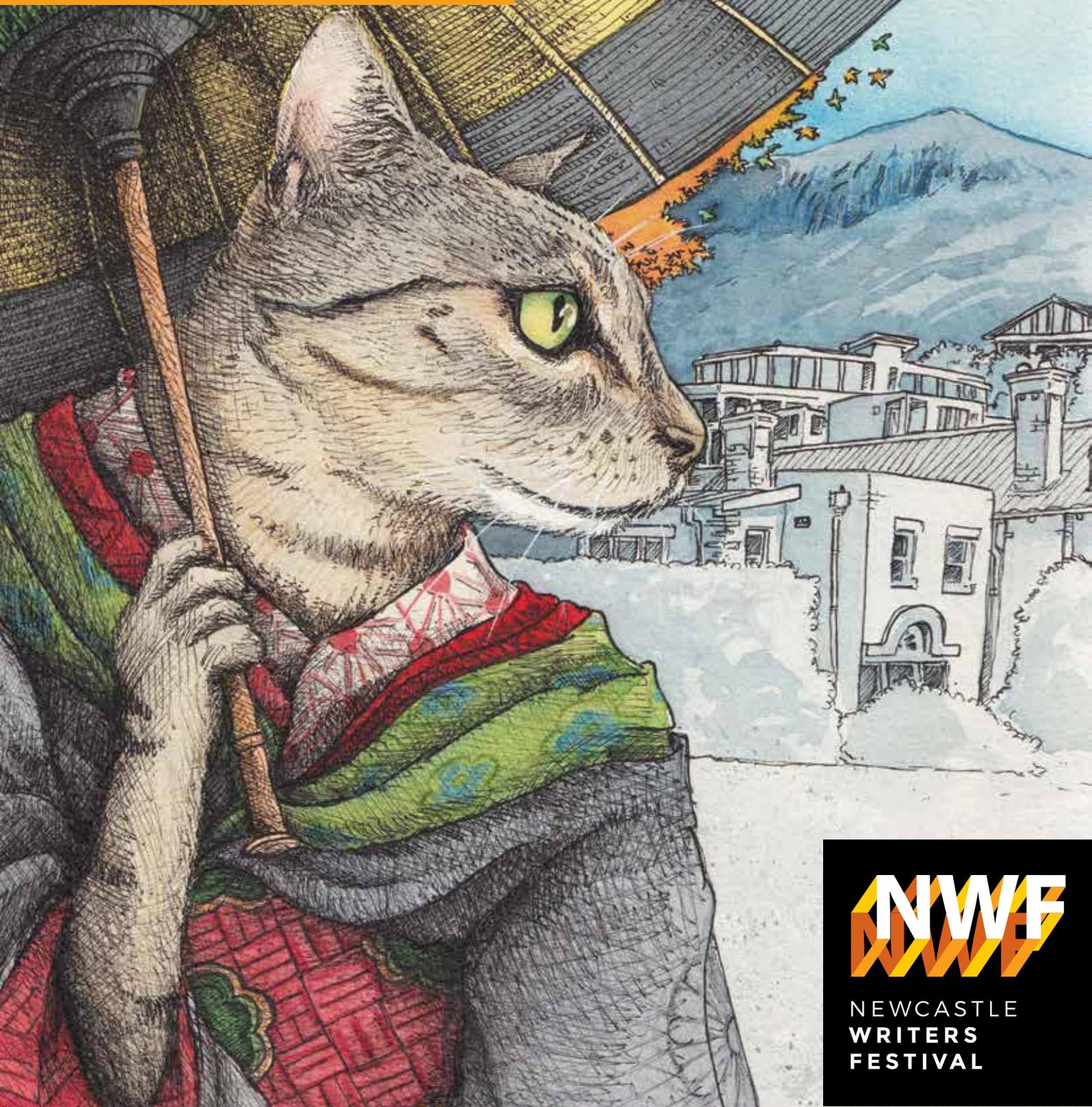


2020

**Schools
Program**



**NEWCASTLE
WRITERS
FESTIVAL**

The Newcastle Writers Festival Schools Program is a wonderful opportunity for students to engage with their favourite authors and be inspired in a fun, educational and interactive way.

