

**Discover  
the stories  
behind the  
stories.**



**3-5 APRIL 2020**

NEWCASTLE  
WRITERS  
FESTIVAL

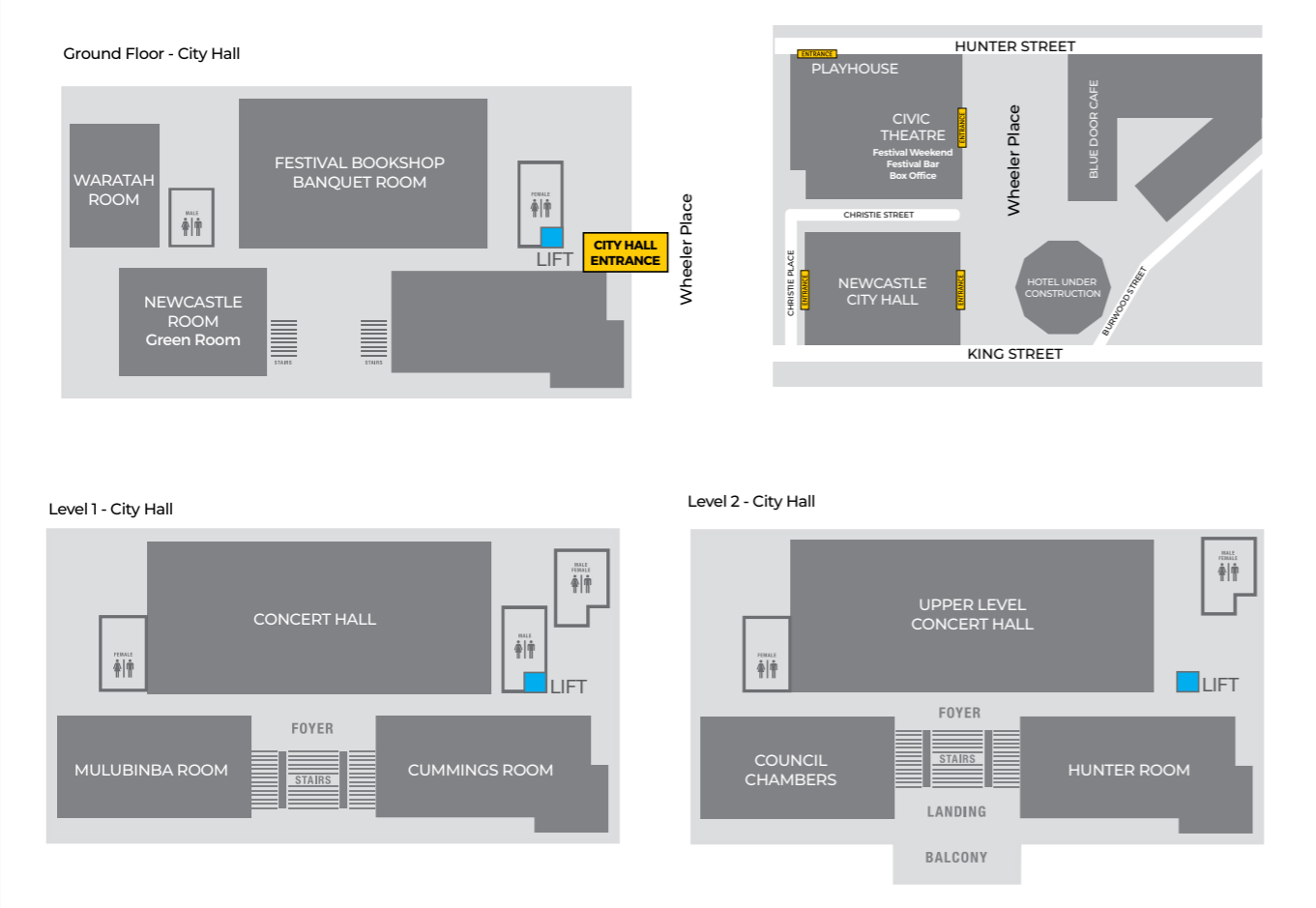


# Maps

## VENUE MAP



## CITY HALL MAP



# From the Director

During the recent devastating bushfires, I worked with the ABC's emergency broadcast team for four months. My role was to provide night-time coverage to fire-affected areas. As NSW and other states burned, I felt overwhelmed by the enormity of what was happening. There were other emotions, too; anger, frustration, exhaustion, sadness, as well as awe. I was inspired by the commitment of firefighters and the resilience shown by residents who had lost everything. It was an unforgettable start to a new decade and inevitably the catastrophe has shaped some of the themes and ideas in this year's program. As performer and writer Amanda Palmer said in an interview with the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 'Now is not the moment in history to be quiet about anything'.

While I was working on the program there were moments when I wondered about its relevance. Was the festival irrelevant and unnecessary given the more urgent needs of communities? I returned to the reasons I started the event eight years ago: writers can help us make sense of the world – in good times and bad – and coming together to listen and share meaningful ideas is worthwhile.

The festival weekend begins with the much-loved Aboriginal performer, Archie Roach, and concludes with a special event featuring Iranian-Kurdish refugee Behrouz Boochani, who was detained on Manus Island for seven years. Their stories of resilience could not be more essential. In between, there will be discussions by leading Australian writers and thinkers about leadership, the power of poetry, wisdom, climate change, the influence of the ocean on creativity, and much more. We will also welcome five guest writers from New Zealand where, coincidentally, Behrouz Boochani is now living. I hope you'll join me in looking to Aotearoa and beyond – as well as within.

The Newcastle Writers Festival thrives on goodwill, hard work and a passion for ideas. But we wouldn't be where we are today without our sponsors. I extend my appreciation to the festival's core funder, Create NSW, as well as founding sponsors City of Newcastle and the University of Newcastle, especially the Faculty of Education and Arts. Thanks also to our other sponsors: Enigma, Catfish Foundation, Copyright Agency Cultural Fund and Cessnock City Council. And we would not be able to reach you without our valued media partners — *Newcastle Herald*, ABC Newcastle and intouch magazine – who are all committed to telling the region's stories.

The festival works closely with a number of local businesses and I'd like to acknowledge Amanda and Max Shirley and the MacLean's Booksellers team, Scion Audio, Rydges Newcastle, Crampton Woods Wines, Newcastle Event Hire, Austiger, The Press Book House, Pappa Sven, The Edwards and Watt Space Gallery.



PHOTO: MAX MASON-HUBERS NEWCASTLE HERALD

I would also like to thank the Newcastle Writers Festival board members for their hard work and valued support; Jenny Blackford, Frances Crampton, Laura Jackel, Sharon Roberts, Kate Robinson, Warwick Sommer and Lyn Thurnham. Additional thanks to Sally Ebert and Ewa Ramsey who have helped manage the festival's significant logistics and administration, and to Sheree Kable who organises our ever-increasing team of enthusiastic volunteers.

And thank you for your support. I hope you enjoy your time at the festival and encounter new writers, books, ideas, and friends.

Rosemarie Milsom  
[admin@newcastlewritersfestival.org.au](mailto:admin@newcastlewritersfestival.org.au)

### CHANGE OF DATE FOR 2021

HIGHER TEMPERATURES IN APRIL HAVE PROMPTED THE NEWCASTLE WRITERS FESTIVAL BOARD TO MOVE THE EVENT. JOIN US FROM 14 TO 16 MAY, 2021.

# Festival Information



## 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 Trybooking and can be bought over the counter at MacLean's Booksellers, 69 Beaumont Street Hamilton, online at [trybooking.com/eventlist/newcastlewritersfestival](https://trybooking.com/eventlist/newcastlewritersfestival) or by contacting (02) 4969 2525. Tickets bought at MacLean's attract a higher fee and this is our way of supporting staff who work so hard for the festival.

The advertised ticket price does not include the Trybooking service fee of 50 cents.

There is no concession price but Companion Card holders qualify for a second ticket at no cost for their companion. Companion Cards need to be booked via the phone or in person at MacLean's Booksellers and the card needs to be sighted at time of collection.



## 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 [access@newcastlewritersfestival.org.au](mailto:access@newcastlewritersfestival.org.au) and the festival can arrange for a volunteer to be available. Please visit our website for more information about accessibility.

The main information desk is located in Wheeler Place and there is an additional desk in City Hall. Programs and session information is available.

Sound and video recording are not permitted without approval from the festival director Rosemarie Milsom. Please email [admin@newcastlewritersfestival.org.au](mailto:admin@newcastlewritersfestival.org.au).

At the conclusion of each session, ALL seats are to be vacated as this enables sound and stage staff to set up for the following session. Doors will open 15 minutes before the start of each session.



## ACCESSIBILITY

### ACCESSIBLE SEATING REQUESTS

If your disability requires you sit in a specific area (aisle, etc) please select your seats with this in mind. Wheelchair seating is marked on the seating plan. We do hold some seats in reserve so if your required seats are not available, you can book an alternative seat and contact us at [ticketing@newcastlewritersfestival.org.au](mailto:ticketing@newcastlewritersfestival.org.au) within 48 hours with your requirements and we will do our best to seat you somewhere suitable for your needs.

