

Celebrate words, ideas *and the joy* of reading

7 to 9 April 2017
CIVIC PRECINCT

Newcastle
Writers
Festival

5 YEARS
Strong

Festival Information

NEWCASTLE
SEE CHANGE



How to buy tickets

The Newcastle Writers Festival is committed to providing free sessions in its program. Tickets are not needed for these events. Seats are offered on a "first in, first served" basis. Admission cannot be guaranteed for free sessions.

All other tickets are available from Ticketek and can be bought over the counter, online at ticketek.com or by contacting the box office on (02) 4929 1977. Please note, that unless you buy your tickets over the counter at the Civic box office on Hunter Street, the sale will incur an additional delivery fee.

Tickets at the door will be limited. There is no concession price. During the weekend of the festival, the box office will be located in the foyer of the Civic Theatre.

About our venues

The Civic Precinct is located between Hunter and King Streets. There is wheelchair access to City Hall via the Wheeler Place entrance and there is an internal lift. If you require assistance, please email admin@newcastlewritersfestival.org.au and the festival can arrange for a volunteer to be available.

The main information desk is located in Wheeler Place and is staffed by volunteers. Programs and session information is available.

At the conclusion of each session, all seats are to be vacated. This enables sound and stage staff to set up for the following session. Doors will open 20 minutes before the start of each session.

Sound and video recording is not permitted without approval from the festival director Rosemarie Milsom. Please email admin@newcastlewritersfestival.org.au.

How to find us

The festival is held in the Civic Precinct, which is close to bus links and the bustling Honeysuckle and Darby Street eatery strips.

Please note, the rail line has been cut at Hamilton Station and passengers cannot alight at Civic or Newcastle stations. Buses are available at Hamilton Station for transfers to the city. For updates about track work and for timetable information see www.sydneytrains.info.

For bus timetables see www.newcastlebuses.info.

Newcastle Taxis bookings can be made by phoning 133 300 or book online at www.newcastletaxis.com.au.

You are encouraged to leave your car at home but if you do drive, we recommend all-day parking at the Wilson Parking station on the corner of Perkins and King Streets, Newcastle, or the Civic West Parking station on Gibson Street. For more details see www.huntercarparks.com.au or www.wilsonparking.com.au

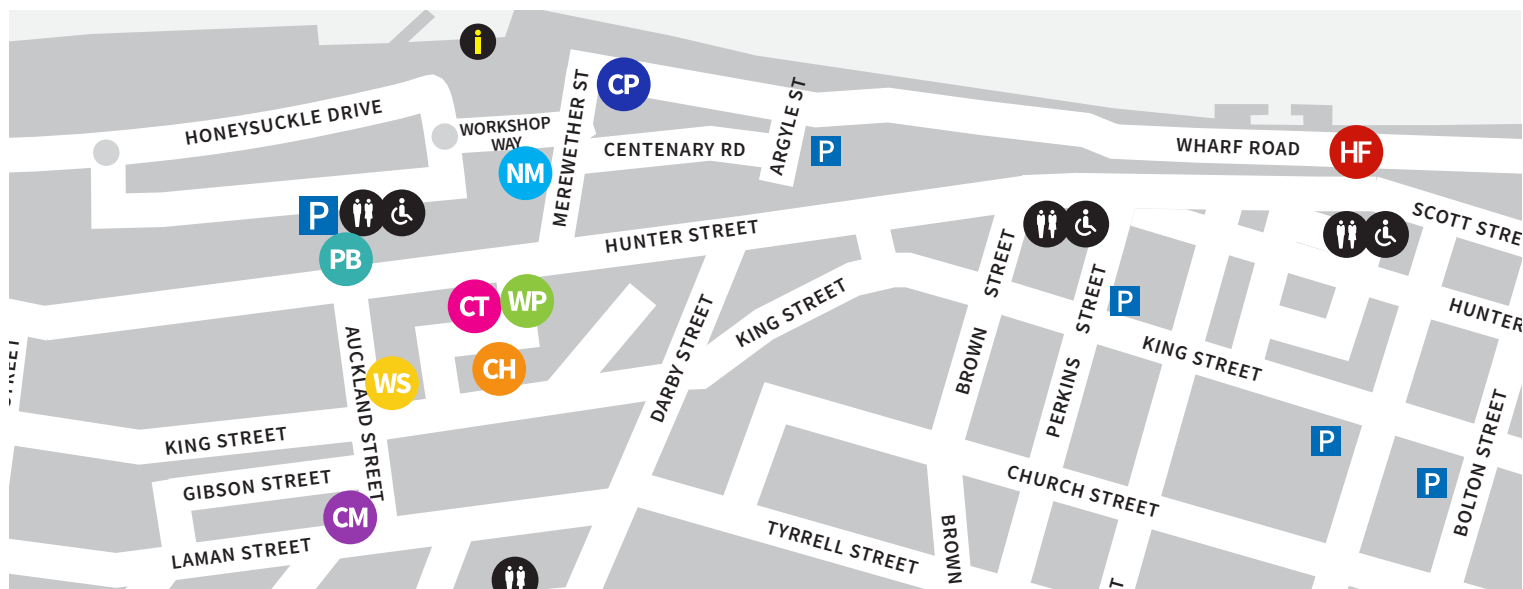
For more information about where to go and what to do during your stay see www.visitnewcastle.com.au

Special Early Bird Ticket Deal

To celebrate its fifth year, the Newcastle Writers Festival is offering an early bird deal. You can select five of the \$22 ticketed sessions and receive a discount of 10% on the overall total. The offer is strictly limited for sales between 24 February and 24 March, 2017, and guarantees you a seat for sessions that could possibly sell out. Plan ahead and take advantage of this very special offer.

Venues map

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| PB The Press Book House | CT Civic Theatre & Civic Digest Cafe | CP Crown Plaza | WS Watt Space Gallery | HF Harbourview Function Centre |
| NM Newcastle Museum | WP Wheeler Place | CH Newcastle City Hall | CM Conservatorium of Music | P Parking |



From the Director

Five years! It is hard to believe that my little dream of organising the city's first writers festival has grown into an annual event featuring 140 writers and thinkers from throughout Australia. I am immensely proud of the festival's reputation as the city's premier cultural event and the ongoing support it receives from local residents, sponsors and the thriving arts community.

If there is a theme for this year's program it is the power of story — in all forms. Richard Roxburgh conveys stories on the stage and screen as well as the page, Gary Ramage captures the brutal and sometimes mundane experiences of war with photography, and musician Holly Throsby has used her brilliant song-writing skill to create a compelling debut novel that explores the impact of violence.

The stellar line-up in 2017 also includes Mark Colvin, Peter Doherty, Nick Earls, Clementine Ford, George Megalogenis and Tara Moss. They all have powerful stories to convey, some of which are personally revealing and brave. They compel us to pause and reflect, to engage and debate. I think we need artists more than ever and a writer's ability to help shape — or reshape — the broader cultural narrative shouldn't be taken for granted or overlooked.

The festival is also committed to supporting local writers and there are a number of events, most of which are free, that showcase the diverse talent in the Hunter region. For those interested in advancing their own writing there are opportunities to learn more.

The Newcastle Writers Festival is built on a foundation of goodwill; from our enthusiastic and

ever-growing team of wonderful volunteers and facilitators to local arts organisations. I extend my appreciation to the festival's core funder, Arts NSW. Thanks also to our major sponsor Newcastle City Council and other sponsors including the University of Newcastle, Newcastle Port Corporation and Crowne Plaza Newcastle. Thanks to our media partners — Newcastle Herald, 1233 ABC Newcastle and *intouch magazine*.

The festival works closely with a number of local businesses and organisations and I want to acknowledge MacLean's Booksellers, Scion Audio, Hunter Writers Centre, Creative Wordshop, The Press Book House, Renew Newcastle, Gen Collective, Watt Space Gallery and The Lock-Up.

Thank you to the dedicated team at Newcastle Region Library for managing the successful schools program. Thanks also to Newcastle City Council's cultural facilities department.