For the third year, all author presentations are free though registration is still required.

In these popular sessions, writers perform from their work, talk about their craft and take questions from students.

The workshop series offers students a more intensive, individual learning experience.

We are thrilled to once again be taking the program to Cessnock on 2 April (please visit newcastlewritersfestival.org.au for details). Heartfelt thanks to staff at Cessnock and Newcastle libraries.

Presentations

Years 3 to 6

Graeme Base presents
The Magic of Picture Books

Dive into the colourful world of picture books with legendary creator Graeme Base, who takes students through his incredible body of work including his latest series, *The Bumblebunnies: Superheroes of the Garden*. Get ready to fly alongside the Bumblebunnies as they go about their day learning teamwork, resilience and problem solving.

10am-10.45am | 11.30am-12.15pm | 1.15pm-2pm

Newcastle City Hall, Concert Hall

Free Events - registration required, limited to 300 students per session



Years 1 to 3

Tania McCartney presents
I Love Books!

Books are brimming with magic and adventure. Explore the various types of children's books and how they are created, from ideas, inspiration and drafts, through typography, illustration and production processes.

10am-10.45am | 11.30am-12.15pm | 1.15pm-2pm

Newcastle City Hall, Cummings Room

Free Events - registration required, limited to 160 students per session



Special thanks to our key sponsors:



Years 3 to 6

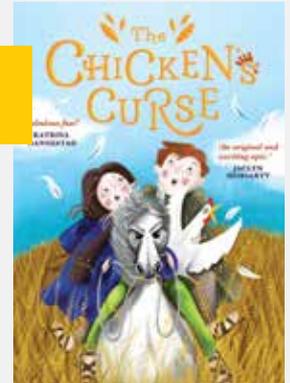
Frances Watts presents
The Chicken's Curse

Frances Watts shares the inspiration and creative process behind her books, including how she transformed a crazy-but-true fact about ancient Rome into an epic historical novel about two runaways and a selfish sacred chicken.

10am-10.45am | 11.30am-12.15pm | 1.15pm-2pm

Newcastle City Hall, Hunter Room

Free Events - registration required, limited to 160 students per session



Years 3 to 6

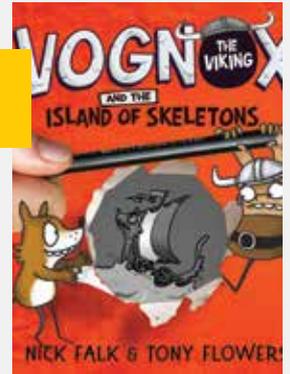
Tony Flowers presents
Write me a Picture

Tony Flowers will bring students' imaginations to life with illustrations, performance and story. The session will show students how they can generate story ideas and engage in creative storytelling. A perfect way for students to develop creative thinking processes that expand their visual literacy skills and capabilities.

10am-10.45am | 1.15pm-2pm

The Playhouse, Hunter Street

Free Events - registration required, limited to 170 students per session



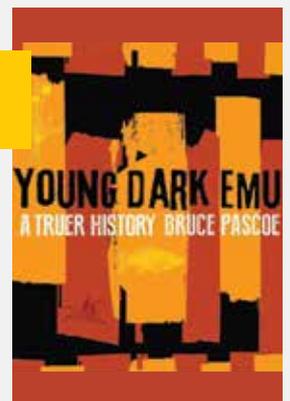
Years 5 to 6

Bruce Pascoe presents
Young Dark Emu

Using the accounts of early European explorers, colonists and farmers, Bruce Pascoe urges us to reconsider the hunter-gatherer label for pre-colonial Aboriginal Australians. He allows the reader to see Australia as it was before Europeans arrived.

