

Program Feature Events

OPENING NIGHT GALA

3

Jimmy Barnes *Working Class Man:* An Evening of Stories and Songs

FRIDAY 6TH APRIL
8.00pm - 10.00pm
Civic Theatre

This event has sold out.



Writing the Past

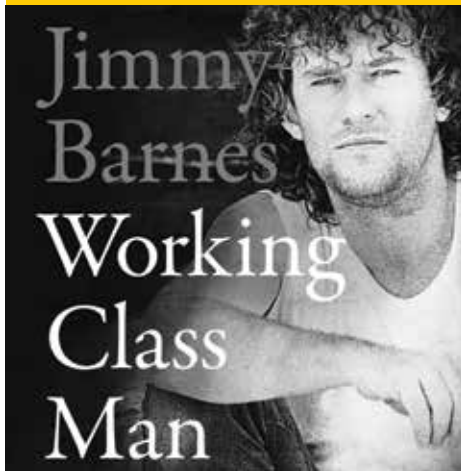
43

SATURDAY 7TH APRIL
6.00pm - 7.00pm
Harold Lobb Concert Hall
Conservatorium of Music

Richard Fidler discusses his passion for the stories and personalities that have helped shape history.

Host / Gretel Killeen

Tickets \$28



Cover to Cover

45

SATURDAY 7TH APRIL
9.00am - 7.00pm
Civic Theatre Lounge Bar

Join the Jane Austen Society Hunter for a live reading of *Persuasion* in honour of the novel's 200th anniversary.

Free event



Life advice from Kitty Flanagan

44

SATURDAY 7TH APRIL
7.30pm - 8.30pm
Harold Lobb Concert Hall
Conservatorium of Music

The much-loved comedian shares tips and cautionary tales from her new book, *Bridge Burning and other Hobbies*.

Host / Meredith Jaffé.

Tickets \$28



Family Fun Day

66

SUNDAY 8TH APRIL
10.00am - 1.00pm
Wheeler Place Marquee

There will be storytelling, book making, music and plenty of fun.

Free event

In partnership with
Catfish Foundation



Secrets and Lies

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SATURDAY 7TH APRIL
7.30pm - 8.30pm
Cessnock Performing Arts Centre

Michael Robotham in conversation with Barry Maitland.

Tickets \$25

Bookings: call on 4993 4266 or book online at www.cessnockperformingartscentre.com.au

In partnership with
Cessnock City Council



Program Friday 6 April

Special Events

10.00am - 12.30pm **1**

Newcastle Museum

Poetry & Nature: Poetic responses to the work of Ash Island's Scott Sisters

Experienced poet and tutor Judy Johnson will inspire participants to create poetry in response to the exquisite illustrations of Australia's finest female 19th-century natural history artists, Helena and Harriet Scott.

Devonshire tea provided.

Bookings: Call 02 49741400 or email enquiries@newcastlemuseum.com.au

Tickets \$18 / \$15 concession

In association with the Transformations exhibition at Newcastle Museum.



11.30am - 2.00pm **2**

Noah's on the Beach

LITERARY LUNCH

This Writing Life: Di Morrissey in conversation with Natasha Beyersdorf

Best-selling writer Di Morrissey has sold more than two million books during her 25-year career. She will chat about the places and people that inspire her work, including her new book *The Red Coast*.

This event is a fundraiser for the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children Hunter.

Bookings: ridbc.org.au/Literarylunch

Enquiries: Darren Parmenter

T / 0455 067 908

E / darren.parmenter@ridbc.org.au

Tickets \$90

(includes welcome drink and two-course meal)

8.00pm - 10.00pm **3**

Jimmy Barnes

(see page 4)

This event has sold out

NeW Space

Hunter Street

11.00am - 1.00pm **4**

University of Newcastle

NeW Space

Cnr Hunter and Auckland Streets
Room X201 (Enter on Hunter Street)

MASTERCLASS

Making family and local histories global

Family and local history can strengthen communities and give voice to their diverse stories. But how do you turn your research into powerful stories that capture a wide audience and have global and contemporary relevance?

Join the History Council of NSW with guest speakers including local history specialists and historians, as they share their skills and experience in connecting family and local histories with current issues and audiences.

After the guest speakers deliver their session, there will be time for questions and participants are invited to share their ideas and/or research for feedback.

With Nancy Cushing, Andrew May, Julie McIntyre and Sue Ryan.

Presented by History Council of NSW with support from the School of Humanities and Social Science, University of Newcastle.