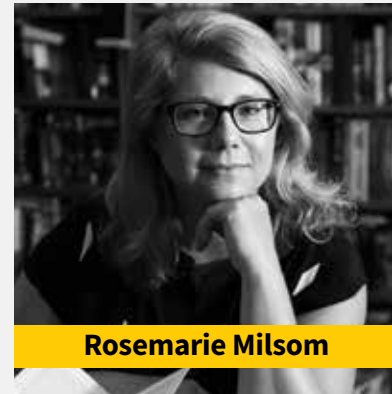
I would also like to acknowledge the Newcastle Writers Festival board members for their hard work and much-valued support: Jenny Blackford, Frances Crampton, Sally Ebert, Laura Jackel, Sheree Kable, Sharon Roberts and Kate Robinson. Added thanks to Sally who also helps manage the festival logistics and keeps me sane.

It is a privilege to lead the festival and I hope you get as much pleasure from this year's program as have from creating it.

I look forward to seeing you in April.

Rosemarie Milsom

manager@newcastlewritersfestival.org.au



Rosemarie Milsom

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Stay in touch with festival events throughout the year, subscribe to our newsletter via the website or on Facebook newcastlewritersfestival.org.au

From the Lord Mayor of Newcastle

Welcome Newcastle Writers Festival supporters,

I am as excited as you are about the 2017 program and the wonderful writers who will be in Newcastle this April to help celebrate the event's fifth anniversary. The festival has become a much-anticipated annual event and the program never disappoints.

Newcastle City Council has provided funding to the festival since its inception and this year we are excited to become a major sponsor. The increased funding recognises the cultural value of the event and the contribution it makes to the profile of the city. The festival also provides an amazing opportunity for local writers to share their work with a large audience and to connect with their peers.

Whether you enjoy reading thrillers or memoir, non-fiction or history, there is a session that will engage and inspire you. The program includes a

diversity of talent from throughout Australia and one its great strengths is the way contemporary issues are explored. Lively discussion and debate is encouraged — and appreciated — by the festival's growing audience.

If this is your first visit to Newcastle, please enjoy your stay and hopefully you can take in everything the city has to offer; from our stunning beaches to our thriving restaurant and café culture. Drop in to Newcastle Museum and the Art Gallery, which are both within walking distance of the festival hub in the Civic Precinct.

Congratulations to Rosemarie and the festival team, which includes an ever-increasing number of dedicated volunteers.

All the best for your fifth event and I look forward to many more years of festival fun.

Nuatali Nelmes



Nuatali Nelmes

Program Friday 7 April



Opening Night

Curly Times: An Evening with Michael Leunig

Australia's most treasured cartoonist has been commenting on our political, cultural and emotional life for more than 40 years. He will discuss the state of the world and his creative life.

Friday 7 April / 7.30pm / Civic Theatre

Hosted by Caroline Baum - MC Dan Cox

Tickets \$33



Spineless Wonders is proud to partner again with Newcastle Writers Festival in 2017.

Watch out for microlit videos, panel discussions and book launches, as well as short stories everywhere.

#storybombingnwf17

For story locations, author info, and story phone locations check hashtag #storybombingnwf17 via Instagram or Facebook - or check our website shortaustralianstories.com.au/nwf17

#storybombing - short Australian stories everywhere.



shortaustralianstories.com.au



Mulubinba Room City Hall

11.00am - 12.00pm ①

Yarn Spinners

A Celebration of Dymphna Cusack,
Florence James and Miles Franklin.

Marilla North in conversation with
Ann Hardy.

Free session

12.30pm - 1.30pm ②

A Guide to Military Research

With Newcastle historian Ian Pfennigwerth.

Free session

2.00pm - 3.00pm ③

Raw and Relevant Rhymes

Readings by members of Hunter
Bush Poets.

Free session

Cummings Room City Hall

11.00am - 12.00pm ⑤

Home is the Hunter

Readings and discussion inspired by
Catchfire Press' new anthology.

Host / Don Cohen

Free session

12.30pm - 1.30pm ⑥

From the Page to the Stage

With playwrights Carl Caulfield
and Pamela Whalan.

Host / Felicity Biggins

Free session

2.00pm - 3.00pm ⑦

From the Page to the Screen

With Vanessa Alexander, Mark Barnard
and Michelle Offen.

Host/ George Merryman

Supported by The Australian Writers'
Guild NSW Committee

Free session

5.00pm - 6.30pm ⑧

Newcastle Short Story Award Ceremony

Host / Hunter Writers Centre

Judges / Peter Goldsworthy and Maria
Takolander attending.

Refreshments available

Free event

Hunter Room City Hall

11.00am - 1.00pm ⑩

MASTERCLASS

From Research to Publication

Turning ideas into prize-winning
history books.

With Frank Bongiorno, David Carment,
Tanya Evans and Phillipa McGuinness.

Supported by the History Council of NSW

Tickets \$22

1.30pm - 2.30pm ⑪

Steps to Survival

Newcastle cancer survivor Denise Sweeney
discusses her memoir.

Host / Jenny Marchant

Free session

3.00pm - 4.00pm ⑫

Living with the Locals

Early Europeans' experience of
Indigenous life.

With Victoria Haskins and John Maynard.

Host / Ray Kelly Snr

Free session

Civic Theatre

7.30pm - 9.00pm ④

OPENING NIGHT EVENT

Curly Times: An Evening with Michael Leunig

Australia's most treasured cartoonist
has been commenting on our political,
cultural and emotional life for more than
40 years. He will discuss the state of the
world and his creative life.

Host / Caroline Baum

MC / Dan Cox

Tickets \$33

Special Event

Harbourview Function Centre ⑨
150 Wharf Road, Newcastle

12.30pm - 2.00pm

Break Through: Lunch with Marina Go

From editing *Dolly* magazine at 23 to
leading the Wests Tigers board, Marina
will offer insight into effective leadership
and her climb to the top.

Host / Natasha Beyersdorf

In partnership with Gen Collective

Book at [eventbrite.com.au](https://www.eventbrite.com.au)

Tickets \$55 - Includes two-course meal.



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 8 April



Mulubinba Room City Hall

10.00am - 11.00am 13

Behind Closed Doors

Exploring domestic drama.

With Sarah Armstrong, Meredith Jaffé, and Suzanne Leal.

Host / Anneli Knight

Free session

11.30am - 12.30pm 14

Essential Reads for Entrepreneurs

With Heidi Alexandra Pollard, Denise Duffield-Thomas and Louise Karch.

Host / Christina Gerakiteys

Free session

1.15pm - 2.15pm 15

An Unpolished Gem

Alice Pung in conversation with Anneli Knight.

Tickets \$22

2.45pm - 3.45pm 16

Live and Let Die

Steven Amsterdam in conversation with Caroline Baum.

Free session

4.15pm - 5.15pm 17

Art and Life in China

With Wai Chim, Isabelle Li and Madeleine O'Dea.

Host / Linda Jaivin

Free session

5.45pm - 6.45pm 18

Award ceremony for 2016 NWF/joanne burns Microlit Award and launch of the Landmarks anthology

Discussion with Evelyn Araluen, Tricia Dearborn and Patrick West.

Book will be launched by joanne burns.

Host / Cassandra Atherton

Free event

Cummings Room City Hall

10.00am - 11.00am 19

Every Sentence Counts

The art of the short story.

With Isabelle Li and Maria Takolander.

Host / Michael Sala

Free session

11.30am - 12.30pm 20

On Location

Newcastle as a setting.

With Wendy James, Andy Muir and Michael Sala.

Host / Keri Glastonbury

Free session

1.15pm - 2.15pm 21

Love and Other Catastrophes: Exploring relationships

With Belinda Alexandra, Kathryn Heyman and Fiona Higgins.

Host / Meredith Jaffé

Tickets \$22

2.45pm - 3.45pm 22

Violence: A Conversation

With Joanna Bourke and Philip Dwyer.

Supported by the Centre for the History of Violence, School of Humanities and Social Science, University of Newcastle.

Free session

4.15pm - 5.15pm 23

Rebellious Daughters

Intimate stories of rebellion and defiance.

With Caroline Baum, Leah Kaminsky and Susan Wyndham.

Host / Lee Kofman

Free session

5.45pm - 6.45pm 24

Musical Notes

Exploring the relationship between music and writing.

With Peggy Frew and Holly Throsby.

Host / Anneli Knight

Free session

Concert Hall City Hall

10.00am - 11.00am 25

Coming of Age

The power of a young narrator.