11.30am-12.15pm - The Playhouse, Hunter Street

Free Events - registration required, limited to 170 students per session



Workshops

Years 3 to 4

Everybody Loves Llamas with Aleesah Darlison

It's a llama celebration and you're invited. Learn all about the marvellous, mysterious and mega-popular animal that is the llama. Through a series of writing and drawing exercises, students will create their very own llama-inspired characters.

10.00am-11.15am | 12.30pm-1.45pm

Newcastle Library, Lovett Gallery

Tickets \$18.50pp - (inc. gst) limited to 40 students

Years 5 to 6

Seeing with New Eyes with Lynn Jenkins

In this workshop students will gain an understanding of mindfulness and how to use it in a general way as well as a technique to write more descriptively.

10am-11.30am | 12.30pm-1.45pm

Newcastle Library, Meeting Room 1

Tickets \$18.50pp - (inc. gst) limited to 25 students

Years 3 to 4

Who is in My Garden? with Nicola Bolton

In this workshop, students will create their own illustrations using collage. They will explore and develop their ideas and stories about their own backyards as a way to help them realise that there are stories all around them. Materials provided.

10am-11.15am

Newcastle Library, Meeting Room 2

Tickets \$18.50pp - (inc. gst) limited to 20 students



Years 5 to 6

I Fell Into My Favourite Book with Ed Wright

Ever wanted to go to Hogwarts? Or play a role in Bad Guys? In this fan fiction workshop students get to put themselves or their own characters into their favourite books, or build their own stories using their favourite characters.

10am-11.30am

Newcastle City Hall, Newcastle Room

Tickets \$18.50pp - (inc. gst) limited to 30 students

Years 3 to 4

Loud Macaws and Muddy Paws with Jess Black

In this workshop students will go on a rollicking journey to create stories about Jess's favourite subject – animals! Students will discover how to inject humour, surprise, suspense and loveable characters into their stories. Get ready for lots of twists and turns!

10am-11.15am

Newcastle City Hall, Mulubinba Room

Tickets \$18.50pp - (inc. gst) limited to 30 students

Years 5 to 6

Exploring Speculative Fiction with Ed Wright

Whether it's sci-fi, cyberpunk, or dystopian fiction, speculative fiction is the imagination of 'what if...!' In this workshop, students use their own questions to create scenarios that will then become the settings for exciting and imaginative stories.

12.30pm-2pm

Newcastle City Hall, Newcastle Room

Tickets \$18.50pp - (inc. gst) limited to 30 students

Years 3 to 4

From Zero to Hero with Jess Black

Heroes come in all shapes and sizes and their journey to becoming a hero isn't always an easy one. In this writing workshop students will learn how to transform a character from humble beginnings to brave hero.

12.30pm-1.45pm

Newcastle City Hall, Mulubinba Room

Tickets \$18.50pp - (inc. gst) limited to 30 students



Graeme Base

Graeme has been writing and illustrating for children for more than 30 years, with worldwide bestsellers *Animalia*, *The Eleventh Hour* and *The Waterhole* known and loved by millions around the world. The recipient of numerous Australian and international publishing awards, and with global sales exceeding six million copies, he has established himself as one of Australia's pre-eminent creators of imaginative works for children.



Jess Black

Jess is an award-winning author of children's books. The Tales of Mr Walker is Jess's latest series. She has written a number of junior fiction and middle grade chapter book series; the Little Paws series and the Keeper of the Crystals series. Jess is also the co-author of the hugely successful Bindi Wildlife Adventure series, the Kaboom Kid series and the RSPCA Animal Tales series.



Nicola Bolton

Nicola is an illustrator, painter, photographer and author based in Bolwarra, near Maitland. Her artwork reflects her passion for animals, people and storytelling. Nicola's first children's book, *You Can't Catch Me*, which she wrote, illustrated and self-published, was selected as a Notable Early Childhood title in the 2018 Children's Book Council of Australia awards and was also included in the 2018 and 2019 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge.