Free session

Limited places

Cummings Room

City Hall

5.30pm - 7.00pm **5**

Newcastle Short Story Award Presentation

Hosted by Hunter Writers Centre

Judge Ryan O'Neill will be attending.

Free event



Newcastle Short Story Award

All program information is correct at time of printing and some changes may occur without notice. Bookings are not required for free sessions.



Program Saturday 7 April

Concert Hall City Hall

10.00am - 11.00am **6**

Lost for Words

Australia's relationship with its languages with Ray Kelly Snr, Mark MacLean and Charmaine Papertalk Green.

Host / John Maynard

Free session

11.30am - 12.30pm **7**

Beyond the Headlines: How investigative journalists work

With Louise Milligan and Nick Toscano.

Host / Jane Hutcheon

Tickets \$15

1.30pm - 2.30pm **8**

The Hunter Region and the Great War

A presentation by Greg Ray that includes historical images.

Free session

3.00pm - 4.15pm **9**

Beyond the Suffering

Newcastle has been an epicentre of child sexual abuse within churches. Now that the Royal Commission has concluded, what needs to happen to assist survivors and protect children?

With Joanne McCarthy, James M. Miller and Louise Milligan.

Host / Emma Alberici

Tickets \$15

4.30pm - 5.30pm **10**

Beyond Mad Max

Steve Bisley discusses the highs and lows of life in the fast lane.

Host / Dan Cox

Tickets \$25

Mulubinba Room City Hall

10.00am - 11.00am **11**

Who are the Seekers, Whatnows, Drifters, Satisficers and Digitals?

Scott Holmes explores small business tribes with Christina Gerakiteys.

Free session

11.30am - 12.45pm **12**

SPECIAL EVENT

Newcastle Writers Festival Joanne Burns Microlit Award Ceremony

Includes a discussion about using microlit to explore the concept of time. With Raelee Lancaster, Tess Pearson and Richard Holt.

Host / Cassandra Atherton

The *Time* anthology will be launched by Ed Wright.

Free session

1.30pm - 2.30pm **13**

False Claims of Colonial Thieves

John Kinsella and Charmaine Papertalk Green take a poetical look at the colonial narrative and the Indigenous understanding of country. *John Kinsella will be appearing via Skype.*

Host / Magdalena Ball

Tickets \$15

3.00pm - 4.00pm **14**

BOOK LAUNCH

Marilla North's new book *Dymphna Cusack: Lucky in Love* will be launched by Ann Hardy.

Includes a dramatised reading of Cusack's play *We've Been so Lucky, Fella!*

Free session

4.30pm - 5.30pm **15**

BOOK LAUNCH

Port Stephens writer Joanna Atherfold Finn's debut book *Watermark* will be launched by Robert Drewe.

Free session

Cummings Room City Hall

NEW Thinking Series

In partnership with the University of Newcastle's Faculty of Education & Arts with support from the Centre for 21st Century Humanities.

10.00am - 10.30am **16**

Revisiting *Wuthering Heights*

With Alexandra Lewis

Free session

10.45am - 11.15pm **17**

Captive Anzacs

The little-known history of Australian POWs captured by the Ottomans during World War I.

With Kate Ariotti

Free session

11.30am - 12.30pm **18**

The Last Taboo

Writing about mothers who murder. With Nancy Cushing, Xanthé Mallet and Alistair Rolls.

Host / Rachel Franks

Free session

1.30pm - 2.30pm **19**

The Deep Time Project

The trials and tribulations of digitising 50,000 years of human expression.

With Greg Blyton, Gianni di Gravio, Ann Hardy and Craig Williams.

Host / Marguerite Johnson

Free session

3.00pm - 4.00pm **20**

Next Generation Humanities

Find out what the future of humanities looks like from local up-and-coming researchers.

With Nicole Kimball, Gabrielle McGinnis and Elicia Taylor.

Host / Amy Dewar

Free session

4.30pm - 5.30pm **21**

The Battle Within

Writing about the legacy of captivity in postwar Australia.

With Christina Twomey.

Host / Kate Ariotti

Free session

Hunter Room City Hall

10.00am - 11.00am **22**

Crossing Over

What are the challenges of writing across genres?

With Jesse Blackadder, Janette Paul and Jane Rawson.

Host / Jennifer Smith

Free session

11.30am - 12.30pm **23**

A Life With Trees

How Inga Simpson discovered the beauty of nature and her own path as a writer.

Host / Keri Glastonbury

Free session

1.30pm - 2.30pm **24**

Outside the Square

Is experimentation in Australian literature dead?