Assistance dogs such as guide dogs and hearing dogs are welcome.

For free sessions, please email us at the above address and we will hold a seat for you and brief our ushers. We request that you arrive 15 minutes before the start of the session to be seated.



### AUSLAN INTERPRETERS BY REQUEST

We will have an Auslan Interpreter available by request, subject to availability, and we have reserved a number of seats specifically for guests who require this service. Please note: Requests are processed on a 'first in, first served' basis. While we will do our best to accommodate you, we can only fulfil a limited number of requests. Tickets must be purchased in advance of any request, subject to availability. If we are unable to fulfil a request, we will refund your tickets or exchange to an alternative event. Interpreter bookings close Thursday March 19th. To request an interpreter for any event in the program visit our website and click on the accessibility tab.



### WATER BOTTLE

Please bring your own water bottle to the festival. There will be water stations in City Hall and you can refill your bottles. If you forget to bring a bottle, there will be reusable aluminium water bottles for sale in the Festival bookshop.

## FOLLOW US #NWF2020

Facebook → [facebook.com/newcastlewritersfestival/](https://facebook.com/newcastlewritersfestival/)  
Twitter → [@newwritersfest](https://twitter.com/newwritersfest)  
Instagram → [@newcastlewritersfestival](https://www.instagram.com/newcastlewritersfestival)

If you want to stay in touch with festival events throughout the year, subscribe to our newsletter via the website or Facebook page

[newcastlewritersfestival.org.au](https://newcastlewritersfestival.org.au)

## PROGRAM CREDITS

Cover design → Enigma  
Program design → Amanda Kirkman  
Website design and management → Miranda Whittle  
Photography → Chris Patterson @Intervision and Liam Driver  
Sound and staging → Scion Audio

**“To see the city  
come to life in this  
way is fabulous.”**

**RICHARD ROXBURGH**

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# NWF2020 Feature Events

## → FESTIVAL FUNDRAISER

### OUR LITERARY TRIVIA NIGHT IS BACK

WEDNESDAY 1 APRIL | 7.00PM-9.00PM

#### The Edwards

Do you know your Capote from your Corris? Can you name Tim Winton's debut novel? After the success of the inaugural Literary Trivia Night in 2019, we're holding another event to raise funds for the 2021 primary schools program. Great 'literary' prizes on offer including book bundles and festival tickets. Teams of two to eight welcome.

Host / Nick Milligan

**\$15 per person or \$20 at the door**

01



## ← WORKSHOP

### IF THESE WALLS COULD TALK: A GUIDED WRITING WORKSHOP WITH KAARON WARREN

FRIDAY 3 APRIL | 10.00AM-1.00PM

#### The Lock-Up 90 Hunter Street Newcastle

The Lock-Up was formerly the Newcastle Police Station from 1861 to 1982. In this guided workshop, you'll explore the nooks and crannies, the cells and the hallways of the building, absorbing the atmosphere and history. Participants will talk about the history of the building and work with writing prompts. Stories will be shared at the end of the workshop. Bring writing materials, preferably old-school pen and paper. Morning tea provided.

**Tickets \$65 Limited to 20 places**

02

## → OPENING NIGHT

### TELL ME WHY: AN EVENING WITH ARCHIE ROACH

FRIDAY 3 APRIL | 7.30PM-9.00PM

#### Civic Theatre

"You can reach the darkest point in your life and come back, and come good, even better." Legendary musician, songwriter and activist Archie Roach shares his extraordinary story of heartbreak and resilience at this special event. Archie will also perform.

Host / Teela Reid

Master of Ceremonies / Dan Cox

**Tickets \$40**

03



## ↘ A LOT WITH A LITTLE

SATURDAY 4 APRIL | 3.00PM-4.00PM

#### Cessnock Performing Arts Centre

Tim Costello discusses the people and experiences that have shaped him, and the power of faith to sustain us in the face of the world's biggest issues.

Host / Paul Bevan

**Tickets \$25**

Bookings Call 49934266 or

book online <https://bit.ly/38eDNpw>

Presented in partnership with Cessnock City Council.



04

## ↓ STORYBOMBING

SATURDAY 4 APRIL & SUNDAY 5 APRIL

#### Wheeler Place

**#storybombingnwf2020** features short texts by Australian writers from Spineless Wonders' latest microlit anthology, *Scars*, curated by publisher Bronwyn Mehan and produced as large-scale pages by artist Richard Holt.

Presented in partnership with Spineless Wonders.



05

## ← NERDS & MUSIC

SUNDAY 5 APRIL

1.00PM TO 1.30PM

#### Wheeler Place Marquee

Acoustic duo Clark Gormley and Wayne Thompson deliver quirky satire in the form of original songs.

**FREE**



06

## → A NOVEL IDEA: A PERFORMANCE BY WRITER FIONA MCGREGOR

SUNDAY 5 APRIL | 11.00AM-1.00PM

#### The Lock-Up — 90 Hunter Street Newcastle

Author and artist Fiona McGregor presents a performance inspired by her book *A Novel Idea*. A nod to the absurdity of presenting writing as spectacle and entertainment, and the increasing fetishisation of the identity of the writer, this performance also references the rich lineage of performance art in which artists are seated and confined for long periods. It is an act of contemplation and solitude, neither entertainment or theatre. *A Novel Idea* in some ways is an anti-performance.

**FREE**

Presented in partnership with The Lock-Up



07



## ← NO TIME TO DIE

SUNDAY 11.30AM-12.30PM

#### Harold Lobb Concert Hall

Internationally renowned geneticist David Sinclair is on a quest to 'cure' ageing, but do we really want to live forever?

Host / Richard Fidler

**Tickets \$25**

Supported by the Festival of Dangerous Ideas



08



## → WHAT FREEDOM FEELS LIKE

SUNDAY 4.30PM-5.30PM

#### Concert Hall City Hall

Behrouz Boochani speaks via Skype from New Zealand about life after Manus Island, the impact of his award-winning memoir *No Friend but the Mountains*, and the enduring power of literature to change the world.








