Holiday*			
4.30pm								
5pm	Tareq Baconi: *Fire in Every Direction*			The Japan Effect		Dicey Topics		
5.30pm								
6pm		YA Shadow Play	Roddy Doyle in Conversation		Randa Abdel-Fattah: *Discipline*		Fireside: Sky Stories	
6.30pm								
7pm	Barbara Demick: *Daughters of the Bamboo Grove*			Your Favourites' Favourites: Yumi Stynes and Durkhanai Ayubi		Big Beginnings	Fireside: Spooky Stories	
7.30pm								
8pm		S. Shakthidharan: *Gather Up Your World in One Long Breath*	Lily King: *Heart the Lover*		Maria Reva: *Endling*			
8.30pm								
9pm								

SUNDAY MAY 24

Free Events | Childrens & YA

TRACK 8	TRACK 12	BAY 17	BAY 19, THE BOOKTOPIA STAGE	BAY 20	BAY 24	MAIN FOYER
					Coffee and Headlines with *The Monthly*	
	CHI Funny Books for Funny Kids					
		The Future of Truth		Flip the Script	CHI Storytime with Victor and Sandra Steffensen	Story Factory: Plant-a-Poem
					CHI Storytime with Gabriel Evans	
When We Write About Men	CHI Enter the Ella-verse		Mosab Abu Toha: *Forest of Noise*		CHI The Story Thingy	
					CHI Weird and Wonderful Animals	
	Radical Hope	CHI Power Up with Dav Pilkey		What We Know About Gaza	CHI Mick's Cartoon Portrait Countdown	
Myths Retold			Whitlam and Howard: Leaders of Consequence		CHI Kids' Dance Party	
	CHI Riveting Reads for Tweens				CHI *False Versus Facts*	
		Antoinette Lattouf: *Women Who Win*		Where Dunnit?	CHI Choose Your Chaos!	
					CHI The Epic Illustrator Battle	
Family Secrets	Lost and Found		The Love Fest		CHI *There's a Prawn in Parliament House*	
		Mick Herron in Conversation		ABC *The Minefield* Live		
Lyse Doucet: *The Finest Hotel in Kabul*	Queer Love and Longing		Hiroko Yoda: *Eight Million Ways to Happiness*			
		Closing Address: A Braver Australia				

HOW TO BOOK

Tickets for events at Carriageworks, the State Library of NSW and Sydney Town Hall can be booked directly through Sydney Writers' Festival. For tickets to all other venues please refer to the individual event pages on our website. Most free events at Carriageworks are general admission and do not require bookings.

Booking fees apply for all tickets purchased online and over the phone. Family and YA events, livestream passes and free events do not incur a booking fee. Please visit our website to view the full booking terms and conditions.

You can explore the full program by event, writer or day online and bookmark your favourite events.

ONLINE – SWF.ORG.AU

PHONE – (02) 9256 4200

Monday–Friday: 9am–5pm
Select weekends: 10am–4pm
Saturday 14–Sunday 15 March
Saturday 16–Sunday 17 May
Closed Good Friday–Easter Monday and ANZAC Day

IN PERSON

Carriageworks Box Office (card only)
Tuesday 19 May, 4pm to last event
Wednesday 20 May, 12pm to last event
Thursday 21–Sunday 24 May, 8am to last event

Box offices at other venues
Available only on days of events one hour prior to event start times.

CONCESSIONS

Concession prices are available for children under the age of 16, full-time students, Health Care Card holders, Seniors Card holders and Pensioner Concession Card holders. Please have your eligible card with you at the venue.

E-TICKETS AND MOBILE TICKETS

When booking, please select your preference of e-ticket PDF or mobile tickets, which can be added to your phone's wallet. We recommend downloading your tickets to your mobile device or adding them to your phone's wallet for easy access. You can also view your mobile tickets online by logging into your Sydney Writers' Festival account at swf.org.au/my-tickets.

Please consult your booking confirmation email for when your tickets will be sent out.

LIVESTREAM INFORMATION

Sydney Writers' Festival is an event for everyone – including those who can't make it down to Carriageworks during the Festival. From conversations with literary luminaries to panel discussions on our world's most urgent issues, we don't want you to miss an insightful comment, scathing take or witty joke that comes from our stages.