With Julie Koh, Ryan O'Neill and Jane Rawson.

Host / Geordie Williamson

Free session

3.00pm - 4.00pm **25**

Old Friends, New Tricks

Jane Hutcheon and Janette Paul (aka Jaye Ford) have been friends since their first day of uni. They discuss the challenges of a life in words and the art of perseverance.

Free session

4.30pm - 5.30pm **26**

Beyond the Capitals: The Voice of Regional Poetry

With Dael Allison, Steve Armstrong and Judy Johnson.

Host / Magdalena Ball

Free session

5.30pm to 6.30pm **27**

BOOK LAUNCH

Celebrate the launch of *Brew: 30 Years of Poetry at the Pub Newcastle*

Editor Dael Allison in conversation with Poetry at the Pub president Clark Gormley.

To be launched by Judy Johnson.

Includes readings from the anthology.

Free event

Program Saturday 7 April

The Marquee Wheeler Place

10.00am - 11.00am 28

Too Much Rock 'n' Roll: A life in Music

Mark Tinson in conversation with Phillip McIntyre.

Free session

11.30am - 12.30pm 29

Trading Stories

Nick Milligan and Joanna Atherfold Finn explore the allure of short stories and how the Hunter shapes their work.

Host / Conor McCarthy

Free session

1.30pm - 2.30pm 30

justiceINjustice

Creative responses to marginalisation and injustice within the criminal justice.

With Rob Cleworth, Melinda Dundas and Karen Wells.

Host / Caroline McKay

In partnership with The Lock-Up's exhibition *justiceINjustice*.

Free session

3.00pm - 4.00pm 31

Making it Up

What is fiction for?

With Lia Hills, Ryan O'Neill and Jock Serong.

Host / Ed Wright

Free session

4.30pm - 5.30pm 32

Life Experience: How do you transform real events into fiction?

With Jesse Blackadder, Kathryn Heyman and Michael Sala.

Host / Suzanne Leal

Free session

The Playhouse Hunter Street

10.00am - 11.00am 33

Anaesthesia

The gift of oblivion and the mystery of consciousness.

Kate Cole-Adams in conversation with Annette Marfording.

Tickets \$25

11.30am - 12.30pm 34

What does it mean to live well?

With Brigid Delaney, Robert Dessaix and Ken Hillman.

Host / Suzanne Leal

Tickets \$25

1.30pm - 2.30pm 35

The Meaning of Water

It symbolises life and purification, but in their most recent books Scott Bevan, Jesse Blackadder and Jock Serong also explore its danger and allure.

Host / Rosemarie Milsom

Tickets \$25

3.00pm - 4.00pm 36

A Good Life to the End

How can we be empowered to take control of our journey through ageing and death?

Intensive care specialist Ken Hillman in conversation with Meredith Jaffé.

Tickets \$25

4.30pm - 5.30pm 37

Speaking Their Truth

The power in the telling of women's stories.

With Kate Cole-Adams, Cassie Lane and Jenny Valentish.

Host / Annette Marfording

Free session

Harold Lobb Concert Hall Conservatorium of Music

10.00am - 11.00am 38

Earth Hour

Bruce Pascoe and Charles Massy tackle myths about agriculture and discuss what it means to live in connection with the land.

Host / Geordie Williamson

Tickets \$25

11.30am - 12.30pm 39

The Long and Winding Way to the Top

Fifty (or so) songs that made Australia.

Andrew P. Street in conversation with Felicity Biggins.

Tickets \$25

1.30pm - 2.30pm 40

Danger Music

How teaching the cello to children in Afghanistan led Eddie Ayres to a self-discovery almost too hard to bear.

Host / Dan Cox

Tickets \$25

3.00pm - 4.00pm 41

Dark Emu

Bruce Pascoe discusses his groundbreaking research which overturns the long-held belief that Indigenous people were simply hunter-gatherers.

Host / Jill Emberson

Tickets \$25

4.30pm - 5.30pm 42

The Music That Changed Me

Eddie Ayres and Christopher Lawrence in conversation with Felicity Biggins.

Tickets \$25

6.00pm - 7.00pm 43

Richard Fidler

(see page 4)

Tickets \$28

7.30pm - 8.30pm 44

Kitty Flanagan

(see page 4)

Tickets \$28

Special Events

9.00am - 7.00pm 45

Civic Theatre Lounge Bar

Cover to Cover

Join the Jane Austen Society Hunter for a live reading of *Persuasion* in honour of the novel's 200th anniversary.