Host / Michael Williams

**Tickets \$30**

09





















Saturday 4 April Morning

	MULUBINBA ROOM CITY HALL	CUMMINGS ROOM CITY HALL*	CONCERT HALL CITY HALL	HUNTER ROOM CITY HALL	THE PLAYHOUSE	WHEELER PLACE MARQUEE	OTHER	
10.00AM-11.00AM	<div><div>THE ACCIDENTAL TOUR GUIDE</div><div>Mary Moody discusses her powerful new memoir, which centres on the fallout from her husband's death and the ways in which she rebuilt her life. Host / Nicole Abadee</div><div>Tickets \$15</div></div>	<div><div>10</div><div>COLD CASE INVESTIGATIONS</div><div>Forensic anthropologist and criminologist Xanthé Mallet discusses some of Australia's most notorious crimes and how she copes with seeing the worst in humanity. Host / Peter Gogarty</div><div>FREE</div><div></div></div>	<div><div>11</div><div>LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP</div><div>The bushfire crisis placed leadership under the microscope and there were successes and failures. Tim Costello, Tjanara Goreng Goreng and Margaret Simons explore the qualities of effective leaders. Host / Rebecca Huntley</div><div>Tickets \$20</div></div>	<div><div>12</div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div>19</div><div>IN SEARCH OF HOPE</div><div>The characters at the centre of powerful new novels by Tony Birch, Suzanne Leal and Mirandi Riwoe seek to escape cruel destinies, but at what cost? Host / Pamela Cook</div><div>FREE</div></div>	<div><div>20</div><div>THE ART OF CHILDHOOD</div><div>John Marsden has been an educator and writer for 30 years. He shares what he has learned and shares his concerns about today's childhood experience. Host / Meredith Jaffé</div><div>Tickets \$20</div></div>	<div><div>21</div><div>→ DRIVING CHANGE</div><div>How smart cities and electric cars can benefit the environment. With Gary Ellem, Peter Pudney, Heather Stevens and Alex Spathis. Host / Tim Roberts</div><div>FREE</div><div></div></div>	
11.30AM-12.30PM	<div><div>↓ THE WEEKEND: CHARLOTTE WOOD IN CONVERSATION</div><div>Charlotte Wood discusses her critically acclaimed novel <i>The Weekend</i>, which centres on the intricacies of female friendships and the themes of ageing, love and loss. Host / Ailsa Piper</div><div>Tickets \$20</div></div>	<div><div>13</div><div>↓ THE ABORIGINAL SOCCER TRIBE</div><div>John Maynard reveals the previously untold history of Aboriginal athletes and their involvement with the 'world game'. Host / Larissa Berendt</div><div>FREE</div></div>	<div><div>14</div><div>↓ BOB HAWKE'S LEGACY</div><div>He was our longest serving Labor Prime Minister and considered by many as our greatest. Blanche d'Alpuget discusses Bob Hawke - the man and the myth. Host / Cassie McCullagh</div><div>Tickets \$15</div></div>	<div><div>15</div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div>22</div><div>SOLID AIR: THE STATE OF SPOKEN WORD</div><div>Ali Cobby Eckermann, David Stavanger and Tayi Tibble explore the impact spoken word is having on poetry's popularity and the elevation of First Nation voices. Host / Anne-Marie Te Whiu</div><div>FREE</div></div>	<div><div>23</div><div>WOMAN IN THE WILDERNESS</div><div>For six years Miriam Lancewood lived off the grid in New Zealand's isolated Southern Alps with her partner, surviving by hunting and foraging. She shares her unique experience. Host / Rosemarie Milsom</div><div>Tickets \$15</div><div>Supported by Creative New Zealand</div></div>	<div><div>24</div><div>NEW NEWCASTLE WRITING</div><div>From crime to the mysteries of the brain, newly published local writers Amee Baird, Damien Linnane and Jacquie Svenson discuss their new books and their different journeys to publication. Host / Nick Milligan</div><div>FREE</div></div>	<div><div>25</div><div>BOOK LAUNCH</div><div>12.30PM-1.15PM</div><div>The Press Book House</div><div>A new book by the Lake Macquarie Branch of the Fellowship of Australian Writers, <i>Beneath the Surface: an anthology of writing from Lake Macquarie</i>, will be launched by Magdalena Ball.</div><div>FREE</div></div>
12.45PM TO 1.30PM	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div><div>← POETRY IN THE PLACE</div><div>Enjoy a lunchtime feast with some of the festival's guest poets. With Ali Cobby Eckermann, Andy Kissane, Felicity Plunkett, David Stavanger and wāni. Host / Jenny Blackford</div><div>FREE</div><div></div></div>	<div><div>26</div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	
1.30PM-2.30PM	<div><div>↓ MIND THE GAP</div><div>The brain is the source of our identity, yet large gaps remain in our understanding of its complexity. Amee Baird and Nicola Redhouse shed light on the brain – and the human condition. Host / Jane McCredie</div><div>Tickets \$15</div><div></div></div>	<div><div>16</div><div>A WORLD WITHOUT SEXUAL VIOLENCE</div><div>Joanna Bourke explores what history can tell us about sexual violence today and reflects on the steps we can take to end it. Host / Elizabeth Roberts-Pedersen</div><div>FREE</div></div>	<div><div>17</div><div>↓ THE WAR ON JOURNALISM</div><div>What is driving unprecedented government intervention and what impact is it having on freedom of information and whistle-blower protection? With Paddy Manning, Kate McClymont and Margaret Simons. Host / Paul Scott Sponsored by the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund</div><div>Tickets \$15</div></div>	<div><div>18</div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div>27</div><div>STORIES OF THE SEA</div><div>Three very different artists reflect on their connection to the ocean as a source of inspiration for their recent books. With Ash Grunwald, Sophie Hardcastle and Felicity Plunkett. Host / Cassie McCullagh</div><div>Tickets \$15</div></div>	<div><div>28</div><div>WISDOM OF THE ELDERS</div><div>What can we learn about our relationship with the land – and each other – from the age-old wisdom of our First Nation elders? With Munya Andrews, Tjanara Goreng Goreng and John Maynard. Host / Larissa Berendt</div><div>Tickets \$15</div></div>	<div><div>29</div><div>DANCING WITH DEATH</div><div>Three artists explore and respond to the endings and trauma we bear witness to every day. With Mojgan Habibi, Kathleen McPhillips and Ian Milliss. Host / Grace Partridge</div><div>FREE</div><div>Presented in partnership with The Lock-Up and in conjunction with the exhibition <i>Dancing with the Dead</i></div></div>	<div><div>30</div><div>BOOK LAUNCH</div><div>1.30PM-2.15PM</div><div>The Press Book House</div><div>Former Novocastrian Asheg Brom launches his memoir <i>Chicken Same Duck Talk: Diary of an Australian Teacher in China</i>.</div><div>FREE</div></div>

\*NEW THINKING SERIES PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE'S FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND ARTS

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Saturday 4 April Afternoon

	MULUBINBA ROOM CITY HALL	CUMMINGS ROOM CITY HALL*	CONCERT HALL CITY HALL	HUNTER ROOM CITY HALL	THE PLAYHOUSE	WHEELER PLACE MARQUEE	OTHER
3.00PM-4.00PM	<div>↓ THIS WRITING LIFE 31</div> <div>Fiona McGregor discusses her photo essay <i>A Novel Idea</i>, a tongue-in-cheek rumination on the humdrum and loneliness of the novelist's daily life, and the act of endurance which the writer must perform. Host / Michael Sala <b>FREE</b></div> <div></div>	<div>↓ AFTER EQUALITY 32</div> <div>What lies ahead for the LGBTQI community in the wake of the marriage equality victory? With James Bennett, David Betts, Sally Rugg and Kcasey McLoughlin. Host / Marguerite Johnson <b>FREE</b></div> <div></div>	<div>↓ PYGMY DINOSAURS &amp; TERMINATOR PIGS 33</div> <div>Tim Flannery takes you through millions of years of evolutionary history during a deep dive into Europe's vanished past and examines how it might inform the future. Host / Scott Bevan <b>Tickets \$20</b></div> <div></div>	<div>CAPTAIN COOK AND THE FRONTIER WARS 37</div> <div>3.00PM - 4.15PM John Maynard, Laura McBride and Mariko Smith respond to the 250th anniversary of the visit of James Cook to the east coast of Australia. How are Indigenous Australians responding, and how would they like others to respond to this pivotal event in our history? Host / Stephen Gapps <b>FREE</b> Presented in partnership with History Council of NSW</div> <div></div>	<div>↓ THERE WAS STILL LOVE 38</div> <div>Favel Parrett will discuss her new novel, a beautifully told story of memory and family, during a recording of the Writes4Women podcast. Hosts / Kel Butler and Pamela Cook <b>FREE</b></div> <div></div>	<div>NWF JOANNE BURNS MICROLIT AWARDS 39</div> <div>Exploring the ways writers use microlit to explore physical, psychological, environmental and historical scars. With Judith Nangala Crispin, Paul Hetherington and Richard Holt. Includes readings by the award winners and the launch of the <i>Scars</i> anthology. Host / Cassandra Atherton <b>FREE</b></div> <div></div>	<div>A LOT WITH A LITTLE SPECIAL EVENT 04</div> <div><b>Cessnock Performing Arts Centre</b> Tim Costello discusses the people and experiences that have shaped him, and the power of faith to sustain us in the face of the world's biggest issues. Host / Paul Bevan <b>Tickets \$25</b> See page 6 for booking details</div> <div><div>BOOK LAUNCH 40</div><div>3.00PM - 3.45PM <b>The Press Book House</b> Newcastle writer Morgan Bell's debut poetry collection <i>Idiomatic, For the People</i> will be launched by Magdalena Ball. <b>FREE</b></div></div>
	4.00PM-4.45PM						
4.30PM-5.30PM	<div>ANIMAL KINGDOM 34</div> <div>Chris Flynn and Charlotte Wood discuss their bold new novels, which feature big ideas about the lives of animals and the impact we are having on the natural world. Host / Ed Wright <b>FREE</b></div> <div></div>	<div>↓ MILLENNIAL PANIC POEMS 35</div> <div>Claire Albrecht, Kait Fenwick, Lu Quade and Hera Lindsay Bird discuss the pitfalls and occasional positives of anxiety in the poetic process. Host / Bastian Fox Phelan <b>FREE</b></div> <div></div>	<div>↓ THEIR RIGHT TO RAGE 36</div> <div>Throughout history, anger has fuelled surges in female-led activism, but is it having an impact where it matters now - and if not, why not? With Jane Gilmore, Ruby Hamad and Virginia Trioli. Host / Trisha Pender <b>Tickets \$20</b></div> <div></div>	<div>↓ SURF BY DAY, JAM BY NIGHT 42</div> <div>From heavy wipe-outs to heaving crowds, soulful road trips to flow states, Ash Grunwald provides insight into the lives of surfing legends who also happen to be brilliant musicians. Host / Nick Milligan <b>Tickets \$15</b></div> <div></div>	<div>OWNING OUR PAST 43</div> <div>Tony Birch, Mirandi Riwoe and Omar Sakr discuss why they choose to place the often overlooked experiences of First Nations and migrant cultures at the centre of their work. Host / Nicole Abadee <b>FREE</b></div> <div><div>BOOK LAUNCH 44</div><div>5.00PM - 5.45PM <b>The Press Book House</b> Newcastle writer Jenny Blackford's new poetry collection <i>The Alpaca Cantos</i> will be launched by Judy Johnson. <b>FREE</b></div></div>		

# Saturday 4 April Evening

THE PLAYHOUSE

HAROLD LOBB CONCERT HALL

→ STRAY DOGS THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS A DOUBLE BILL

5.00PM - 6.30PM


Love Magic directed by Michael Ewans and Behind the Wire directed by Carl Caulfield.

