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the stories
behind the
stories.

MARCH 31 - APRIL 2



NEWCASTLE WRITERS FESTIVAL



newcastlewritersfestival.org.au





Special Events









SATURDAY 25 MARCH	12.00pm-2.00pm // Local Connections, University of Newcastle Callaghan Campus LITERARY LUNCH: A YEAR WITH WENDY WHITELEY With Wendy Whiteley and Ashleigh Wilson. Host / Gerry Bobsien. Tickets \$75 (Inc. two-course meal. Drinks available to purchase. When booking please notify of dietary requirements)
SOLD OUT	
WEDNESDAY 29 MARCH	7.00pm-9.00pm // Stag and Hunter Hotel, Mayfield FESTIVAL FUNDRAISER: LITERARY TRIVIA NIGHT IS BACK! Due to popular demand, our literary fundraiser is back. Host / Nick Milligan. Tickets \$20 per person
FRIDAY 31 MARCH	10.00am - 12.00pm // Boatrowers Hotel, Fullerton Street, Stockton STOCKTON MONUMENTS & MEMORYSAPES: A WALKING TOUR Join writers Vanessa Berry, Bastian Fox Phelan, Keri Glastonbury, Duncan McDuie-Ra, and Kate Senior as they share historical and poetic insights about Stockton's community monuments. Tickets \$15 plus own ferry fare if travelling from Queens Wharf.
FRIDAY 31 MARCH	10.00am - 4.00pm // University of Newcastle NUspace WORKSHOP: DEVELOPING WRITER'S VOICE WITH LEE KOFMAN This workshop will provide participants with an opportunity to explore their inner world and learn how to make use of it for literary projects. There will be writing exercises in this workshop, so bring something to write on - either a laptop or paper. Tickets \$120
FRIDAY 31 MARCH	11.00am-2.00pm // University of Newcastle NUspace POETRY WORKSHOP: USING LYRIC ENCOUNTER TO WRITE GRIEF WITH WILLO DRUMMOND This class will look at ways of 'reading-and-writing' in the intersubjective space of poetic encounter. Participants will explore responsive reading and writing activities to generate drafts for several new poems. Tickets \$60 Limited to 10 places. Snacks provided.
FRIDAY 31 MARCH OPENING NIGHT EVENT	7.30pm-9pm // Civic Theatre IN HER OWN WORDS: AN EVENING WITH GRACE TAME Grace will discuss her memoir <i>The Ninth Life of a Diamond Miner</i> and the power of sharing stories in your own words, on your own terms. Host / Maddison Connaughton. Tickets \$45 - \$5 from every ticket will be donated directly to the Grace Tame Foundation.
SATURDAY 1 APRIL	4.00pm - 6.00pm // Blackstone Gallery, 470 Hunter Street (runs til 16 April) CHAPTER 10 - Twenty local artists respond to the writing of authors featured at NWF 2023. FREE
SATURDAY 1 APRIL	5.00pm-8.00pm // The Wollotuka Institute, UON Callaghan Campus GIYI PARA - For thousands of generations First Nations People have gathered in a continuing practice of coming together to share knowledge, celebrate country, and strengthen relationships. We invite you to an evening of storytelling, community, and corroboree. Scribbling Magic for Kids with Dub Leffler. Aboriginal Languages with Ray Kelly. The Power of Telling Your Story with Jackie Huggins, Julie Janson and Amy Thunig. With a special performance by Nardi Simpson. FREE - bookings via Eventbrite
SOLD OUT	
SATURDAY 1 APRIL	7.00pm-9.00pm (inc intermission) // Civic Playhouse VOYAGE: A NEW KIND OF STORYTELLING - An exciting new live music, theatre and literary event featuring a new play by Fiona Leonard, The Hum, starring Tumbleweed frontman Richie Lewis and bassist Matt Houston. Singer/songwriter Kay Proudlove will present songs from Dear Diary, with lyrics and storytelling based on her teenage diaries, while The Majishans explore unreliable narration in their Nashville show. Iconic fire dancer Wolf Ifritah will also present a new narrative-based work. Tickets \$30 <i>Proudly supported by City of Newcastle.</i>
SATURDAY 1 APRIL	8.00pm-9.30pm // Conservatorium of Music Concert Hall 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION - WORDS AND MUSIC Featuring Elijah Amos, Bertie Blackman, Dan Flegg, Les Poètes Pop, Demi Mitchell, Shane Nicholson, Jacob Ridgeway, The Pitts, Dave Wells, and more. Curated by Dan Flegg and Nick Milligan. Tickets \$35