Free event

11.30am - 1.30pm 46

FogHorn Brewhouse

Poets' Lunch

Hosted by Hunter Bush Poets. Enjoy a meal with lashings of Aussie bush poetry, tall tales, and rollicking rhymes.

Tickets \$30 - book online at www.trybooking.com/UFEO or call 49261313

The Press Book House

BOOK LAUNCHES

All free events

11.30am - 12.30pm 47

Newcastle poet Kathryn Fry's new book *Green Point Bearings* will be launched by Brook Emery.

1.30pm - 2.30pm 48

Richard Holt's new book *What You Might Find* will be launched by Cassandra Atherton.

7.30pm - 8.30pm 49

Cessnock Performing Arts Centre

Michael Robotham

(see page 4)

Tickets \$25

All program information is correct at time of printing and some changes may occur without notice. Bookings are not required for free sessions.

Program Sunday 8 April

Concert Hall City Hall

10.00am - 11.00am 50

A Reckoning

The #MeToo and Time's Up campaigns have become powerful platforms for women to share their stories, but what happens now?

With Amal Awad, Cassie Lane and Tracey Spicer.

Host / Julia Baird

Tickets \$15

11.30am - 12.30pm 51

The Hunter and the Hunted: Exploring this potent crime fiction dynamic

Michael Robotham in conversation with Jaye Ford.

Tickets \$25

1.30pm - 2.30pm 52

Blood Ties

What are the challenges when creating fictional families?

With Holly Ringland, Robert Drewe and Jock Serong.

Host / Meredith Jaffé

Tickets \$25

3.00pm - 4.15pm 53

The Lost Empire

While we cheer our athletes competing for Australia on the Gold Coast, Melissa Lucashenko, Selina Tusitala Marsh and Salil Tripathi reflect on the significance and relevance of the Commonwealth of Nations.

Host / Julianne Schultz

Free session

In partnership with Griffith Review

Mulubinba Room City Hall

10.00am - 11.00am 54

Give your stories a future: How three local writers bring their writing to life

With Sally Egan, Maree Gallop and Aidan Walsh.

Host / Jessie Ansons

Free session

11.30am - 12.30pm 55

How Poets See the World

With Lia Hills, Michele Seminara and Selina Tusitala Marsh.

Host / Magdalena Ball

Tickets \$15

1.30pm - 2.30pm 56

Politics of Identity

A discussion about trauma across the generations and the struggle to belong.

With Mehreen Faruqi, Roanna Gonsalves and Amal Awad.

Host / Saba Vasefi

With a special musical performance by Minerva Khodabande.

Free session

3.00pm - 4.00pm 57

The Politics of Poetic Form

With Chris Brown, Keri Glastonbury and Emily Stewart.

Host / Claire Albrecht

Free session

Cummings Room City Hall

NEW Thinking Series

In partnership with the University of Newcastle's Faculty of Education & Arts with support from the Centre for 21st Century Humanities.

10.00am - 10.45am 58

The Corridor of Truth: What fiction adds to history

A presentation by Evelyn Conlon.

Free session

Supported by



11.30am - 12.30pm 59

Mapping Aboriginal Massacres

Lyndall Ryan discusses her groundbreaking research with Catharine Coleborne.

Free session

1.30pm - 2.30pm 60

Why Study Writing?

With Dael Allison, Keri Glastonbury and Kathryn Heyman.

Host / Michael Sala

Free session

3.00pm - 3.30pm 61

Picnic at Hanging Rock 50 Years On

Gender and pseudo-history in Joan Lindsay's tale of a group of girls suddenly lost forever.

With Marguerite Johnson.

Free session

Hunter Room City Hall

10.00am - 11.00am 62

Writing the Landscape: The transformative power of place

With Lia Hills, Holly Ringland and Inga Simpson.

Host / Geordie Williamson

Free session

11.30am - 12.30pm 63

The Cult of Wellness

Mindfulness apps and super foods promise health and happiness, but has the fad gone too far?

With Brigid Delaney and Nick Toscano.

Host / Jennifer Smith

Tickets \$25

1.30pm - 2.30pm 64

Not quite overnight: The winding road to publication

With Melissa Lucashenko, Wendy James and Inga Simpson.

Host / Conor McCarthy

Free session

3.00pm - 4.00pm 65

Against the Odds

How athlete Joe Williams overcame his struggle with mental illness and addiction in order to thrive.

Host / Brett Keeble

Tickets \$15



FREE Family DAY!