This year, we are streaming our events live from Bay 17 for everyone, wherever you are, to access at home. Watch along, send in questions directly to the Sydney stage and be a part of Sydney Writers' Festival in 2026.

Purchase a day stream ticket for $35 and get access to the full day's content. Day stream tickets are available for Thursday 21, Friday 22, Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 May. All events take place in Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST). Livestream bookings do not incur a booking fee.

Purchase tickets at swf.org.au/livestream.

THE FESTIVAL PRECINCT

The Festival Precinct has everything you need to make your 2026 Sydney Writers' Festival an enriching all-day event. Between sessions, you can browse our bookshop in the Carriageworks foyer, grab a bite to eat from the Festival Hub in Bays 22–24 or explore the food trucks, coffee carts and wine bars located throughout the Precinct. Attending the Festival on the Saturday? Head down early to peruse fresh produce at the Carriageworks Farmers Market which coincides with the Festival between 8AM–1PM.

TRAVELLING TO THE FESTIVAL PRECINCT

Carriageworks is located at 245 Wilson Street, Eveleigh. This is a 10-minute walk from Redfern Station, City Road bus stops and Macdonaldtown Station or a 20-minute walk from Waterloo Station. Catching public transport is strongly recommended as residential parking in the area is strictly limited. For more information on transport, visit transportnsw.info.

WALKING FROM REDFERN STATION TO CARRIAGEWORKS

Exit the station at the Little Eveleigh St exit. Turn left and follow Little Eveleigh Street until you reach Wilson Street. Continue left down Wilson Street for approximately 7 minutes and you will arrive at Carriageworks.

FESTIVAL SHUTTLE BUS

Our Festival shuttle bus operates from Thursday 21 to Sunday 24 May and travels between Carriageworks and Redfern Station. Buses set off from the Festival Bus Stop (Stand A) on Gibbons Street in Redfern, adjacent to Redfern Train Station. Please refer to our maps to see the locations of the Festival Bus Stops. Buses depart approximately every 25 minutes from 9.00am, with final services departing from Carriageworks 15 minutes after the final session of the day.

BICYCLES AND PARKING

Bicycle parking is available at Carriageworks.

Street parking is limited in Eveleigh. Casual public parking is available at Shepherd Street Carpark in the evenings and on the weekend. The carpark is approximately a 10-minute walk from Carriageworks.

WITH THANKS TO OUR PROGRAM PARTNERS:

AUCKLAND WRITERS FESTIVAL
AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION
AVID READER BRISBANE
BANKSTOWN POETRY SLAM
BRISBANE WRITERS FESTIVAL
CITY OF PARRAMATTA
CULTURE IRELAND
ESTER SPIRITS
GOOD WEEKEND
GRIFFITH REVIEW
GUARDIAN AUSTRALIA
JAPAN FOUNDATION, SYDNEY
NEWCASTLE WRITERS FESTIVAL
NSW EDUCATION STANDARDS AUTHORITY (NESA)
MARGARET RIVER READERS AND WRITERS FESTIVAL
MELBOURNE WRITERS FESTIVAL
NGANA BARANGARAI (BLACK WALLABY)
PETERSHAM BOWLING CLUB – READERS & CONVERSATIONS
QUEERSTORIES
RED ROOM POETRY
SCHWARTZ MEDIA
SORRENTO WRITERS FESTIVAL
STATE LIBRARY OF NSW
STELLA
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STORY FACTORY
SYDNEY THEATRE COMPANY
THE WHEELER CENTRE
WORDS ON THE WAVES WRITERS FESTIVAL

AND OUR LIBRARY PARTNERS:

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RANDWICK CITY LIBRARY
CITY OF RYDE
SUTHERLAND SHIRE COUNCIL
WOOLLAHRA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

ACCESS AND INCLUSION

ACCESSIBLE SEATS

All Festival venues are accessible and have wheelchair and level access.

Wheelchair seats can be purchased by contacting our Box Office on (02) 9256 4200 or email ticketing@swf.org.au.

ACCESSIBLE BOOKINGS

Wheelchair accessible seating, Auslan interpreter viewing seats, open-captioned seating and any other accessible seating can be booked over the phone with our Box Office team. If you have any questions or specific access requirements you'd like to discuss ahead of your event, please call the Box Office on (02) 9256 4200 or email ticketing@swf.org.au.