A young woman cast aside in a patriarchal society – a foreign national interrogated in a detention camp. Two short one-act plays from ancient Greece and contemporary Australia, linked together by the theme of oppression. Stay after the play for a conversation with the directors and actor Siobhan Caulfield.

Host / Marguerite Johnson

Tickets \$25

45



← HOW TO SAVE THE PLANET

5.30PM - 6.30PM


Climate change is affecting the natural, social and economic welfare of the planet. What steps can we take – large and small – to create a solution?

With Tim Flannery, Damon Gameau and Patrice Newell.

Host / Jane McCredie

Tickets \$25

46



↓ STAGE MEETS PAGE

7.00PM - 8.00PM


Four 'page' poets and four spoken word artists go poem for poem to explore 'uncommon' ground. You pick the winning team.

With Hera Lindsay Bird, Omar Sakr, Michael Farrell, Anna Jackson, Mel Ree, Melinda Smith, Chris Tse and wāni.

Hosts / David Stavanger and Anne-Marie Te Whiu

Tickets \$25

47



↓ OPEN BOOK


7.00PM - 8.00PM

Helen Garner discusses Yellow Notebook, the first volume of her diaries, inviting you into the intimate world behind her acclaimed novels and award-winning non-fiction.

Host / Caroline Baum

Tickets \$30

48



→ QUEERSTORIES

8.30PM - 9.30PM


Enjoy unexpected tales from the festival's finest LGBTQI+ writers.

With Chris Brown, Michael Earp, Fiona McGregor, Sally Rugg and Chris Tse.

Host / Sally Rugg

Tickets \$25

49





Catherine Henry Lawyers are proud to support the 2020 Newcastle Writers Festival

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THE LOCKUP

THELOCKUP.ORG.AU

90 HUNTER STREET NEWCASTLE

DANCING WITH THE DEAD


















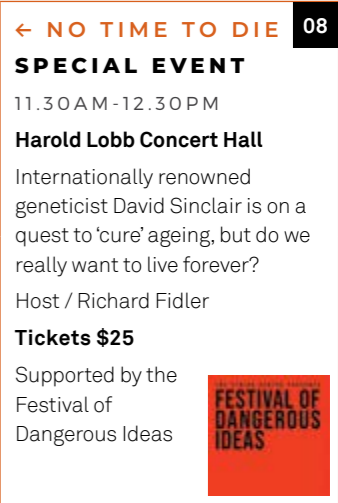








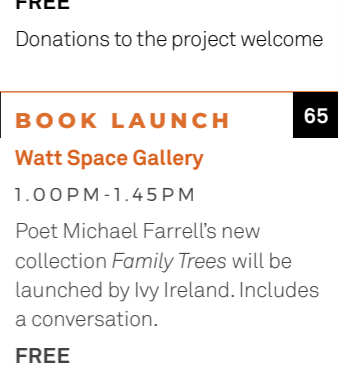
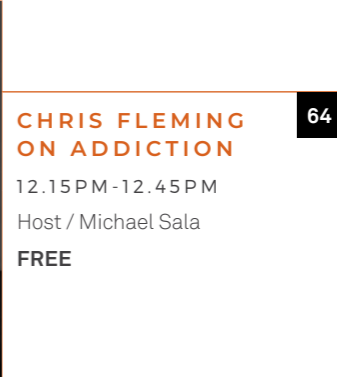

OPENING NIGHT 5.30PM SATURDAY 5 APRIL 2020

5 APRIL - 31 MAY 2020

IMAGE: Khadim Ali Untitled 2 from Fragmented Memories series 2017 (detail), cotton and nylon thread and ink on fabric, 180 x 318cm



Sunday 5 April Morning

	MULUBINBA ROOM CITY HALL	CUMMINGS ROOM CITY HALL	CONCERT HALL CITY HALL	HUNTER ROOM CITY HALL	THE PLAYHOUSE	WHEELER PLACE MARQUEE	OTHER
10.00AM-11.00AM	<div>↓ HOW OUR BODIES SHAPE US50</div> <div>Gabrielle Jackson and Lee Kofman explore what it's like to live in a body that deviates from the norm – from the complexity of self-image to the minefield of medical intervention.</div> <div>Host / Caroline Baum</div> <div>Tickets \$15</div> <div></div>	<div>↓ A CLIMATE OF DENIAL51</div> <div>The evidence is in, but why are some people still convinced climate change isn't real – and what are the broader implications of the anti-science movement?</div> <div>With Russell Blackford, Arek Sinanian and Heather Stevens.</div> <div>Tickets \$15</div> <div>Host/ Rebecca Huntley</div> <div></div>	<div>↓ FAITH NO MORE52</div> <div>Key institutions have suffered crushing blows to their credibility and the digital era is reshaping how we form relationships. Where does this leave trust?</div> <div>With Adele Ferguson, Peter Fox and Stephanie Wood.</div> <div>Host / Dan Cox</div> <div>FREE</div> <div>Sponsored by the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund</div> <div></div>	<div>↓ SURVIVING TOXIC FAMILIES56</div> <div>Vicki Laveau-Harvie and David Owen Kelly discuss their darkly funny and confronting memoirs that share common themes: loyalty, misguided love and loss.</div> <div>Host / Amy Sambrooke</div> <div>Tickets \$15</div> <div></div>	<div>↓ GENERATION F57</div> <div>Virginia Trioli examines why women continue to struggle with sex and power – and what can be done.</div> <div>Host / Michael Williams</div> <div>Tickets \$15</div> <div></div>	<div>GRAEME BASE ON FEEDING YOUR IMAGINATION.58</div> <div>10.00AM-10.30AM</div> <div>Host / Katrina McKelvey</div> <div>FREE</div> <div>MARIA TUMARKIN ON THE NATURE OF TIME59</div> <div>10.45AM-11.15AM</div> <div>Host / Magdalena Ball</div> <div>FREE</div> <div></div>	<div>← NO TIME TO DIE08</div> <div>SPECIAL EVENT</div> <div>11.30AM-12.30PM</div> <div>Harold Lobb Concert Hall</div> <div>Internationally renowned geneticist David Sinclair is on a quest to 'cure' ageing, but do we really want to live forever?</div> <div>Host / Richard Fidler</div> <div>Tickets \$25</div> <div>Supported by the Festival of Dangerous Ideas</div> <div></div>
11.30AM-12.30PM	<div>↓ SECRETS AND LIES53</div> <div>What happens when the person you love conceals their true identity?</div> <div>Susan Francis and Stephanie Wood discuss the devastating fallout.</div> <div>Host / Suzanne Leal</div> <div>Tickets \$15</div> <div></div>	<div>↓ WOMEN, MEN &amp; THE WHOLE DAMN THING54</div> <div>David Leser explores the origins of misogyny, the impact of the #MeToo movement and proposes a new map for masculinity.</div> <div>Host / Amy Sambrooke</div> <div>Tickets \$15</div> <div></div>	<div>↓ CELEBRATING LES MURRAY55</div> <div><i>'Back when God made me, I had no script. It was better. For all the death, we also die unrehearsed.'</i></div> <div>Join us for a commemoration of the late poet's life and work. With Margaret Connolly, Michael Crane, Jamie Grant, Ivy Ireland, Kit Kelen, Andy Kissane and others.</div> <div>Host / Ed Wright</div> <div>FREE</div> <div>Supported by Catchfire Press</div> <div></div>	<div>↓ WILD AT HEART60</div> <div>Sophie Cunningham, Miriam Lancewood and Laura Waters explore their connection with nature and how it defines them.</div> <div>Host / Ailsa Piper</div> <div>Tickets \$15</div> <div></div>	<div>↓ CORRUPTION, SKULLDUGGERY AND MURDER61</div> <div>A day in the life of award-winning investigative journalist Kate McClymont – death threats and all.</div> <div>Host / Michael Robotham</div> <div>Tickets \$15</div> <div></div>	<div>SALLY RUGG ON PEOPLE POWER62</div> <div>11.30PM-12.00PM</div> <div>Host / Marguerite Johnson</div> <div>FREE</div> <div>CHRIS FLEMING ON ADDICTION64</div> <div>12.15PM-12.45PM</div> <div>Host / Michael Sala</div> <div>FREE</div> <div></div>	<div>WOMEN OF WORDS63</div> <div>READINGS</div> <div>Watt Space Gallery</div> <div>This local project celebrates women in literature and raises awareness and funds for families escaping domestic violence. Readings by Ivy Ireland, Judy Johnson, Trisha Pender, Mel Ree and Melinda Smith.</div> <div>FREE</div> <div>Donations to the project welcome</div> <div>BOOK LAUNCH65</div> <div>Watt Space Gallery</div> <div>1.00PM-1.45PM</div> <div>Poet Michael Farrell's new collection <i>Family Trees</i> will be launched by Ivy Ireland. Includes a conversation.</div> <div>FREE</div> <div></div>