With Peggy Frew, Alice Pung and Holly Throsby.

Host / Magdalena Ball

Free session

11.30am - 12.45pm 26

Inside Publishing

With Meredith Curnow, Benythyn Oldfield and Geordie Williamson.

Host / Jane McCredie

Sponsored by the NSW Writers' Centre.

Free session

1.15pm - 2.15pm 27

In Harm's Way

Exploring the impact of violence.

With Sarah Armstrong, Emily Maguire and Michael Sala.

Host / Suzanne Leal

Free session

2.45pm - 3.45pm 28

Memoirs of a Spy's Son

Mark Colvin in conversation with Paul Bevan.

Tickets \$22 **This session has been cancelled.**

4.15pm - 5.15pm 29

When the Personal Becomes Political

With Randa Abdel-Fattah, Jane Caro and Clementine Ford.

Host / Ruby Hamad

Tickets \$22

5.45pm - 6.45pm 30

Trumped: Is this the end of satire?

With Charles Firth, Ryan O'Neill and Jonathan Biggins.

Host / Linda Jaivin

Tickets \$22

Hunter Room City Hall

10.00am - 11.00am 31

Fathers and Sons

With Tim Elliott and Mark Colvin.

Host / Geordie Williamson

Tickets \$22 **This session has been cancelled.**

11.30am - 12.30pm 32

Wasted: A Story of alcohol and grief

Elspeth Muir in conversation with Rosemarie Milsom.

Free session

1.15pm - 2.15pm 33

Reporting from the Edge

With Gary Ramage and Matthew Thompson.

Host / Paul Scott

Free session

2.45pm - 3.45pm 34

Writing the Pain

With Tim Elliott and Elspeth Muir.

Host / Rosemarie Milsom

Tickets \$22

4.15pm - 5.15pm 35

Short and Sweet: Reviving the novella

Nick Earls in conversation with Chris Flynn.

Free session

5.45pm - 6.45pm 36

Women's Fiction Salon

Enjoy a glass of bubbly and a lively discussion.

With Belinda Alexandra, Fiona Higgins and Wendy James.

Host / Meredith Jaffé

Bar will be open

Tickets \$22



Civic Theatre

10.00am - 11.00am **37**

A Life Less Ordinary

Richard Roxburgh in conversation with Rosemarie Milsom.

Tickets \$22

11.30am - 12.30pm **38**

Queen Victoria: An intimate portrait

Julia Baird in conversation with Catherine Keenan.

Tickets \$22

1.15pm - 2.15pm **39**

First, We Make the Beast Beautiful

Sarah Wilson reframes anxiety.
Host / Ailsa Piper

Tickets \$22

2.45pm - 3.45pm **40**

Wombats, Words and Wonder

Jackie French in conversation with Catherine Keenan.

Tickets \$22

4.15pm - 5.15pm **41**

Where to Australia?

George Megalogenis in conversation with Scott Holmes.

Free session

5.45pm - 6.45pm **42**

Knowledge is Power

Nobel Prize-winner Professor Peter Doherty in conversation with John Germov.

Tickets \$22

7.30pm - 8.30pm **43**

Speaking Out

Tara Moss in conversation with Tracey Spicer.

Sponsored by intouch magazine

Tickets \$22

Port of Newcastle Marquee

10.00am - 2.00pm **44**

Free Family Day

See program on right.

Meet some of Australia's leading writers and illustrators for children at this FREE interactive event. The Wheeler Place hub will inspire creativity with a range of fun activities for children. All featured guests will sign books after their events in the Festival bookshop on the ground floor of nearby City Hall.

2.45pm - 4.00pm **45**

Loopholes: Reading and writing microfiction

With Richard Holt, Susan McCreery and Jon Steiner.

Host / Bronwyn Mehan.

Carmel Bird will also launch *Loopholes: microfiction* by Susan McCreery.

Free session

4.15pm - 5.15pm **46**

Slam! Poetry and performance

With Andrew Galan, Sara Mansour and Miles Merrill.

Host / David Graham

Free session

5.00pm - 6.00pm **47**

Civic Digest Café

BOOK LAUNCH

Join the double celebration as award-winning poets John Foulcher and Melinda Smith launch each other's new books, *A Casual Penance* and *Goodbye, Cruel*.

Refreshments available.

Free session

Special Events

The Press Book House **48**

462 Hunter Street

12.30pm - 1.30pm

BOOK LAUNCH

Poet Jenny Blackford's new book *The Loyalty of Chickens* will be launched by Melinda Smith.

Free event

1.45pm - 2.30pm **49**

DISCUSSION

The World Around Us: Eco-poetics with Michael Aiken, Magdalena Ball and Ivy Ireland.

Free event

2.30pm - 3.00pm **50**

BOOK LAUNCH

Jan Dean will launch Magdalena Ball's new book *Unmaking Atoms*.

Free event

3.15pm to 4.15pm **51**

BOOK LAUNCH

Judy Johnson discusses and reads from *Dark Convicts*, a poetic exploration of her African-American ex-slave First Fleet ancestors.

Host / Jenny Blackford

Free event

Watt Space Gallery **52**

Cnr Auckland & King Streets

4.00pm - 5.00pm

BOOK LAUNCH

Kathryn Heyman will launch Newcastle writer Michael Sala's new novel, *The Restorer*. Supported by Text Publishing

Free event

Unorthodox Church
of Groove **53**

3 Tudor Street, Newcastle West

8.00pm - 9.30pm

Wisdom Tree Live

Nick Earls' novella series is brought to life in this cabaret-style event.

Joining Nick are Chris Flynn, Peggy Frew, Charles Firth and Miles Merrill who will interpret the stories. Local band Rose River will play songs selected by Nick.

Host / Nick Milligan

Book at eventbrite.com.au

Tickets \$30

FREE Family DAY!

Port of Newcastle Marquee,
Wheeler Place

Saturday 8 April

MC Katrina McKelvey

10.00am **54**

Art fun with local illustrators Liz Anelli, Gwynneth Jones and Kirrili Lonergan

10.35am **55**

Sea stories with John 'Stinker' Clarke

11.00am **56**

Meet Jackie French

11.45am **57**

Artie and the Grime Wave with Richard Roxburgh

12.15pm **58**

Word Hunters with Nick Earls

12.45pm **59**

Newcastle Youth Orchestra Kids introduces Professor Falconette

1pm - 2pm **60**

Celebrate the 20th anniversary of Harry Potter with Professor Falconette

Prizes for the best costume

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 9 April



Mulubinba Room City Hall

10.00am - 11.00am 61

Time Travellers

Historians on their craft.
With Tom Griffiths and Grace Karskens.
Host / Nancy Cushing
Supported by the School of Humanities and Social Science, Faculty of Education and Arts, University of Newcastle.
Free session

11.30am - 12.30pm 62

The Outsiders

The experience of the fringe-dweller.
With Kim Mahood and Philip Salom.
Host / Ed Wright
Free session

1.15pm - 2.15pm 63

Home as a Setting and a Yearning

Kim Mahood and Maggie Walsh in conversation with Magdalena Ball.
Free session

3.00pm - 4.00pm 64

Crossing Boundaries

Jaclyn Moriarty in conversation with Emily Booth.
Free session

Cummings Room City Hall

10.00am - 11.00am 65

Is Poetry the Most Vital Literary Art Form in Australia?