From 10am to 1pm
The Marquee, Wheeler Place

Dust off your Book Week costume and come as your favourite character to win great prizes.

Visit **Zanni Louise** in the Creative Bookmaking Tent and create your own story.

There will be face painting, puppetry, music and lots of fun!

Program Sunday 8 April

The Marquee

Wheeler Place

10.00am - 1.00pm

66

Family Fun Day

See timetable in blue below.

In partnership with the Catfish Foundation

Free event



2.30pm - 3.00pm

67

World Hurl Anti- Slam

Everyone is welcome to participate. Anti-slam has no rules and is a reaction to the competitive nature of slam poetry. Performances can take any form.

Registration from 2pm at venue

Free event

3.15pm - 4.30pm

68

What is Your Newcastle Story?

This unique interactive event in partnership with Idea Bombing Newcastle responds to this year's 'Storytime' theme.

With Michael Cassel, Anthony Furniss, Cherie Johnson, Becky Kiil and Alex Morris.

Free event

All program information is correct at time of printing and some changes may occur without notice. Bookings are not required for free sessions.

The Playhouse

Hunter Street

10.00am - 11.00am

69

The Radical Farmer

Charles Massy discusses his critically acclaimed book, *Call of the Reed Warbler*.

Host / James Whelan

Tickets \$25

11.30am - 12.30pm

70

When the Past and Present Collide

Robert Drewe in Conversation with Joanna Atherfold Finn.

Tickets \$25

1.30pm - 2.30pm

71

In Excess: A Conversation about self-destruction

with Steve Bisley, Cassie Lane and Jenny Valentish.

Host / Rosemarie Milsom

Tickets \$25

Harold Lobb Concert Hall

Conservatorium of Music

10.00am - 11.00am

72

A Fine Balance

Robert Dessaix on the pleasures of leisure and why we need to do less instead of more.

Host / Ed Wright

Tickets \$25

12.00pm - 1.00pm

73

SPECIAL FAMILY EVENT

Newcastle Youth Orchestra and Newcastle Writers Festival present

Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf

Featuring playwright Carl Caulfield. There will also be a performance of *Carnival of the Animals*. Ogden Nash's poetry will be recited by Ghillian Sullivan.

Tickets Adults \$25
Concession/Child \$15
Family \$60

1.30pm - 2.30pm

74

Revolutionary Women

Who were Caroline Chisholm, Elizabeth Macquarie and Queen Victoria?

With Julia Baird, Sarah Goldman and Luke Slattery.

Host / Tracey Spicer

Tickets \$25

3.30pm - 5.00pm

75

Symphony of Seduction

Christopher Lawrence discusses the great love stories of classical composers with Paul Bevan. Includes musical interludes with David Banney, Gavin Clark and Peter Guy.

Tickets \$35

Supported by the Newcastle Music Festival

The Press Book House

Hunter Street

8.00am - 10.00am

76

Poets' Breakfast

Enjoy live performances and a coffee. Presented by Hunter Bush Poets.

Host / Ron Brown

Free session

10.30am to 11.30am

77

BOOK LAUNCH

Newcastle writer Zeny Giles' new book of poetry *Parables* will be launched by Dael Allison.

Proceeds from the sale of the book will help fund the Margaret Henry Lecture.

12.30pm to 1.30pm

78

Women of Words

Readings by poets Dael Allison, Magdalena Ball, Ivy Ireland, Judy Johnson, Michele Seminara and Melinda Smith.

Host / Janette Hoppe

Free event

Poetry at the Pub Festival After Party

MONDAY 9TH APRIL

From 7.30pm
Wickham Park Hotel

With special festival guests and a constellation of stars on the open mic. All welcome.

Free event

10.00am - 10.15am

A welcome by Newcastle Youth Orchestra Kids.

10.20am - 10.50am

Gregg Dreise takes you on a journey to his childhood riverbank. The adventure includes music, daggy jokes and, most importantly, a good yarn.

11.00am - 11.30am

Lopy and Curly are back! Lynn Jenkins and Kirrili Lonergan share their new book, *Perfect Petunias*, which is aimed budding perfectionists who worry about making mistakes.

11.40am - 12.10pm

Digby Fixit Live! captivates young audiences with theatrical storytelling, puppets, music and giggles galore! It is adapted from Renee Price's picture book series.

12.20pm - 12.50pm

Help Emily S. Smith and Graham Davidson from Storytime Lane create illustrations for their new book, *Life is Not Fair When You Are Just a Chair*.