Sunday 5 April Afternoon

	MULUBINBA ROOM CITY HALL	CUMMINGS ROOM CITY HALL*	CONCERT HALL CITY HALL	HUNTER ROOM CITY HALL	THE PLAYHOUSE	WHEELER PLACE MARQUEE	OTHER
1.30PM-2.30PM	<div>↓ THE TRIBES HAVE SPOKEN66</div> <p>In an age of propaganda and entrenched tribalism, how can we foster diverse opinion and honest debate?</p> <p>With Russell Blackford and James Fry.</p> <p>Host / Rebecca Huntley</p> <p>Tickets \$15</p>	<div>↓ SMELLS LIKE TEEN SPIRIT67</div> <p>Sarah Macdonald and much-loved cartoonist Cathy Wilcox share their straight-talking, laugh-out-loud survival guide to raising teenagers.</p> <p>Host / Meredith Jaffé</p> <p>FREE</p>	<div>↓ LOOKING TO AOTEAROA68</div> <p>Anna Jackson, Taii Tibble and Chris Tse take the creative pulse of New Zealand and provide insight into our neighbour's identity beyond its rock star prime minister and stunning scenery.</p> <p>Host / Anne-Marie Te Whiu</p> <p>FREE</p> <p>Supported by Creative New Zealand</p>	<div>↓ ALL AT SEA72</div> <p>With her novel <i>Wolfe Island</i>, Lucy Treloar joins a growing number of writers whose fiction explores anthropogenic catastrophe. She discusses the thin line between the present and a dystopian future.</p> <p>Host / Susan Wyndham</p> <p>Tickets \$15</p>	<div>↓ TWISTS &amp; TURNS73</div> <p>They share a passion for hard work and writing best-selling page-turners. Tony Park and Michael Robotham discuss the secrets to their success.</p> <p>Host / Jaye Ford</p> <p>Tickets \$15</p>	<div>JANE GILMORE ON FIXING THE HEADLINES74</div> <p>1.30PM - 2.00PM</p> <p>Host / Trisha Pender</p> <p>FREE</p>	<div>THE FIRST STONE REVISITED75</div> <p>Harold Lobb Concert Hall</p> <p>1.30PM - 2.30PM</p> <p>Twenty-five years after her incendiary book about the Ormond College sexual harassment case was published, Helen Garner speaks about its impact and whether she still has the same questions about sex and power.</p> <p>Host / David Leser</p> <p>Tickets \$20</p>
	<div>ADELE FERGUSON ON CORPORATE ETHICS76</div> <p>2.15PM - 2.45PM</p> <p>Host / Paul Scott</p> <p>FREE</p>						
						<div>BOOK LAUNCH77</div> <p>Watt Space Gallery</p> <p>2.00PM - 4.00PM</p> <p>Celebrate the launch of Flying Islands' latest pocket books poetry series. Michael Crane's <i>Poems from the 29th Floor</i> will be launched by Tug Dumbly. Gillian Swain's <i>My Skin its Own Sky</i> will be launched by Magdalena Ball. Clark Gormley's <i>Not What You Think</i> to will be launched by Ed Wright. Kerri Shying's <i>Knitting Mangrove Roots</i> to be launched by Gail Hennessy. Melinda Smith's <i>Perfectly Bruised</i> to be launched by Jean Kent. Geoff Page's <i>Codicil</i> will be launched by Judy Johnson. George Watt's <i>Sandpaper Swimming: Going After Burke &amp; Wills</i> will be launched by Michael Brohier.</p> <p>Host / Kit Kelen</p>	
3.00PM-4.00PM	<div>↓ FROM THE MARGINS69</div> <p>Michael Earp, Erin Gough and Omar Sakr discuss the new YA anthology <i>Kindred</i>, which gives voice to, and celebrates, the lives of, characters across the gender and sexuality spectrums.</p> <p>Host / Kait Fenwick</p> <p>FREE</p>	<div>↓ BLURRED LINES70</div> <p>Sophie Hardcastle, Nicola Redhouse and Maria Tumarkin discuss how they have challenged literary boundaries to explore trauma, time and memory.</p> <p>Host / Magdalena Ball</p> <p>Tickets \$15</p>	<div>↓ GETTING ON71</div> <p>Explore new ways to think about ageing – in science, in stories and in our lives.</p> <p>With Vicki Laveau-Harvie, David Sinclair and Charlotte Wood.</p> <p>Host / Ashley Hay</p> <p>Tickets \$20</p> <p>Supported by GriffithReview</p>	<div>↓ ART IN A TIME OF CRISIS78</div> <p>What is the role of the artist during a crisis – on a personal and social level? What are the personal and creative choices they make? With Sophie Cunningham, Chris Fleming and Lee Kofman.</p> <p>Host / Fiona McGregor</p> <p>FREE</p>	<div>↓ WAR WOUNDS79</div> <p>Against the backdrop of World War II and its far-reaching fallout, Suzanne Leal and Favel Parrett's compelling new novels explore the impact of betrayal and the meaning of home.</p> <p>Host / Meredith Jaffé</p> <p>Tickets \$15</p>	<div>BARBARA HEATON ON WORKING CLASS HERO JIM COMERFORD80</div> <p>3.00PM - 3.30PM</p> <p>Host / Nancy Cushing</p> <p>FREE</p>	<div>↓ YOUR OWN KIND OF GIRL: AN AFTERNOON WITH CLARE BOWDITCH81</div> <p>Harold Lobb Concert Hall</p> <p>Clare will discuss her heart-breaking, wise and inspirational memoir. You're in for a musical treat, too.</p> <p>Host / Sarah Macdonald</p> <p>Tickets \$30</p>
	<div>↓ LAURA WATERS ON THE JOY OF WALKING82</div> <p>3.45PM - 4.15PM</p> <p>Host / Ailsa Piper</p> <p>FREE</p>						

# Sunday 5 April Family Takeover Events



## HAROLD LOBB CONCERT HALL CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC

### NEWCASTLE YOUTH ORCHESTRA

83

10.00AM-11.00AM

*Green Eggs and Hamadeaus*

Newcastle Youth Orchestra's Chamber Orchestra and Newcastle Writers Festival present the Australian Premiere of Robert Kapilow's music for Dr Seuss's *Green Eggs and Ham*. To open the program NYO will perform Mozart's famous *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*, which tells a wonderful story through music.

Tickets Adult \$20 / Child or Concession \$10 / Family \$50

## FAMILY TAKEOVER NEWCASTLE REGION LIBRARY — ALL EVENTS FREE



### ILLUSTRATOR BATTLE

84

11.00AM-11.45AM

**Lovett Gallery — Newcastle Library**

Liz Anelli, Sarah Davis and Tony Flowers go head to head. Who will win this battle of drawing talent?

Host / Chris Dunstan

FREE

### PUPPET SHOW

85

12.00PM-12.45PM

**Ground Floor — Newcastle Library**

11.30AM-12.00PM

Frank's Fantastic Fairy Tale Theatre presents *Hansel and Gretel*

12.30PM-1.00PM

Frank's Fantastic Fairy Tale Theatre presents *Red Riding Hood*

FREE

### LESSONS OF A LAC

87

12.15PM-1.00PM

**Lovett Gallery Ground Floor — Newcastle Library**

Join Loppy and Curly, the beloved characters from the Lessons of a LAC series, to celebrate the release of their new book *Tree*, a gentle story of love and loss.

With Lynn Jenkins and Kirrili Lonergan.

FREE

### STORYTIME

88

11.00AM - 1.00PM

**Children's Reading Room**

**Ground Floor — Newcastle Library**

11.00AM DEBORAH KELLY

11.25AM GRAEME BASE

11.50AM PIP SMITH & BEAU WYLIE

12.30PM TONY FLOWERS

FREE



# Sunday 5 April Evening

## CONCERT HALL CITY HALL

### WHAT FREEDOM FEELS LIKE

09

4.30PM-5.30PM

Behrouz Boochani speaks via Skype from New Zealand about life after Manus Island, the impact of his award-winning memoir *No Friend but the Mountains*, and the enduring power of literature to change the world.

Host / Michael Williams

Tickets \$30



# Monday 6 April Evening

## WICKHAM PARK HOTEL

### POST-FESTIVAL POETRY AT THE PUB

92

FROM 7.30PM

Celebrate the end of another fantastic festival weekend with special guest poets.

FREE



## Paul Jennings UNREAL! Exhibition

An exhibition of the magical and imaginary world of Australia's best-loved children's author Paul Jennings.

**WHEN** 13 March – 9 May 2020

**WHERE** Newcastle Library, Laman Street Newcastle

FREE

Paul Jennings: UNREAL! is a travelling exhibition by Warrnambool Art Gallery in partnership with Paul Jennings. Supported by the WAG Foundation and Deakin University.

[www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/library](http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/library)

WAG presents  
PAUL JENNINGS  
Unreal!