SATURDAY 1 APRIL





CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC CONCERT HALL	NUSPACE X207	NUSPACE X205	NUSPACE X301	NUSPACE X321	CIVIC PLAYHOUSE	WATT SPACE GALLERY
<p>10.00am-11.00am</p> <p>PATting THE SHARK: TIM BAKER IN CONVERSATION</p> <p>Host / Jock Serong</p> <p>Tickets \$25</p>	<p>10.00am-11.00am</p> <p>SISTER GIRL: JACKIE HUGGINS IN CONVERSATION</p> <p>Host / Julie Janson</p> <p>FREE</p>	<p>10.00am-11.00am</p> <p>NOT JUST PERSONAL</p> <p>With Bertie Blackman, Sian Prior, and Anna Spargo-Ryan.</p> <p>Host / Amy Sambrooke</p> <p>Tickets \$20</p>	<p>10.00am-11.00am</p> <p>AUSTRALIA'S UNDERWORLD</p> <p>With Nancy Cushing and Rachel Franks.</p> <p>FREE</p>	<p>10.00am-11.00am</p> <p>THE MOURNING AFTER: HOLLY THROSBY IN CONVERSATION</p> <p>Host / Anna Downes</p> <p>Tickets \$20</p>	<p>10.00am-11.00am</p> <p>THE SPACE BETWEEN THE STARS: INDIRA NAIDOO IN CONVERSATION</p> <p>Host / Cassie McCullagh</p> <p>Tickets \$20</p>	 <p>Jessie Cole</p>  <p>Richard Fidler</p>
<p>11.30am-12.30pm</p> <p>HOW TO BE STOIC IN CHAOTIC TIMES: BRIGID DELANEY IN CONVERSATION</p> <p>Host / Kate Mildenhall</p> <p>Tickets \$25</p>	<p>11.30am-12.30pm</p> <p>I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET</p> <p>Fiona Kelly McGregor introduces emerging writer George Haddad.</p> <p>FREE</p>	<p>11.30am-12.30pm</p> <p>THE POWER OF ART TO HEAL</p> <p>With Damien Linnane, Kathleen McPhillips, and Sarah-Jane Page.</p> <p>Host / Suzanne Smith</p> <p>FREE</p> <p><i>Presented in partnership with The Lock-Up</i></p>	<p>11.30am-12.30pm</p> <p>WRITTEN ON THE BODY: JESSIE COLE IN CONVERSATION</p> <p>Host / Beejay Silcox</p> <p>Tickets \$20</p>	<p>11.30am-12.30pm</p> <p>THE WRITER LAID BARE: LEE KOFMAN IN CONVERSATION</p> <p>Host / Phillipa McGuinness</p> <p>Tickets \$20</p> <p><i>This session is sponsored by Openbook.</i></p>	<p>11.30am-12.30pm</p> <p>FUGITIVE: SIMON TEDESCHI IN CONVERSATION</p> <p>Host / Geordie Williamson</p> <p>Tickets \$20</p>	<p>11.30am-12.30pm</p> <p>BOOK LAUNCH</p> <p>Celebrate the launch of new Flying Islands poetry collections.</p> <p>With Richard James Allen, Angie Contini, Kevin Smith, Vaughan Rapatahana and Sophia Wilson.</p> <p>Host / Magdalena Ball</p> <p>FREE</p>  <p>Simon Tedeschi</p>
<p>12.30pm-1.15pm // NUspace Courtyard - FREE LUNCHTIME PERFORMANCE BY NERDS & MUSIC - Clark Gormley and Wayne Thompson will perform their most 'literate' songs.</p>						
<p>1.30pm-2.30pm</p> <p>WORLD TRAVELLER: RICHARD FIDLER IN CONVERSATION</p> <p>Host / Paul Bevan</p> <p>Tickets \$25 or \$15 live stream</p> <p><i>This event will be live streamed. Zoom details emailed after 8am AEST on the day of event. Check spam folders.</i></p>	<p>1.30pm-2.30pm</p> <p>GROWING PAINS</p> <p>With Cadance Bell, Mawunyo Gbogbo, and Shannon Molloy.</p> <p>Host / Dan Cox</p> <p>Tickets \$17.50</p>	<p>1.30pm-2.30pm</p> <p>PLAYFULNESS IN WRITING</p> <p>With Dave Drayton, Chris Flynn and Beth Spencer.</p> <p>Includes launch of the <i>Play</i> anthology by Paul Hetherington and presentation of prizes to category winners in the 2023 Joanne Burns Microlit Award.</p> <p>Host / Cassandra Atherton</p> <p>FREE</p>	<p>1.30pm-2.30pm</p> <p>SHOULD I QUIT MY DAY JOB?</p> <p>With Isobel Beech, Shelley Burr, and George Haddad.</p> <p>Host / Amy Lovat</p> <p>Tickets \$17.50</p>	<p>1.30pm-2.30pm</p> <p>TELL ME AGAIN: AMY THUNIG IN CONVERSATION</p> <p>Host / Yvette Henry Holt</p> <p>Tickets \$17.50</p>	<p>1.30pm-2.30pm</p> <p>ONWARD: CELEBRATING ROBERT ADAMSON</p> <p>Readings by Judith Beveridge, Robbie Coburn, Keri Glastonbury, Sarah Holland-Batt, and Mark Mordue.</p> <p>Host / Michele Seminara</p> <p>FREE</p>	<p>1.30pm-2.30pm</p> <p>BOOK LAUNCH</p> <p>Celebrate the launch of <i>Out of the Shadows</i> anthology. With Irina Frolova, Ned Stephenson and Bethany Wooden.</p> <p>Host / Sandra Joy</p> <p>FREE</p>  <p>Amy Thunig</p>