With Judy Johnson, Melinda Smith and Philip Salom.
Host / John Knight
Free session

11.30am - 12.30pm 66

The Getting of Wisdom

With Carmel Bird, Peter Doherty and Tony Doherty.
Host / Lee Kofman
Tickets \$22

1.15pm - 2.15pm 67

The Secret Life of Bees

With Tim Heard and Danielle Lloyd-Prichard.
Host / Carol Duncan
Free session

2.45pm - 3.45pm 68

The Art of Biography

With Joyce Morgan and Ashleigh Wilson.
Host / Gavin Fry
Free session

Concert Hall City Hall

10.00am - 11.00am 69

Fight Like a Girl

Clementine Ford in conversation with Ruby Hamad.
Tickets \$22

11.30am - 12.30pm 70

Two Worlds

The relationship between heritage and identity.
With Deng Adut, Roanna Gonsalves and Alice Pung.
Host / Ruby Hamad
Tickets \$22

1.15pm - 2.30pm 71

Getting Even

The politics of resentment.
With Jonathan Biggins, Charles Firth, George Megalogenis and Chris Uhlmann.
Host / Paul Scott
Tickets \$22

3.00pm - 4.00pm 72

Love and Loss

Nikki Gemmell in conversation with Susan Wyndham.
Tickets \$22

Hunter Room City Hall

10.00am - 11.00am 73

A Portrait of Brett Whiteley

Ashleigh Wilson in conversation with Sarah Johnson.
Free session

11.30am - 12.30pm 74

Making Sense of Death

With Steven Amsterdam, Nikki Gemmell and Leah Kaminsky.
Host / Susan Wyndham
Tickets \$22

1.15pm - 2.15pm 75

#LoveOzYA

Young Adult fiction grows up.
With Randa Abdel-Fattah, Kirsty Eagar and Jaclyn Moriarty.
Host / Emily Booth
Free session

2.45pm - 3.45pm 76

The Priest and the Writer

Ailsa Piper and Tony Doherty discuss their unlikely friendship.
Host / Caroline Baum
Free session





Civic Theatre

10.00am - 11.00am **77**

The Unauthorised History of Australia

David Hunt in conversation with Matthew Bevan.

Tickets \$22

11.30am - 12.30pm **78**

War Stories

Gary Ramage and Fred Smith share their experiences of Afghanistan through photography and song.

Host / Dan Cox

Tickets \$22

1.15pm - 2.15pm **79**

The Importance of Women's Voices

With Emily Maguire, Sara Mansour, Tara Moss and Tracey Spicer.

Host / Jane Caro

Free Session

3.00pm - 4.00pm **80**

Songs of a War Boy

Deng Adut in conversation with Felicity Biggins.

Tickets \$22

Newcastle Museum

10.00am - 11.00am **81**

All About Me

The challenges of memoir.

With Caroline Baum and Jane Caro.

Host / Meredith Jaffé

Tickets \$22

11.30am - 12.30pm **82**

Drawn from Life

Poetry inspired by the everyday.

With Eileen Chong, John Foulcher and Maggie Walsh.

Host / Jenny Blackford

Free session

1.15pm - 2.15pm **83**

Musings on Margaret

Hunter Writers Centre Poetry Group discusses the new anthology, *The Olley Poems*.

Host / David Graham

Free session

2.45pm - 3.45pm **84**

Rock This City

Live music in Newcastle from the 1970s to 80s.

Gaye Sheather in conversation with Phillip McIntyre.

Free session

Port of Newcastle Marquee

10.00am - 11.00am **85**

Close to home

How living in the Hunter region shapes the work of Matthew Thompson and Ed Wright.

Host / Mark Mordue

Free session

11.30am - 12.30pm **86**

Canberra Confidential

Behind the scenes at Parliament House.

With Steve Lewis and Chris Uhlmann.

Host / Paul Bevan

Free session

1.15pm - 2.15pm **87**

Arrival

What is the value of creative practice for newly arrived migrants and the community?

With Betty Brown, Niz Jabour, Ravi Nagaveeran and John Sandy.

Host/ Mehwish Iqbal

In conjunction with The Lock-Up's exhibition, *Know Your Neighbour*.

Free Session

2.30pm - 4.15pm **88**

Port of Newcastle

Poetry in the Place

"Poetry is when an emotion has found its thought and the thought has found words." Robert Frost

Celebrate the Festival's fifth anniversary with this special event featuring readings by Michael Aiken, Magdalena Ball, joanne burns, Eileen Chong, John Foulcher, Andrew Galan, Judy Johnson, Sara Mansour, Ravi Nagaveeran, Philip Salom, Berndt Sellheim, Melinda Smith and Maggie Walsh.

Host / Mark Mordue

Sponsored by Port of Newcastle

Free event

Special Events

Civic Digest Café **89**

Wheeler Place/Civic Theatre

8.00am - 10.00am

Poets Breakfast

Enjoy live performances over a coffee.

Host / Ron Brown

Free event

Harold Lobb Concert **90**

Hall - Conservatorium of Music

Cnr Laman & Auckland Streets

12.00pm - 1.00pm

Jackie French and the Newcastle Youth Orchestra Present *Josephine Wants to Dance*

In partnership with the Newcastle Writers Festival, the NYO returns with a very special Kids Classics concert. Composer William Jeffery has brought Jackie French's wonderful book to life with music. Jackie will narrate the story of Josephine, the young kangaroo, who wants to dance.

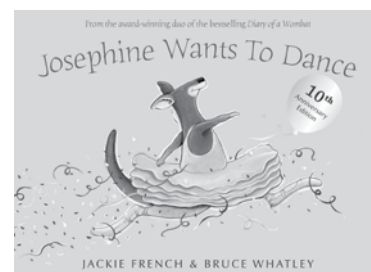
Book at eventbrite.com.au

Tickets

Adult - \$25

Concession/Child - \$15

Family - \$60



Biographies

Randa Abdel-Fattah

Randa Abdel-Fattah is the author of many books, including picture books and young adult novels.

A former lawyer, she is now a doctoral candidate at Macquarie University exploring everyday multiculturalism, Islamophobia and racism in Australia.

Sessions 29,75

Deng Adut

Deng Adut is a South Sudanese child soldier-turned-Blacktown lawyer. He is NSW Australian of the Year for 2017. His book, *Songs of a War Boy*, is published by Hachette Australia.

Sessions 70, 80

Michael Aiken

Michael Aiken's first book, *A Vicious Example*, was shortlisted for the NSW Premier's Kenneth Slessor Prize and the Dame Mary Gilmore Prize. In 2016 he was named the *Australian Book Review's* inaugural Laureate's fellow.

Sessions 49,88

Vanessa Alexander

Vanessa Alexander has worked extensively in television drama, most recently in writers' rooms

for Playmaker, Matchbox, Jungle, Endomol, Porchlight, Seesaw, and the Bondi Hipsters.

Session 7

Belinda Alexandra

Belinda Alexandra is the author of seven best-selling novels, including *White Gardenia* and *Southern Ruby*.

Sessions 21, 36

Steven Amsterdam

Steven Amsterdam is an award-winning writer and a palliative care nurse. His most recent novel, *The Easy Way Out*, is published by Hachette Australia.

Sessions 16, 74

Liz Anelli

Liz Anelli is an English-born, Newcastle-based illustrator who has created children's books for Walker Books, Penguin Random House and EK Books.

Session 54

Evelyn Araluen

Evelyn Araluen is a PhD candidate and educator working with global Indigenous reading strategies at the University of Sydney.

Session 18

Sarah Armstrong

Sarah Armstrong grew up in the Hunter and went on to become a Walkley Award-winning journalist. Her most recent novel, *Promise*, is published by Pan Macmillan.

Sessions 13, 27

Cassandra Atherton

Cassandra Atherton is an award-winning writer, academic and critic. Her recent books of prose poetry are *Trace*, *Exhumed* and *Sketch Notes*.

Session 18

Julia Baird

Julia Baird is a journalist, broadcaster, columnist and political commentator who currently hosts *The Drum* on ABC TV.

Session 38

Magdalena Ball

Magdalena Ball is a novelist, poet, reviewer and interviewer, and is the editor of *Compulsive Reader* (compulsivereader.com).

Sessions 25, 49, 50, 63, 88

Mark Barnard

Mark Barnard is one of Australia's most experienced multi-cam television producers and

directors. He has worked for all the major networks in Australia and CBeebies in the UK.

Session 7

Caroline Baum

Caroline Baum is a respected journalist and presenter. She was the founding editor of *Good Reading* magazine and the editorial director of Booktopia.

Sessions 4, 16, 23, 76, 81

Matthew Bevan

Matthew Bevan is a producer, reporter and newsreader for Breakfast with Fran Kelly on RN. He also presents Treasure Hunter for 1233 ABC Newcastle on Saturday mornings.

Session 77

Paul Bevan

Paul Bevan has worked in radio for more than 25 years, producing and presenting current affairs programs. He currently presents Drive for 1233 ABC Newcastle.

Sessions 28, 86

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Natasha Beyersdorf

Natasha Beyersdorf fronts the evening weekday news for NBN as well as reporting and compiling special presentations. Outside of work, she is busy chasing after her children Campbell, 12, and Tilly, 10.