# Biographies



CLAIRE ALBRECHT

**NICOLE ABADEE 10, 43**

Nicole Abadee is books writer for the *Australian Financial Review Magazine*, a facilitator and a literary consultant. @NicoleAbadee

**CLAIRE ALBRECHT 35**

Claire Albrecht is a published poet and researcher at the University of Newcastle. @brekfast\_

**MUNYA ANDREWS 28**

Aunty Munya Andrews is an Aboriginal barrister and author from the Kimberley region.

**LIZ ANELLI 84**

Liz Anelli is a Newcastle-based, award-winning illustrator who makes picture books and maps for children round the world.

**CASSANDRA ATHERTON 39**

Cassandra Atherton is an award-winning writer, academic and critic.

**AMEE BAIRD 16, 24**

Amee Baird is a Newcastle-based clinical neuropsychologist and the author of *Sex in the Brain*. @AmeeBaird\_Neuro

**MAGDALENA BALL 25, 40, 59, 70, 77**

Magdalena Ball is a novelist, poet, reviewer and interviewer, and is the managing editor of the book review site, *Compulsive Reader*. @magdalenaball

**GRAEME BASE 58, 89**

Graeme Base has been writing and illustrating for children for more than 30 years.

**CAROLINE BAUM 48, 50**

Journalist and former broadcaster Caroline Baum is the author of *Only: A Singular Memoir*. @mscarobaum

**MORGAN BELL 40**

Morgan Bell is a Port Stephens author of short fiction.



AMEE BAIRD



MAGDALENA BALL

**JAMES BENNETT 32**

James Bennett is a historian at the University of Newcastle whose research interests include transnational and comparative histories, medicine and sexuality, and World War I.

**LARISSA BERENDT 14, 28**

Larissa Behrendt holds the Chair of Indigenous Research at the Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning at the University of Technology, Sydney.

**DAVID BETTS 32**

David Betts is a lecturer in the social work program in the School of Humanities and Social Science at the University of Newcastle. @BettsDN

**PAUL BEVAN 04**

Paul Bevan is a Newcastle radio broadcaster and singer.

**SCOTT BEVAN 33**

Scott Bevan is the author of six books. His latest is *The Lake: Exploring a Splendid Sheet of Water*.

**TONY BIRCH 19, 43**

Tony Birch is an award-winning writer based in Melbourne and a senior research fellow at Victoria University. His most recent book is *The White Girl*.

**HERA LINDSAY BIRD 35, 47**

Hera Lindsay Bird is an award-winning Wellington poet and fiction writer. @HeraLindsayBird

**JENNY BLACKFORD 26, 44**

Jenny Blackford is an award-winning Newcastle writer and poet. @dutiesofacat

**RUSSELL BLACKFORD 51, 66**

Russell Blackford is a Newcastle philosopher, legal scholar, and literary critic. His most recent book is *The Tyranny of Opinion*. @Metamagician



DAVID BETTS



PAUL BEVAN



JAMES BENNETT



MORGAN BELL



TONY BIRCH



CLARE BOWDITCH

**BEHROUZ BOOCHANI 09**

Behrouz Boochani is a Kurdish-Iranian journalist and award-winning author of the memoir *No Friend but the Mountains*. @BehrouzBoochani

**JOANNA BOURKE 17**

Joanna Bourke is the Global Innovation Chair in the University of Newcastle's Centre for the Study of Violence.

**CLARE BOWDITCH 81**

Clare Bowditch is a Melbourne-based storyteller and musician. Her memoir *Your Own Kind of Girl* was published in 2019. @ClareBowditch

**ASHEG BROM 30**

Asheg Brom is a Newcastle-born writer who spent 10 years teaching English in China. *Chicken Same Duck Talk* is his book about the experience.

**CHRIS BROWN 49**

Chris Brown is a Newcastle artist and photographer who works in community services.

**KEL BUTLER 38**

Kel Butler is co-host of the *Writes4Women* and *Writes4Festivals* podcasts.

**CARL CAULFIELD 45**

Carl Caulfield is a Newcastle playwright, actor, director and lecturer.

**SIOBHAN CAULFIELD 45**

Siobhan Caulfield is a Sydney-based radio journalist who enjoys performing, singing and playing the piano.

**ALI COBBY ECKERMANN 22, 26**

Yankuntjatjara Aboriginal poet Ali Cobby Eckermann is the author of seven books.

**MARGARET CONNOLLY 55**

Margaret Connolly is a Sydney-based literary agent who represented poet Les Murray for 30 years.

**PAMELA COOK 19, 38**

Pamela Cook is an author and co-host of the *Writes4Women* and *Writes4Festivals* podcasts. @PamelaCookAU

**TIM COSTELLO 04, 12**

Tim Costello is one of Australia's leading voices on social justice and global poverty. His memoir, *A Lot with a Little*, was published in 2019.



CARL CAULFIELD



CHRIS DUNSTAN

**DAN COX 03, 52**

Dan Cox co-hosts Breakfast on ABC Newcastle with Jenny Marchant. @CoxDan

**MICHAEL CRANE 55, 77**

Michael Crane has had more than 300 poems and stories published in Australian literary journals and newspapers.

**JUDITH NANGALA CRISPIN 39**

Judith Nangala Crispin is a poet and visual artist of Bpangerang descent. She is also poetry editor at *The Canberra Times*.

**SOPHIE CUNNINGHAM 60, 78**

Sophie Cunningham is the author of five books and co-founder of the Stella Prize. @sophiec

**NANCY CUSHING 80**

Nancy Cushing is Associate Professor in History at the University of Newcastle. @ncushing12

**BLANCHE D'ALPUGET 15**

Blanche d'Alpuget is an acclaimed writer. Her most recent book is *Bob Hawke: The Complete Biography*.

**SARAH DAVIS 84**

Sarah Davis is a multiple award-winning illustrator and associate art director for Walker Books Australia.

**JAN DEAN 41**

Jan Dean is an award-winning Hunter Region poet.

**CHRIS DUNSTAN 84**

Chris Dunstan is a theatre maker and artistic director of Tantrum Youth Arts.

**MICHAEL EARP 49, 69**

Michael Earp is the editor of *Kindred: 12 Queer #LoveOzYA Stories* and contributor to *Underdog: #LoveOzYA Short Stories*. @littleelfman

**GARY ELLEM 21**

Sustainability futurist Gary Ellem works in transport, energy and innovation.

**MICHAEL EWANS 45**

Michael Ewans is Conjoint Professor of Drama at the University of Newcastle.



BLANCHE D'ALPUGET



SIOBHAN CAULFIELD



NANCY CUSHING



PHOTO: ADRIAN COOK  
ALI COBBY ECKERMANN



MICHAEL EARP



MICHAEL FARRELL

**MICHAEL FARRELL 47, 65**

Michael Farrell is an award-winning poet whose new collection, *Family Trees*, will be launched at the festival.

**KAIT FENWICK 35, 69**

Kait Fenwick is a poet, essayist and closet Novocastrian. @kaitfenwick

**ADELE FERGUSON 52, 76**

Adele Ferguson is a multi-award-winning senior business writer and columnist for Fairfax Media. @adele\_ferguson

**RICHARD FIDLER 08**

Richard Fidler is the author of the best-selling books *Ghost Empire* and *Saga Land*. He is also the presenter of *Conversations* on ABC radio. @rfidler

**TIM FLANNERY 33, 46**

Tim Flannery is a palaeontologist, explorer, conservationist and best-selling writer.

**CHRIS FLEMING 64, 78**

Chris Fleming is a highly regarded philosopher, translator, and cultural analyst. *On Drugs* is his first work of memoir.

**TONY FLOWERS 84, 91**

Tony Flowers has illustrated more than 40 titles including the popular *Saurus Street*, *Samurai vs Ninja*, *Billy is a Dragon* and *Vognox the Viking* series.

**CHRIS FLYNN 34**

Chris Flynn is the author of three novels. The most recent, *Mammoth*, is published in April.

**JAYE FORD 73**

Jaye Ford is a bestselling suspense author who also publishes rom-com novels as Janette Paul.

**PETER FOX 52**

Peter Fox is a 36-year veteran of the NSW Police Force, during which time he investigated countless child sexual abuse cases in the Hunter Region. @Peter\_Fox59



STEPHEN GAPPS



JAMES FRY

**BASTIAN FOX PHELAN 35**

Bastian Fox Phelan is a writer, musician and zinemaker. They have completed a literary memoir about female facial hair. @bastianphelan

**SUSAN FRANCIS 53**

Newcastle-based writer Susan Francis' memoir *The Love that Remains* was published in 2019 by Allen & Unwin in February.

**JAMES FRY 66**

James Fry is a Sydney author and community welfare professional. As a troubled teen he found himself briefly caught up in a far-right extremist group. @thatfryboy

**DAMON GAMEAU 46**

Damon Gameau is the author of *2040: A Handbook for the Regeneration*, which provides practical wisdom and 50 recipes to help readers make a difference, one small step at a time.

**STEPHEN GAPPS 37**

Stephen Gapps is the president of the History Council of NSW, a curator, and historian.