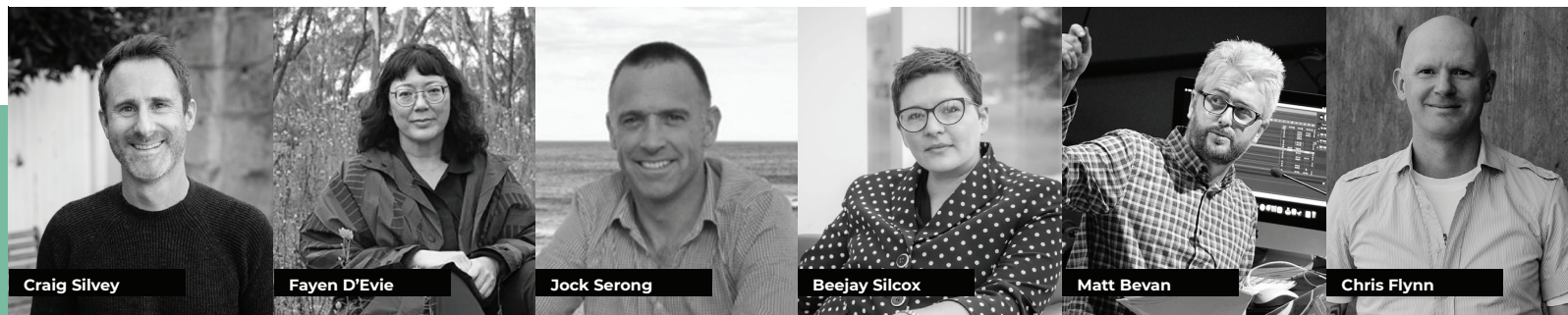
CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC CONCERT HALL	NUSPACE X207	NUSPACE X205	NUSPACE X301	NUSPACE X321	CIVIC PLAYHOUSE	WATT SPACE GALLERY	OTHER VENUES
<p>3.00pm-4.00pm</p> <p>THE CASE FOR HOPE</p> <p>With Tim Baker and Chloe Hooper.</p> <p>Host / Ailsa Piper</p> <p>Tickets \$25 or \$15 live stream</p> <p><i>This event will be live streamed. Zoom details emailed after 8am AEST on the day of event. Check spam folders.</i></p>	<p>3.00pm-4.00pm</p> <p>I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET</p> <p>Lee Kofman introduces debut author James McKenzie Watson.</p> <p>FREE</p>	<p>3.00pm-4.00pm</p> <p>LIMBERLOST: ROBBIE ARNOTT IN CONVERSATION</p> <p>Host / Chris Flynn</p> <p>Tickets \$20</p>	<p>3.00pm-4.00pm</p> <p>PSYCHO-GEOGRAPHY: THE POETICS OF PLACE</p> <p>With Judith Beveridge, John Foulcher, and Yvette Henry Holt.</p> <p>Host / David Musgrave</p> <p>Tickets \$12.50</p>	<p>3.00pm-4.00pm</p> <p>BOOK LAUNCH</p> <p>Celebrate the launch of new books by poets Magdalena Ball and Willo Drummond.</p> <p>FREE</p>	<p>3.00pm-4.00pm</p> <p>TYRANNY UP CLOSE: ANDREW QUILTY IN CONVERSATION</p> <p>Host / Antony Loewenstein</p> <p>Tickets \$20</p>	<p>2.45pm-3.45pm</p> <p>DO THE HONOURS</p> <p>A reading by University of Newcastle Creative Writing graduates Denni Martin, Andrew Tarry, Jackson Turton, and Olivia Wolfe.</p> <p>Host / Michael Sala</p> <p>FREE</p>	 <p>Chloe Hooper</p>
 <p>Jane Harper</p>	<p>4.30pm-5.30pm</p> <p>A ROOM IN WHICH TO FEEL THINGS</p> <p>With Isobel Beech and Bronwyn Birdsall.</p> <p>Host / Amy Sambrooke</p> <p>FREE</p>	<p>4.30pm-5.30pm</p> <p>YOU MADE ME THIS WAY: SHANNON MOLLOY IN CONVERSATION</p> <p>Host / Suzanne Smith</p> <p>Tickets \$17.50</p>	<p>4.30pm-5.30pm</p> <p>AGATHA CHRISTIE: CLEVER ENDINGS ARE JUST THE BEGINNING</p> <p>With Rachel Franks and Alistair Rolls.</p> <p>FREE</p>	<p>4.30pm-5.30pm</p> <p>THE BEAUTY AND BROKENNESS: HOLLY RINGLAND IN CONVERSATION</p> <p>Host / Kate Mildenhall</p> <p>Tickets \$25</p>	<p>4.30pm-5.30pm</p> <p>I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET</p> <p>Craig Silvey introduces debut writer Cadance Bell.