Aleesah Darlison

Aleesah is an award-winning children's author. She has written 45 books for children including picture books, chapter books, novels and series. Her stories empower children and cover the genres of humour, fantasy, and social realism. She is an advocate for animals and the natural environment and writes many narrative non-fiction picture books that focus on environmental issues.



Tony Flowers

Tony's drawings are loved for their detail and humour. He has illustrated more than 40 titles including the popular Saurus Street, Samurai

vs Ninja, Billy is a Dragon and VognoX the Viking series. He is currently finishing his PhD at the University of Canberra and his research explores how professional illustrators use design thinking and visual literacy skills to create stories.



Lynn Jenkins

Lynn is a Newcastle clinical psychologist, author and mother of three. Her picture books centre on helping children manage anxiety and worry (*Lessons of a LAC*, *Brave*, *Perfect Petunias*, *Grey Glasses-itis*, *Tree* and *Ollie's Treasure*). She has also written to non-fiction titles for adults, *Best Start* and *School Start*.



Tania McCartney

Tania is an award-winning author/illustrator and founder of Kids' Book Review and The Happy Book podcast. A juvenile literacy ambassador, she is published in nine countries and has 50 titles in print or production. Recent works include *Mamie* (HarperCollins), *Fauna* (NLA Publishing), *I Heart the World* (Hardie Grant Travel) and junior fiction series *Evie and Pog* (HarperCollins).



Bruce Pascoe

Bruce is a Bunurong man from Victoria. He has had a varied career as a teacher, farmer, fisherman, barman, fencing contractor, lecturer,

Aboriginal language researcher, archaeological site worker and editor. His latest book is *Young Dark Emu*, a junior edition of his award-winning bestseller *Dark Emu*, which urges us to reconsider everything we thought we knew about indigenous history and agriculture.



Frances Watts

Frances is the author of more than 25 books for children, including award-winning picture books *Kisses for Daddy* and *Parsley Rabbit's Book about Books*, the medieval

Sword Girl series and historical novels for older readers such as *The Raven's Wing* and *The Peony Lantern*. Her new book, *The Chicken's Curse*, is an epic (and hilarious) adventure that crisscrosses the Roman empire.



Ed Wright

Ed is the director of The Creative Word Shop, a Newcastle business that teaches creative writing to children and adults. He has a PhD in literature and has

published nine books. Since 2012, he has run hundreds of kids' creative writing workshops, at Sydney's Bi-Centennial Park with The Writing Workshop and since 2015 with The Creative Word Shop. With local children's author Jess Black, he is also a founder of Black and Wright, an educational consultancy dedicated to helping teachers teach creative writing.

All sessions are being held in the Newcastle Library and Civic Precinct.

A risk assessment is available upon request.

Bus drop-off area is located on Laman Street outside Newcastle Art Gallery.

Books are available via the enclosed order form or online thanks to MacLean's Booksellers. Sales will also be available on the day but pre-orders are preferred.

Bookings Open 9am on Monday, 10 February 2020

TICKETING

Free Sessions Author presentations are free but schools need to register their attendance via trybooking.com/eventlist/nwf

If you register for free events and then would like to reduce numbers please contact the Newcastle Writers Festival at ticketing@newcastlewritersfestival.org.au

Workshops These are \$18.50 (inc. GST) per student.

There are maximum numbers listed in the schedule.

Book via trybooking.com/eventlist/nwf

Trybooking accepts payment by credit card. If you wish to pay by cheque or direct debit please use the code 'INV2020' at checkout. You will be able to book tickets without payment and we will contact you with an invoice. Payment must be made before the festival or tickets will be void.

Teachers/Guardians Free when accompanying students. Teacher/guardian supervision is required at all sessions. If parents are bringing small groups you are expected to remain for the duration of the session.

For space/planning purposes, teachers and accompanying adults are asked to book tickets. These are free of charge when accompanying students - you should select 'teachers' at the section screen.

Cover image courtesy of Tony Flowers.

Festival Contact Details

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Email // rmilsom@newcastlewritersfestival.org.au

newcastlewritersfestival.org.au