Sessions 9

Felicity Biggins

Felicity Biggins is a lecturer in communications at the University of Newcastle and with her husband, playwright Carl Caulfield, she runs a small theatre company called Stray Dogs.

Sessions 6, 80

Jonathan Biggins

Jonathan Biggins is an actor, writer and director, perhaps best known as one of the creators and performers for the Sydney Theatre Company's *Wharf Revue*.

Sessions 30, 71

Carmel Bird

Carmel Bird won the 2016 Patrick White Literary Award. Her most recent works are *Family Skeleton*, *My Hearts Are Your Hearts*, and *Dear Writer Revisited*.

Sessions 45, 66

Jenny Blackford

Jenny Blackford's poems and stories have appeared in *Westerly*, *Cosmos* and *Australian Poetry Journal*. Her second book of poetry, *The Loyalty of Chickens*, will be launched at the festival. www.jennyblackford.com.

Sessions 48, 51, 82

Emily Booth

Emily Booth is a PhD student at the University of Technology, Sydney. Her research area is diversity and inclusion in children's and young adult fiction.

Sessions 64, 75

Frank Bongiorno

Professor Frank Bongiorno teaches and researches Australian history at the Australian National University in Canberra, and has previously worked at King's College London and the University of New England, Armidale. From 2013 to 2015, he was co-editor of *History Australia*.

Session 10

Joanna Bourke

Professor Joanna Bourke is an internationally respected historian and award-winning author of 11 books. In 2016 she was appointed to the role of Global Innovation Chair in the Centre for the History of Violence at the University of Newcastle.

Session 22

Betty Brown

Sister Betty Brown was instrumental in establishing Penola House in Mayfield, Newcastle, as part of the Josephite Refugee Support Network. In 2015, she and Sister Di Santleban established Refugees and Partners and the associated Zara's House to connect people, culture and services in the community.

Session 87

Ron Brown

Ron Brown is a founding member of the Hunter Bush Poets, which was established in 1997. The group has since merged with the Newcastle Hunter Valley Folk Club and promotes traditional music, dance and poetry.

Sessions 3, 89

joanne burns

joanne burns is a Sydney writer who is interested in blurring the boundaries between line-break poetry and prose poetry/micro fiction. Her most recent poetry collection, *brush* (Giramondo Publishing), won the 2016 NSW Premier's Kenneth Slessor Poetry Prize.

Sessions 18, 88

David Carment

David Carment is Emeritus Professor of History at Charles Darwin University, where he was also dean of the Faculty of Law, Business and Arts.

Session 10

Jane Caro

Jane Caro is an author, novelist, journalist, broadcaster, columnist, advertising writer and social commentator her most recent book is *Plain-Speaking Jane*.

Sessions 29, 79, 81

Carl Caulfield

Carl Caulfield is a Newcastle playwright, actor, director, screenwriter, dramaturg and lecturer. His most recent play, *Mark Of Cain*, explores the impact of PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) on a group of returning soldiers.

Session 6

Wai Chim

Wai Chim is a first-generation Chinese-American now living in Sydney. Her latest book, *Freedom Swimmer*, is inspired by her father's experiences growing up in rural China.

Session 17

Eileen Chong

Eileen Chong is a Sydney poet. *Burning Rice* was shortlisted for

the 2013 Prime Minister's Literary Award. Her most recent book is *Painting Red Orchids*.

Sessions 82, 88

John "Stinker" Clarke

John 'Stinker' Clarke is a retired teacher who holds a masters degree in education from the University of Newcastle, a keen fisherman, environmentalist and author. He has published his first book for children, *The Adventures of Stinker and Stinkpot*.

Session 55

Don Cohen

Don Cohen is the president of Catchfire Press, a not-for-profit community-based publishing group that has given Hunter region writers the opportunity to publish their work for more than 20 years.

Session 5

Mark Colvin

Mark Colvin joined the ABC as a cadet in 1974 and presents *PM*, a job he has continued to do despite three years on dialysis and a successful kidney transplant.

Sessions 28, 31

Dan Cox

Dan Cox started his journalism career delivering newspapers as a teenager. Since 2008 he has been a broadcast journalist with 1233 ABC Newcastle.

Sessions 4, 78

Meredith Curnow

Meredith Curnow has been a publisher for 14 years at Penguin Random House, where she publishes fiction and non-fiction from a stellar array of Australian writers including Tom Keneally, Gail Jones, David Malouf and Tegan Bennett Daylight.

Session 26

Nancy Cushing

Nancy Cushing is head of the history discipline at the University of Newcastle and a specialist in environmental history. She is a founding member of the Global Newcastle Research Network.

Session 61

Jan Dean

A former teacher, Newcastle poet Jan Dean's publication credits include *Southerly*; *Hecate*; *Quadrant*; *The Australian* and anthologies from Catchfire Press and Five Island Books, as well as the Roland Robinson and the Newcastle Poetry prizes.

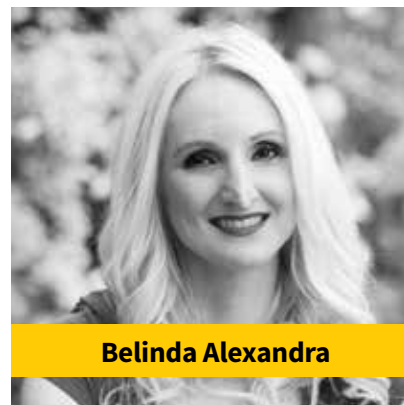
Session 50



Jane Caro



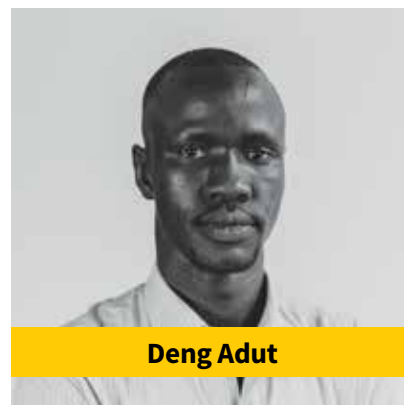
Wai Chim



Belinda Alexandra



Michael Aiken



Deng Adut

Biographies

Tricia Dearborn

Tricia Dearborn is an award-winning poet and short story writer. Her latest collection of poetry is *The Ringing World*.

Session 18

Peter Doherty

Peter Doherty shared the 1996 Nobel Prize in Medicine. In an effort to communicate more broadly, he has published four books for general readers. *The Knowledge Wars* is the most recent.

Sessions 42, 66

Tony Doherty

Monsignor Tony Doherty has been parish priest at Rose Bay in Sydney for 12 years. Throughout his 50-plus years as a priest, he has written and published widely in an effort to demystify religious language.

Sessions 66, 76

Denise Duffield-Thomas

Denise Duffield-Thomas is an award-winning speaker, author and mentor for women entrepreneurs.

Session 14

Carol Duncan

Carol Duncan is a well-known broadcaster with more than 25 years' experience in both commercial and public broadcasting.

Session 67

Philip Dwyer

Professor Philip Dwyer is the director of the Centre for the History of Violence in the Humanities Research Institute at the University of Newcastle. Volume one of his study on Napoleon won the National Biography Award in 2008.

Session 22

Kirsty Eagar

Kirsty Eagar writes young adult fiction. Her debut novel, *Raw Blue*, won the Victorian Premier's Literary Award, and her follow-up novels, *Night Beach* and *Saltwater Vampires*, were shortlisted for

numerous literary awards.

Session 75

Nick Earls

Nick Earls writes long, short and medium-sized fiction, including 13 novels and numerous shorter works, as well as works for children. His novella series, *Wisdom Tree*, is published by Inkerman & Blunt.

Sessions 35, 53, 58

Tim Elliott

Tim Elliott is a senior writer at the *Sydney Morning Herald*. His latest book, *Farewell to the Father*, arose from an article in the newspaper's *Good Weekend* magazine.

Sessions 31, 34

Tanya Evans

Tanya Evans is the president of the History Council of NSW and a senior lecturer in the Department of Modern History at Macquarie University, where she teaches Australian and public history.

Session 10

Charles Firth

Charles Firth is a co-founder of *The Chaser* and editor-in-chief of *The Chaser Quarterly*.