**HELEN GARNER 48, 75**

Helen Garner writes novels, stories, screenplays and works of non-fiction.

**JANE GILMORE 36, 74**

Jane Gilmore is a freelance journalist and author of *Fixed It: Violence and the Representation of Women in the Media*. @JaneTribune

**PETER GOGARTY 11**

Peter Gogarty is a criminologist working at the University of Newcastle. His memoir, *Judas Church*, was published in 2017.

**TJANARA GORENG GORENG 12, 28**

Tjanara Goreng Goreng is an adjunct assistant professor in Indigenous Studies at the University of Canberra. Her memoir, *A Long Way to No Go*, was longlisted for a Walkley Award.

**CLARK GORMLEY 06, 77**

Clark Gormley is a Newcastle poet and singer-songwriter.

**ERIN GOUGH 69**

Erin Gough is the award-winning author of two young adult novels, *The Flywheel* and *Amelia Westlake*. @ErinOnFridays.



HELEN GARNER



IVY IRELAND

**ASH GRUNWALD 27, 42**

Ash Grunwald is an Australian musician and environmentalist. He is the author of *Surf by Day, Jam by Night*. @AshGrunwald

**MOJGAN HABIBI 29**

Mojgan Habibi is a contemporary Iranian Australian artist and University of Newcastle lecturer.

**RUBY HAMAD 36**

Ruby Hamad is a Lebanese-Syrian journalist and author who was raised in Australia. *White Tears/Brown Scars* is her first book.

**SOPHIE HARDCASTLE 27, 70**

Sophie Hardcastle is an author, artist, screenwriter and scholar. Her latest work, *Below Deck*, is a haunting and poetic story about the vagaries of consent. @Soph\_Hardcastle

**ASHLEY HAY 71**

Ashley Hay is the editor of Griffith Review and a prize-winning author.

**BARBARA HEATON 80**

Barbara Heaton is a historian focusing on people and events in the Hunter region.

**PAUL HETHERINGTON 39**

Paul Hetherington is Professor of Writing at the University of Canberra and founded the International Prose Poetry Group in 2014.

**RICHARD HOLT 05, 39**

Richard Holt is a Melbourne-based visual artist, musician and a writer.

**REBECCA HUNTLEY 12, 51, 66**

Rebecca Huntley is one of Australia's foremost researchers on social trends, as well as an author and broadcaster. @RebeccaHuntley2

**IVY IRELAND 55, 63, 65**

Ivy Ireland is the author of the poetry collections *Incidental Complications* and *Porch Light*.

**ANNA JACKSON 47, 68**

Anna Jackson is a New Zealand writer who lectures in English at Victoria University of Wellington.

**GABRIELLE JACKSON 50**

Gabrielle Jackson is an associate news editor at *Guardian Australia* and the author of *Pain and Prejudice: A Call to Arms for Women and Their Bodies*.



REBECCA HUNTLEY



DAVID KELLY

**MEREDITH JAFFÉ 20, 67, 79**

Meredith Jaffé is a writer and occasional book critic. Her most recent novel is *The Making of Christina*.

**LYNN JENKINS 87**

Lynn Jenkins is a Newcastle clinical psychologist, children's book author and mother of three.

**JUDY JOHNSON 44, 63, 77**

Judy Johnson is a prize-winning Hunter region poet with six collections; the latest is *Dark Convicts*.

**MARGUERITE JOHNSON 32, 45, 62**

Marguerite Johnson is Professor of Classics at the University of Newcastle. @MMJ722

**KIT KELEN 55, 77**

Christopher (Kit) Kelen is a well-known poet, scholar and visual artist, and Emeritus Professor of English at the University of Macau.

**DAVID OWEN KELLY 56**

David Owen Kelly is the Newcastle-based author of the novel *Fantastic Street*, and the memoir *State of Origin*.

**DEBORAH KELLY 88**

Deborah Kelly is a Newcastle children's author and poet.

**ANDY KISSANE 26, 55**

Poet Andy Kissane's latest book is *The Tomb of the Unknown Artist*.

**LEE KOFMAN 50, 78**

Lee Kofman is a Russian-born, Israeli-Australian writer based in Melbourne. @LeeKofman

**MIRIAM LANCEWOOD 23, 60**

Miriam Lancewood lived in the wilderness of New Zealand's Southern Alps for six years. Her book about the experience, *Woman in the Wilderness*, became an international success.

**VICKI LAVEAU-HARVIE 56, 71**

Vicki Laveau-Harvie's memoir, *The Erratics*, won the 2018 Finch Memoir Prize and was longlisted for the Stella Prize.

**SUZANNE LEAL 19, 53, 79**

Suzanne Leal is the author of novels *The Deceptions*, *The Teacher's Secret* and *Border Street*. @suzanne\_leal



LEE KOFMAN



KAIT FENWICK



JAYE FORD



ASH GRUNWALD



TJANARA GORENG GORENG



RICHARD HOLT



PAUL HETHERINGTON



DEOBRAH KELLY



DAMIEN LINNANE



JOHN MAYNARD

**DAVID LESER 54, 75**

David Leser is an award-winning journalist whose most recent book is *Women, Men & the Whole Damn Thing*. @DavidLeser

**DAMIEN LINNANE 24**

Damien Linnane is Newcastle-based former prisoner, current post-graduate student, novelist, artist and freelance writer.

**KIRRILI LONERGAN 87**

Kirrili Lonerган is a Newcastle picture book illustrator and art therapist.

**SARAH MACDONALD 67, 81**

Sarah Macdonald is a broadcaster and writer whose latest book is *So You're Having a Teenager – the A to Z of Adolescence*. @sarahvmac

**XANTHÉ MALLET 11**

Xanthé Mallett is a forensic anthropologist, criminologist, author, television presenter and social commentator based at the University of Newcastle. @XanthéMallet

**PADDY MANNING 18**

Paddy Manning is an award-winning investigative journalist and author of a number of books, including biographies of Malcolm Turnbull and Nathan Tinkler. @gpaddymanning

**JOHN MARSDEN 20**

John Marsden has written more than 40 books, mostly for teenagers and children.

**JOHN MAYNARD 14, 28, 37**

John Maynard is of the Worimi people of Port Stephens. He is the foremost Indigenous historian in Australia.

**LAURA MCBRIDE 37**

Laura McBride is a Wailwan-Kooma woman and First Nations curator in Exhibitions, Engagement and Cultural Connection at the Australian Museum. @wailwancurator

**KATE MCCLYMONT 18, 61**

Kate McClymont is an investigative journalist with the *Sydney Morning Herald* and a seven-time Walkley Award-winner. @Kate\_McClymont



XANTHE MALLETT



FAVEL PARRETT

**JANE MCCREDIE 16, 46**

Jane McCredie is an award-winning writer and journalist and the CEO of the NSW Writers' Centre. @janemccredie

**CASSIE MCCULLAGH 15, 27**

Cassie McCullagh presents *Focus* on ABC Radio Sydney and is also co-host of *The Bookshelf* on Radio National. @cassiemccullagh

**FIONA MCGREGOR 07, 31, 49, 78**

Fiona McGregor is a Sydney author and performance artist. Her latest novel, *Indelible Ink*, won the Age Book of the Year Award.

**KATRINA MCKELVEY 58**

Katrina McKelvey is a local children's author. Her latest books include *Isla's Family Tree* and *Chasing Rainbows*. @katrinamckelvey

**KCASEY MCLOUGHLIN 32**

Kcasey McLoughlin is a lecturer in law at the University of Newcastle. @Dr\_KMcLoughlin

**KATHLEEN MCPHILLIPS 29**

Kathleen McPhillips is a senior lecturer in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Newcastle.

**NICK MILLIGAN 01, 24, 42**

Nick Milligan is a Newcastle-based entertainment journalist, author and podcaster. @NickMilligan\_

**IAN MILLISS 29**

Conceptual artist Ian Milliss is a founder of the Kandos School of Cultural Adaptation, which includes 15 artists and farmers who focus on sustainable and regenerative land use.

**ROSEMARIE MILSOM 23**

Rosemarie Milsom is the founding director of the Newcastle Writers Festival. @RosemarieMilsom

**MARY MOODY 10**

A former journalist and TV presenter, Mary Moody's most recent memoir is *The Accidental Tour Guide: Adventures in Life and Death*.

**PATRICE NEWELL 46**

Patrice Newell produces biodynamic olive oil, garlic, honey, soap and beef on her family farm in Gundy, NSW. Her most recent book is *Who's Minding the Farm?* @drpatricenewell



PATRICE NEWELL



PHOTO: JAMIE JAMES  
FIONA MCGREGOR



GEOFF PAGE



GRACE PARTRIDGE



TONY PARK



ARCHIE ROACH

**GEOFF PAGE 77**

Geoff Page is has published 24 collections of poetry as well as two novels and five verse novels.