NATIONAL RELAY SERVICE

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 relayservice.gov.au, then ask for (02) 9256 4200.

ACCESSIBLE PARKING

Accessible parking is available at Carriageworks; however, there are no reserved accessible parking spaces. Please call (02) 8571 9099 for further Carriageworks parking information.

AUSLAN-INTERPRETED EVENTS

If you would like to request Auslan interpretation at a Sydney Writers' Festival event, please email ticketing@swf.org.au or call (02) 9256 4200 with your details and the requested event and we will work to accommodate all events. A minimum notice period of three weeks is required to arrange this service. Where requests are received after this timeframe, we will endeavor to accommodate where possible. All newly booked Auslan interpreted sessions will be listed on the Sydney Writers' Festival website.

OPEN CAPTIONING

All events in Bay 17 and Bay 20 will be open captioned.

Any new Captioned sessions will be published on the Sydney Writers' Festival website.

ASSISTIVE LISTENING SYSTEMS

The following venues are fitted with assistive listening systems:

Sydney Town Hall

State Library of NSW, Library Auditorium

COMPANION CARD

For more information on the Festival's accessibility and inclusion practices, visit swf.org.au/access.

One complimentary ticket can be booked by Companion Card holders, alongside a paid ticket. This can only be booked over the phone or in person. Please have your Companion Card number ready as this will be requested at the time of booking. If you have specific seating or additional support requirements, please let staff know at the time of booking.

PUBLISHING PARTNERS

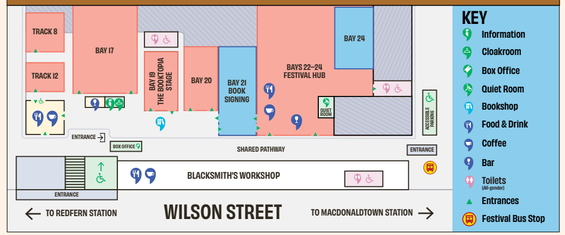
THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE WONDERFUL AUSTRALIAN PUBLISHERS WHO WORK WITH US TO BRING THEIR AUTHORS TO THE FESTIVAL. THANKS ALSO TO OUR INTERNATIONAL COLLEAGUES FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE.

THANK YOU

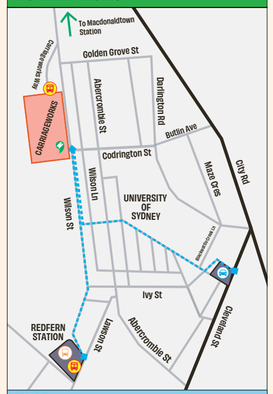
THANKS TO LOUISE ADLER, MICHAEL MOHAMMED AHMAD, ANGELA BENNETTS, RAY BONNER, NICK BRYANT, TRACEY CHEETHAM, NIKKI CHRISTER, MEREDITH CURNOW, ROSINA DI MARZO, TIM DEAN, ROSALIND DIXON, WINNIE DUNN, KATE EVANS, RICHARD EVANS, ALYSHA FARRY, DAVID GAUNT, DANIELLE HARVEY, MICHAELA KALOWSKI, BENJAMIN LAW, SIMON LONGSTAFF, JESSICA MALPASS, ANNA O'GRADY, ALEXA ROBERTS, CHIP ROLLEY, SAM RYAN, BEEJAY SILCOX, ANDREW SIMS, MELISSA STEVENS, KATE TAPERELL, DOT TONKIN, VICKY TOSH, MARIA TUMARKIN, SHARON TURNER, MICHAEL VISONTAY, MICHAEL WILLIAMS, PERI WILSON AND TAMARA ZIMET.

MAPS

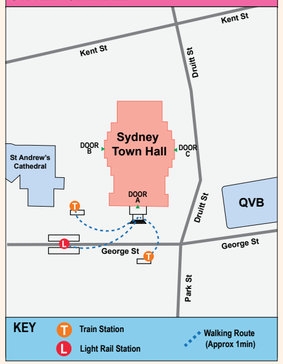
CARRIAGEWORKS MAP



FESTIVAL PRECINCT



SYDNEY TOWN HALL



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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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