Sessions 30, 53, 71

Chris Flynn

Chris Flynn is the author of two novels, *A Tiger in Eden* and *The Glass Kingdom*, and editor of *Terra Australis: Four Stories from Aboriginal Australian Writers in McSweeney's Issue 41*.

Sessions 35, 53

John Foulcher

John Foulcher has written 10 books of poetry, most recently *101 Poems* (PSP 2015), a selection from his previous books, and *A Casual Penance* (PSP 2017). He lives in Canberra.

Sessions 47, 82, 88

Clementine Ford

Clementine Ford is a freelance writer, broadcaster and public speaker based in Melbourne. *Fight Like a Girl* is her first book.

Sessions 29, 69

Jackie French

Jackie French AM is an Australian author, historian, ecologist and honorary wombat (part time), 2014-2015 Australian Children's Laureate and 2015 Senior Australian of the Year.

Sessions 40, 56, 90

Peggy Frew

Peggy Frew is a member of the critically acclaimed and award-winning Melbourne band Art of Fighting. Her latest novel, *Hope Farm*, was shortlisted for the 2016 Miles Franklin Literary Award and the Stella Prize.

Sessions 24, 25, 53

Gavin Fry

Gavin Fry is a writer, artist, and publisher, living and working in Newcastle. As a writer, he has published more than 20 books on Australian art and history and has begun to publish books on behalf of other writers and artists.

Session 68

Andrew Galan

Andrew Galan is an internationally published poet and co-producer of renowned poetry event BAD!SLAM!NO!BISCUIT!.

Sessions 46, 88

Nikki Gemmell

Nikki Gemmell is a columnist for the *Weekend Australian Magazine* and the best-selling author of four works of non-fiction and 13 novels. Her new book *After* explores the impact of her mother's suicide in 2015.

Sessions 72, 74

Christina Gerakiteys

Christina Gerakiteys has written personal and business development and innovation programs, conducts workshops and facilitates strategic planning meetings and conferences.

Session 14

John Germov

Professor John Germov is acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) at the University

of Newcastle and convenor of strategic planning.

Session 42

Keri Glastonbury

Dr Keri Glastonbury is a senior lecturer in creative writing at the University of Newcastle, poet and essayist.

Session 20

Marina Go

Marina Go is a media executive and the first female chair of the Wests Tigers board. Her debut book, *Break Through: 20 Success Strategies for Female Leaders*, is published by Ventura Press.

Session 9

Peter Goldsworthy

Peter Goldsworthy has won literary awards across a wide range of genres. His most recent collection of short stories, *Gravel*, was shortlisted for the 2010 Australian Literature Society Gold Medal.

Sessions 8, 19

Roanna Gonsalves

Roanna Gonsalves came to Australia as a student in 1998. Her creative work, and peer-reviewed scholarly work, have been published and performed across various media in India and Australia. Her debut book, *A Permanent Resident*, was published in 2016 by UWA.

Session 70

David Graham

David Graham is co-founder of Word Hurl Anti-Slam, a no rules open mic spoken word and poetry night. He is also a co-director of the National Young Writers' Festival.

Sessions 46, 83

Tom Griffiths

Tom Griffiths AO is a prize-winning historian whose books include *Slicing the Silence: Voyaging to Antarctica* and *The Art of Time Travel* (Black Inc., 2016).

Session 61



Tim Heard



Nikki Gemmell



Charles Firth



Clementine Ford

Ruby Hamad

Ruby Hamad is a weekly columnist for Fairfax's feminist website Daily Life and a regular writer for SBS Online. She is also a regular panellist on ABC TV's *The Drum*.

Sessions 29, 69, 70

Ann Hardy

Dr Ann Hardy is a historian and Hunter Living Histories Coordinator at the University of Newcastle's Cultural Collections. She has a strong commitment to historical and archival research of the Hunter region.

Session 1

Victoria Haskins

Professor Victoria Haskins is a historian at the University of Newcastle. She is interested in the histories of cross-cultural relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous women.

Session 12

Tim Heard

Dr Tim Heard is an entomologist, ex-CSIRO research scientist, and long-term keeper and promoter of Australia's native stingless bees

and native bees in general. *The Australian Native Bee Book* is his first book.

Session 67

Kathryn Heyman

Kathryn Heyman is a novelist, essayist and scriptwriter. Her most recent novel is *Storm and Grace*. She is Conjoint Professor of Writing and English at the University of Newcastle.

Sessions 21, 52

Fiona Higgins

Sydney writer Fiona Higgins is the author of three novels, *Fearless*, *Wife on the Run* and *The Mothers' Group*, and a memoir, *Love in the Age of Drought*.

Sessions 21, 36

Scott Holmes

Scott Holmes is Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Research and Development) and Dean of Business at Western Sydney University.

Session 41

Richard Holt

Richard Holt is a writer and visual artist from Melbourne. He

writes fiction and microfiction, creates text-based artworks and blogs about microfiction at bigstorysmall.com.

Session 45

David Hunt

David Hunt is the author of the award-winning, *Girt: The Unauthorised History of Australia*, and the sequel, *True Girt*. He is a historian, comedy writer and children's book author.

Session 77

Mehwish Iqbal

Artist Mehwish Iqbal's work is a synthesis of eclectic concerns generated by her experiences of the social, cultural and political landscapes in the country of her birth, Pakistan, and her home in Australia. She has exhibited here and overseas.

Session 87

Ivy Ireland

Ivy Ireland's poems have been published in various magazines and anthologies. Her most recent collection is *Porch Light*. Ivy runs The Press Book House, a Newcastle bookstore café, with

her family.

Session 49

Niz Jabour

Niz Jabour is an Iraq-born artist, playwright, director, performer and film maker. He attained a Masters of Creative Arts at the University of Newcastle and a PhD from Curtin University

Session 87

Meredith Jaffé

Meredith Jaffé is the former book critic for the online women's magazine The Hoopla. Her first novel, *The Fence*, was published in 2016.

Sessions 13, 21, 36, 81

Linda Jaivin

Linda Jaivin is the author of seven novels and a cultural commentator, reviewer, essayist and travel writer who has contributed to a range of publications.

Sessions 17, 30

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Biographies



Tara Moss



Andy Muir



Mark Mordue



Leah Kaminsky

Wendy James

Newcastle writer Wendy James has been described as Australia's queen of domestic suspense. She is the author of seven works of fiction and the most recent is *The Golden Child*.

Sessions 20, 36

William Jeffery

William Jeffery is a young Australian composer based in Sydney. In 2014, he was invited to be the Newcastle Youth Orchestra's inaugural composer in residence.

Session 90

Judy Johnson

Judy Johnson is a prize-winning Hunter Region poet with six collections; the latest is *Dark Convicts*. She is one of four editors of the landmark anthology, *Contemporary Australian Poetry*.

Sessions 51, 65, 88

Sarah Johnson

Sarah Johnson is the curator at Newcastle Art Gallery. She has 20 years' experience in the visual arts, design and museum sector.

Session 73

Gwynneth Jones

Gwynneth Jones is a local illustrator of children's books. Her first publication, *Don't Think About Purple Elephants*, by Susan Whelan, was released in 2015.

Session 54

Leah Kaminsky

Leah Kaminsky is a physician and award-winning writer of eight books. She is poetry and fiction editor of the *Medical Journal of Australia*.

Sessions 23, 74

Louise Karch

Louise Karch is a consultant and speaker who provides branding and marketing advice to professionals for business growth. She lives in Canada and Australia.

Session 14

Grace Karskens

Grace Karskens is Professor of History at the University of New South Wales and the author of *The Colony*, winner of the 2010 Prime Minister's Award for Non-Fiction.

Session 61

Catherine Keenan

Catherine Keenan is co-founder and executive director of the Sydney Story Factory. Established in Redfern, in 2012, the organisation runs free creative writing and storytelling programs for marginalised young people.

Sessions 38, 40

Ray Kelly Snr

Ray Kelly is an Indigenous cultural and language expert, an academic and a writer and storyteller who has been involved in Aboriginal community development for more than 30 years. He recently completed his PhD on Aboriginal languages.

Session 12

Anneli Knight

Anneli Knight is a writer, journalist, and business writing consultant and coach. She is on the board of Byron Writers Festival and has a PhD in creative writing.