**TONY PARK 73**

Tony Park is the author of 17 thriller novels set in Africa. @tonyparkauthor

**FAVEL PARRETT 38, 79**

Favel Parrett is the award-winning author of three novels, the most recent of which is *There Was Still Love*. @favelparrett

**GRACE PARTRIDGE 29**

Grace Partridge is an award-winning early career curator and creative producer.

**TRISHA PENDER 36, 63, 74**

Trisha Pender is an associate professor of English and writing at the University of Newcastle. @pender\_trisha

**AILSAPIPER 13, 60, 82**

Ailsa Piper is a writer, director, performer, teacher and speaker.

**FELICITY PLUNKETT 26, 27**

Felicity Plunkett is a Sydney poet and critic. @FelicPlunkett

**PETER PUDNEY 21**

Peter Pudney is an Associate Professor of Industrial and Applied Mathematics at the University of South Australia. His research centres on optimal control of renewable energy systems.

**LU QUADE 35**

Lu Quade (a.k.a. Luke Wade) is a Newcastle artist, musician, writer and educator. @real\_luquade.

**NICOLA REDHOUSE 16, 70**

Nicola Redhouse is a Melbourne-based writer and book editor whose hybrid memoir *Unlike the Heart: A Story of Brain and Mind* was published in 2019. @peezerled

**MEL REE 47, 63**

Mel Ree trained as an actor and also identifies as a dancer, poet and fierce woman. @bigSIIS



PHOTO: DAVE TACON  
MARGARET SIMONS



MICHAEL ROBOTHAM

**TEELA REID 03**

Teela Reid is a proud Wiradjuri and Wailwan woman and lawyer. She was born and raised in Gilgandra and comes from a family of advocates in the NSW land rights movement. @teelareid

**MIRANDI RIWOE 19, 43**

Mirandi Riwoe's work has been widely published in Australian anthologies and literary journals. Her new novel is *Stone Sky Gold Mountain*. @m\_riwoe

**ARCHIE ROACH 03**

Archie Roach is an award-winning songwriter and musician. His memoir *Tell Me Why* was published in 2019.

**TIM ROBERTS 21**

Tim Roberts is Emeritus Professor at the University of Newcastle with interests in environmental sustainability, climate change and chronic disease.

**ELIZABETH ROBERTS-PEDERSEN 17**

Elizabeth Roberts-Pedersen is an historian specialising in the history of war and trauma.

**MICHAEL ROBOTHAM 61, 73**

Michael Robotham's psychological thrillers have been translated into 25 languages and sold more than six million copies worldwide. @michaelrobotham

**SALLY RUGG 32, 49, 62**

Sally Rugg is an LGBTIQ rights activist, writer and public speaker. She is executive director at political activist group change.org. @sallyrugg

**OMAR SAKR 43, 47, 69**

Omar Sakr is an Arab-Australian poet whose work has been published in English, Arabic, and Spanish, in numerous journals and anthologies. @OmarJSakr

**MICHAEL SALA 64**

Michael Sala lectures in Creative Writing at the University of Newcastle. He is the author of two critically acclaimed novels, *The Last Thread* and *The Restorer*.

**AMY SAMBROOKE 54, 56**

Amy Sambrooke is creative director of Varuna, the National Writers' House, and the Blue Mountains Writers' Festival.



MIRANDA RIWOE

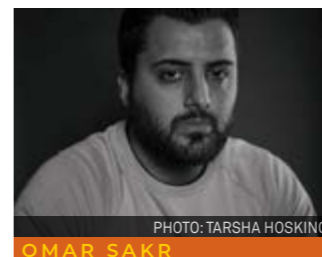


PHOTO: TARSHA HOSKING  
OMAR SAKR



AMY SAMBROOKE



MICHAEL SALA



CHRIS TSE

**PAUL SCOTT 18, 76**

Paul Scott is a lecturer in the School of Design, Communication and Information Technology at the University of Newcastle. @paul\_scott\_

**KERRI SHYING 77**

Kerri Shying is a Newcastle poet of Chinese and Wiradjuri family.

**MARGARET SIMONS 12, 18**

Margaret Simons is an award-winning freelance journalist and author whose most recent books is *Penny Wong: Passion and Principle*. @MargaretSimons

**AREK SINANIAN 51**

Arek Sinanian is the author of *A Climate for Denial* and an expert on climate change, greenhouse gas abatement and carbon accounting. @ArekSinanian

**DAVID SINCLAIR 08, 71**

David Sinclair is a professor of genetics at Harvard Medical School and the author of *Lifespan: Why we Age – and Why We Don't Have To*. @DavidASinclair

**MARIKO SMITH 37**

Mariko Smith is a Yuin woman and First Nations assistant curator in Engagement, Exhibitions & Cultural Connection, Australian Museum. @MarikoCurates

**MELINDA SMITH 47, 63, 77**

Award-winning poet Melinda Smith is the author of seven books of poetry, most recently *Listen, bitch*. @MelindaLSmith

**PIP SMITH 90**

Award-winning writer Pip Smith's first children's picture book, *Theodore the Unsure*, was published in 2019.

**ALEX SPATHIS 21**

Alex Spathis is a retired engineer and author of *The Light Electric Vehicle and the Climate*.

**DAVID STAVANGER 22, 26, 47**

David Stavanger is a poet, performer and cultural producer, editor and lapsed psychologist. @DavidStavanger

**HEATHER STEVENS 21, 51**

Heather Stevens lectures at the University of Newcastle in natural research management and scientific thinking.



VIRGINIA TRIOLI



MARIA TUMARKIN



MICHAEL WILLIAMS

**JACQUIE SVENSON 24**

Jacqui Svenson is a Newcastle author, climate activist, environmental lawyer and academic at the University of Newcastle Legal Centre. @Jaxtar73

**GILLIAN SWAIN 77**

Gillian Swain's poetry is published in *A Slow Combusting Hymn*, *The Grieve Anthology* and *Brew: 30 years of Poetry at the Pub*.

**ANNE-MARIE TE WHIU 22, 47, 68**

Anne-Marie Te Whiu is a cultural producer and creator who co-edited *Solid Air: Australian and New Zealand Spoken Word*. @annemarietewhiu

**TAYI TIBBLE 22, 68**

Tayi Tibble is a writer and poet based in Wellington, New Zealand. Her first book, *Pōūkahangatus*, was published by Victoria University Press in 2018. @paniaofthekeef

**LUCY TRELOAR 72**

Lucy Treloar is the author of *Salt Creek*, which was shortlisted for prizes including the Miles Franklin Literary Award, and *Wolfe Island*, published in 2019.

**VIRGINIA TRIOLI 36, 57**

Virginia Trioli is an award-winning journalist, broadcaster and author. @LaTrioli

**CHRIS TSE 47, 49, 68**

Chris Tse is a writer from Wellington, New Zealand. He is the author of two poetry collections, *How to be Dead in a Year of Snakes* and *HE'S SO MASC*. @chrisjtse

**MARIA TUMARKIN 59, 70**

Maria Tumarkin's most recent book, *Axiomatic*, was shortlisted for the 2019 Stella Prize and Prime Minister's Literary Awards. @Brow\_Books

**WĀNI 26, 47**

Wāni is a trans-disciplinary artist of Indigenous Ba Shi heritage. He was awarded the 2019 Wyndham Art Prize and is the current Australian Poetry Slam champion.

**KAARON WARREN 02**

Kaaron Warren's most recent novel *Tide of Stone* won the Aurealis Award and the Australian Shadows Award. @KaaronWarren



LAURA WATERS



WĀNI



KAARON WARREN



GEORGE WATT

**LAURA WATERS 60, 82**

Laura Waters is a Melbourne-based freelance travel writer, speaker, author and nature nomad. @SoulTrekks

**GEORGE WATT 77**

While George Watt has published academic work, *Sandpaper Swimming*, his first book of poetry, is a fortuitous escape from it.

**CATHY WILCOX 67**

Cathy Wilcox is an award-winning cartoonist for the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age*. @cathywilcox1

**MICHAEL WILLIAMS 09, 57**

Michael Williams is the director of the *Wheeler Centre for Books, Writing and Ideas in Melbourne*. @mmccwill

**CHARLOTTE WOOD 13, 34, 71**

Charlotte Wood is the award-winning author of six novels and two books of non-fiction.



CATHY WILCOX



BEAU WYLIE

**STEPHANIE WOOD 52, 53**

Stephanie Wood is an award-winning features writer and author of *Fake: A Startling True Story of Love in a World of Liars, Cheats, Narcissists, Fantasists and Phonies*. @StephanieAWood1

**ED WRIGHT 34, 55, 77**

Ed Wright is an author, literary critic, director of *The Creative Word Shop*, and a commissioning editor for Puncher & Wattmann.

**BEAU WYLIE 90**

Newcastle artist Beau Wylie's first children's picture book, *Theodore the Unsure*, was published in 2019.

**SUSAN WYNDHAM 72**

Susan Wyndham is the former literary editor of *The Sydney Morning Herald*, now a freelance journalist, book reviewer, and events moderator. @WyndhamSusan



STEPHANIE WOOD



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