Sessions 13, 15, 24

John Knight

John Knight founded Pitt Street Poetry with Lindsay Knight in mid 2012. Their first publication was a pocket-sized reprint of John Foulcher's first book *Light Pressure*.

Session 65

Lee Kofman

Lee Kofman is an Israeli-Australian novelist, short story writer, essayist, memoirist and sometimes-poet based in Melbourne.

Sessions 23, 66

Suzanne Leal

Suzanne Leal is a lawyer experienced in child protection, criminal law and refugee law.

The Teacher's Secret is her second novel.

Sessions 13, 27

Michael Leunig

Michael Leunig is an Australian cartoonist, writer, painter, philosopher and poet. His commentary on political, cultural and emotional life spans more than 40 years and has often explored the idea of an innocent and sacred personal world.

Session 4

Steve Lewis

Steve Lewis is a former political journalist and is the co-author with ABC journalist Chris Uhlmann of the political thrillers *The Mandarin Code*, *The Marmalade Files* and *The Shadow Game*.

Session 86

Isabelle Li

Isabelle Li grew up in China, worked in Singapore and migrated to Australia in 1999. Her short stories have appeared in various literary journals and anthologies, including *The Best Australian Stories* and *Southerly*.

Sessions 17, 19

Danielle Lloyd-Prichard

Danielle Lloyd-Prichard is an education officer at Tocal College. She recently produced an AgGuide on Australian native bees and works as a research officer at The Tom Farrell Institute for the Environment at the University of Newcastle.

Session 67

Kirrili Lonergan

Kirrili Lonergan is a local children's book illustrator with a background in paediatric nursing. She is the vice-president of the Children's Book Council of Australia Newcastle Sub-branch.

Session 54

Emily Maguire

Emily Maguire's articles and essays on sex, religion and culture have been published in a number of newspapers and

journals. Her most recent novel, *An Isolated Incident*, is published by Pan Macmillan.

Sessions 27, 79

Kim Mahood

Kim Mahood is a writer and artist based near Canberra, whose 2000 memoir, *Craft for a Dry Lake*, won the NSW Premier's Award for Non-Fiction and the Age Book of the Year for Non-Fiction.

Sessions 62, 63

Sara Mansour

Sara Mansour is an Australian-born, Punchbowl-bred Muslim and recent law graduate who co-founded Bankstown Poetry Slam in 2013, which has become the largest regular spoken word event in the country.

Sessions 46, 79, 88

Jenny Marchant

Jenny Marchant is a presenter and reporter for 1233 ABC Newcastle and was part of the team that won a Walkley award for its coverage of the 2007 storms and floods.

Session 11

John Maynard

Professor John Maynard is a Worimi man from Port Stephens and the director of the Wollotuka Institute of Aboriginal Studies at the University of Newcastle and Chair of Indigenous History.

Session 12

Jane McCredie

Jane McCredie is an award-winning writer and journalist and a former non-fiction book publisher. She is also the director of the NSW Writers' Centre.

Session 26

Susan McCreery

Susan McCreery's collection of micro-fiction, *Loopholes*, published by Spineless Wonders, will be launched at this year's festival.

Session 45

Phillipa McGuinness

Phillipa McGuinness has been a publisher for 20 years, at both Cambridge University Press and UNSW Press/NewSouth Publishing, where she has published many award-winning books.

Session 10

Phillip McIntyre

Associate Professor Phillip McIntyre is a communication and media scholar at the University of Newcastle. Previously, he was involved in the music industry in a number of roles.

Session 84

Katrina McKelvey

Katrina McKelvey's debut picture book, *Dandelions*, was published in 2015 and will be reprinted this year. She is an advisor for the Newcastle Writers Festival schools program.

Sessions 54 - 60

George Megalogenis

George Megalogenis is an author and journalist. *The Australian Moment* won the 2013 Prime Minister's Literary Award for Non-fiction and the 2012 Walkley

Award for Non-Fiction, and formed the basis for the ABC TV documentary series *Making Australia Great*.

Sessions 41, 71

Bronwyn Mehan

Bronwyn Mehan runs Spineless Wonders, an indie press that publishes short Australian fiction in print, audio and digital formats.

Session 45

Miles Merrill

Miles Merrill directs the literary arts organisation, Word Travels, and founded the international performing writers' program, Australian Poetry Slam.

Sessions 46, 53

George Merryman

George Merryman teaches screenwriting at the University of Technology, Sydney and at weekends runs the Regal, an independent cinema in Birmingham Gardens, Newcastle.

Session 7

Nick Milligan

Nick Milligan is a Newcastle-based entertainment journalist, author and podcaster. His book of

short stories, *Tomcat Feelings*, will be published this year.

Session 53

Rosemarie Milsom

Rosemarie Milsom is the founding director of the Newcastle Writers Festival and an award-winning journalist.

Sessions 32, 34, 37

Mark Mordue

Mark Mordue is the editor of *NEIGHBOURHOOD*, a new monthly inner-city newspaper for Sydney. His previously published work includes the travel memoir, *Dastgah: Diary of a Headtrip* and the poetry chapbook *Things That Year*. He is working on a biography of Nick Cave.

Sessions 85, 88

Joyce Morgan

Joyce Morgan is a former arts editor of *The Sydney Morning Herald*, a journalist and author who has worked in London, Hong Kong and Sydney. Her most recent book is *Martin Sharp: His life and times*.

Session 68

Jaclyn Moriarty

Jaclyn Moriarty is the prize-winning, bestselling author of novels for young adults (and sometimes for slightly older adults). Her books include the Ashbury-Brookfield series and the *Colours of Madeleine* trilogy.

Sessions 64, 75

Tara Moss

Tara Moss is the bestselling author of 11 books of fiction and non-fiction published in 19 countries, a journalist, doctoral candidate at the University of Sydney, public speaker and outspoken advocate for children's rights and women's rights.

Sessions 43, 79

Andy Muir

Andy Muir is a Sydney-based television screenwriter with credits ranging from *Neighbours* and *Home & Away* to comedy series *Thank God You're Here*. *Something for Nothing* is his first novel.

Session 20

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Biographies

Elsbeth Muir

She is a postgraduate student at the University of Queensland. Her debut book, *Wasted: A Story of Alcohol, Grief and a Death in Brisbane*, is published by Text. **Sessions 32, 34**

Ravi Nagaveeran

Ravi Nagaveeran was detained in the Nauru Regional Processing Centre and Melbourne Immigration Transit Accommodation for more than three years. He has published *From Hell to Hell*, a collection of poetry written during his detention. **Sessions 87, 88**

Marilla North

In 2014, Newcastle-born writer Marilla North won the Alfred Midgley Post Graduate Fellowship at the University of Queensland to complete her biographical trilogy on the life and times of Dymphna Cusack. **Sessions 1**

Madeleine O'Dea

Madeleine O'Dea is a writer and journalist who has been covering the political, economic and cultural life of China for the past three decades. **Session 17**

Michelle Offen

Michelle Offen is a screenwriter and script editor whose work has screened on all Australian television networks across several genres. She has received two NSW Premier's Literary Award nominations and two Qld Premier's Literary Awards for episodes of *East West 101*. **Session 7**

Benythyn Oldfield

Benythyn Oldfield is a literary agent, publicist and director of Zeitgeist Media Group, which has offices in Sydney and Brussels. www.zeitgeistmediagroup.com **Session 26**

Ryan O'Neill

Ryan O'Neill's fiction has appeared in numerous journals and anthologies. His most recent short story collection is *Their Brilliant Careers: The Fantastic Lives of Sixteen Extraordinary Australian Writers*. **Session 30**

Ian Pfennigwerth

Ian Pfennigwerth spent 34 years with the Royal Australian Navy. He obtained his PhD from the University of Newcastle in 2005 and has since published 11 books on Australia's naval history. **Session 2**

Ailsa Piper

Ailsa Piper has made her life in the arts, having worked as a writer across many mediums, and as a director, actor, teacher, speaker and broadcaster. **Sessions 39, 76**

Heidi Alexandra Pollard

Heidi Alexandra Pollard has more than 20 years' experience in management and leadership. She is a published author and speaker who presents at conferences here and overseas. **Session 14**

Alice Pung

Alice Pung is an award-winning writer, editor, teacher and lawyer based in Melbourne. Her first novel *Laurinda* was one of Readings' Top 100 bestselling books for 2014. **Sessions 15, 25, 70**

Gary Ramage

Gary Ramage is a former Australian Army photographer who now works for News Corp. He has won numerous awards for his coverage of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. **Sessions 33, 78**

Deanna Rose

Newcastle singer Deanna Rose was a member of "Team Ricky" during the 2015 season of *The Voice* and has supported the likes of Daryl Braithwaite, Gambirra and The Whitetop Mountaineers.

She performs with Craig Rattray, Eleanor Plummer and Adam Osmanovic as Rose River.

Session 53

Richard Roxburgh

Richard Roxburgh is one of Australia's best-loved and most versatile actors. *Artie and the Grime Wave* is his first book for children. **Sessions 37, 57**

Michael Sala

Michael Sala is a creative writing lecturer at the University of Newcastle. His most recent book, *The Restorer*, will be launched at this year's festival. **Sessions 19, 20, 27, 52**

Philip Salom

Philip Salom lives in Melbourne and has published three novels and 14 books of poetry. *Waiting*, his most recent novel, was shortlisted for the 2017 Victorian Premier's Literary Award. **Sessions 62, 65, 88**

John Sandy

John Sandy fled conflict in his native Sierra Leone in 1999. After a 12-year process he arrived in Australia in 2011 as a refugee to be reunited with his wife. He is now a community caseworker in Newcastle and completing post-graduate studies in social work at the University of Newcastle. **Session 87**

Paul Scott

Paul Scott is a lecturer in the School of Design, Communication and Information Technology in the Faculty of Science and Information Technology at the University of Newcastle. **Sessions 33, 71**

Berndt Sellheim

Berndt Sellheim is a poet and photographer. He is the author of *Beyond the Frame's Edge* and *Awake at the Wheel*. **Session 88**

Gaye Sheather

Gaye Sheather is the author of *Rock This City*, a book that

explores the development of the "pub" rock era in Newcastle in the 1970s & 80s.

Session 84

Fred Smith

Fred Smith was the first Australian diplomat to be posted to Uruzgan, Afghanistan, in 2009, and the last to leave in 2013. He has written an album and memoir about the experience. **Session 78**

Melinda Smith

Melinda Smith won the 2014 Prime Minister's Literary Award for her fourth poetry collection, *Drag down to unlock or place an emergency call*. Female experience and humour feature strongly in her work. **Sessions 47, 65, 88**

Tracey Spicer

Tracey Spicer has worked for a number of media companies in her 30-year career and is the co-founder and national convener of Women in Media. Her "femur" *The Good Girl Stripped Bare* will be published in April. **Sessions 43, 79**

Jon Steiner

Jon Steiner is a writer from Sydney. His short story collection, *The Last Wilkie's and Other Stories*, was published by Spineless Wonders in 2015. **Session 45**

Nadia Sunde aka

Professor Falconette

Nadia Sunde is one of Australia's most acclaimed children's theatre writers and performers. Nadia plays the role of "Harry Potter Book Enthusiast", Professor Falconette. **Session 60**

Denise Sweeney

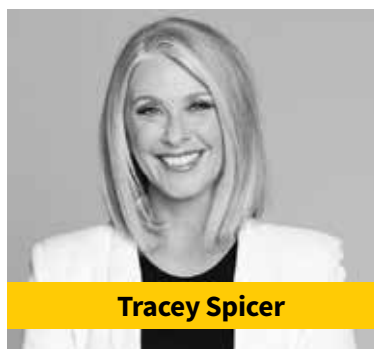
Denise Sweeney is a Newcastle-based debut author. Her memoir, *Steps To Survival*, is an account of her treatment and recovery from endometrial cancer. **Session 11**



Richard Roxburgh



Alice Pung



Tracey Spicer



Michael Sala

Maria Takolander

Maria Takolander is an associate professor at Deakin University in Geelong, Victoria. Her stories have been widely published nationally and internationally.

Sessions 8, 19

Matthew Thompson

Matthew Thompson is a journalist and author of three books. The most recent, *Mayhem*, is an account of the life notorious criminal Christopher "Badness" Binse.

Sessions 33, 85

Holly Throsby

Holly Throsby is a songwriter, musician and novelist from Sydney. Her debut novel *Goodwood* was published in 2016.

Sessions 24, 25

Chris Uhlmann

Chris Uhlmann is one of Australia's best-known political broadcasters. He is the co-

author with Steve Lewis of *The Marmalade Files* and *The Mandarin Code*, both of which have been adapted for television as *Secret City*. *Shadow Game* completes the trilogy.

Sessions 71, 86

Maggie Walsh

Maggie Walsh is an Indigenous poet from Palm Island Community in North Queensland. Her first book of poetry, *Sunset*, was published by Vagabond Press in 2016.

Sessions 63, 82, 88

Patrick West

Patrick West is a senior lecturer in Writing and Literature in the School of Communication and Creative Arts, Deakin University, and a short story writer.

Session 18

Pamela Whalan

Pamela Whalan has adapted five of Jane Austen's six novels for

stage presentation and has also written scripts and lyrics for three children's musicals. She is based in Newcastle.

Session 6

Geordie Williamson

Geordie is a publisher, writer and former chief literary critic at *The Australian*. He is editor of *Best Australian Essays* and *Island* magazine, and author of 2012's *The Burning Library*.

Sessions 26, 31

Ashleigh Wilson

Ashleigh Wilson is *The Australian's* arts editor. His biography of Brett Whiteley, *Art, Life and the Other Things*, was published in 2016.

Sessions 68, 73

Sarah Wilson

Sarah Wilson is a *New York Times* bestselling author and entrepreneur. She is the director and founder of IQuitSugar.com. Her new book, *first, we make*

the beast beautiful, explores her experience of anxiety, which she reframes as a spiritual quest rather than a burdensome affliction.

Session 39

Ed Wright

Ed Wright is a writer and literary critic for *The Australian* newspaper. He is a director of The Creative Word Shop, a writing school and editing service for adults and children in Newcastle.

Sessions 62, 85

Susan Wyndham

Susan Wyndham is the former literary editor of *The Sydney Morning Herald*, and an author and contributor to several books.

Sessions 23, 72, 74



Holly Throsby



Ashleigh Wilson



Sarah Wilson



Susan Wyndham

Festival Bookshop

The MacLean's Booksellers festival bookshop is located on the Lower Ground Floor in the Banquet Room of Newcastle City Hall.

Festival authors will be available for signings at the conclusion of their sessions.





ROCCO FAZZARI

Meet the Newcastle Writers Festival's first artist-in-residence.

The theme of this year's festival is "The Power of Story" and Rocco will be using his stylus and tablet to tell the story of the event and to capture the people who bring it to life. Throughout the main weekend, his illustrations will be shared via social media using #nwf17.

Rocco's work has featured in Fairfax mastheads for more than 28 years as well as *Rolling Stone* magazine and various other publications.

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Shireen Taweel, *tomorrow Insh* 2016 (detail)



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LAST WORDS

Simone Paterson

Wed 5 Apr – Sat 22 Apr 2017

Official opening Saturday 8 Apr, 2-4pm

ARTIST TALK Sunday 9 Apr, 10am

GALLERY

139

An exhibition exploring human mortality through the immortalisation of the last words spoken by 'famous' people using photography, machine embroidery & animated text.

139A Beaumont St Hamilton NSW 2303

Gallery hours Wednesday – Friday 11am – 4pm | Saturday 10am – 2pm (open Sunday 10am – 2pm during Newcastle Writers Festival)

www.gallery139.com.au | 0434 886 450 | info@gallery139.com.au

detail: Steve Jobs, work in progress



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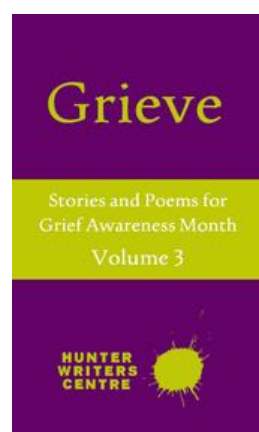
Writing Competition

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Write a story up to 500 words
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www.hunterwriterscentre.org

130 pieces will be selected by the judges
for publication in the annual anthology



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