</p> <p>FREE</p>	<p>4.30pm-5.15pm</p> <p>The Press Book House</p> <p>BOOK LAUNCH WOMEN OF WORDS</p> <p>Celebrate poetry anthology <i>Women of Words 2019-2021</i>. With Magdalena Ball, Ellen Shelley, and Gillian Swain.</p> <p>Host / Janette Hoppe</p> <p>FREE</p>	<p>5.00pm-8.00pm</p> <p>The Wollotuka Institute, UON Callaghan Campus</p> <p>GIYI PARA - THE CONVENING OF A GATHERING</p> <p><i>See events page.</i></p> <p>SOLD OUT</p>
<p>6.00pm-7.00pm</p> <p>MURDER, SHE WROTE: JANE HARPER IN CONVERSATION</p> <p>Host / Ashley Hay</p> <p>Tickets \$33</p>					 <p>Holly Ringland</p>	 <p>Shannon Molloy</p>	<p>5.30pm-7.00pm</p> <p>Longworth House</p> <p>POETRY SALON</p> <p>With various poets.</p> <p>Host / Michele Seminara</p> <p>Tickets \$25</p>
<p>8.00pm-9.30pm</p> <p><i>10th Anniversary Celebration</i></p> <p>WORDS & MUSIC</p> <p>Featuring Elijah Amos, Bertie Blackman, Dan Flegg, Les Poètes Pop, Demi Mitchell, Shane Nicholson, Jacob Ridgeway, The Pitts, Dave Wells, and more. Curated by Dan Flegg and Nick Milligan.</p> <p>Tickets \$35</p>					<p>7.00pm-9.00pm</p> <p>VOYAGE: A NEW KIND OF STORYTELLING</p> <p>Tumbleweed bassist Matt Houston. Singer Kay Proudlove present songs from <i>Dear Diary</i>, with lyrics and storytelling based on her teenage diaries.</p> <p>Tickets \$30</p> <p><i>Proudly supported by City of Newcastle</i></p>	 <p>Norman Swan</p>	<p>6.30pm-7.30pm</p> <p>Performance Arts Culture Cessnock</p> <p>THE LOWDOWN ON LONGEVITY: NORMAN SWAN IN CONVERSATION</p> <p>Host / Matt Bevan</p> <p>Tickets \$30</p>

SUNDAY 2 APRIL



CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC CONCERT HALL	NUSPACE X207	NUSPACE X205	NUSPACE X301	NUSPACE X321	CIVIC PLAYHOUSE	WATT SPACE GALLERY	THE PRESS BOOK HOUSE
<p>10.00am-11.00am</p> <p>BEDTIME STORY: CHLOE HOOPER IN CONVERSATION</p> <p>Host / Ashley Hay</p> <p>Tickets \$25</p>	<p>10.00am-11.00am</p> <p>WHO GETS TO TELL AUSTRALIAN STORIES?</p> <p>With Winnie Dunn, Mawunyo Gbogbo, and Dub Leffler.</p> <p>Host / Michael Mohammad Ahmad</p> <p>FREE</p>	<p>10.00am-11.00am</p> <p>PAUL MCCARTNEY AND HIS CREATIVE PRACTICE: THE BEATLES AND BEYOND</p> <p>Phillip McIntyre speaks to Scott Bevan about his recent book.</p> <p>FREE</p>	<p>10.00am-11.00am</p> <p>WHERE THE LIGHT GETS IN</p> <p>With Robbie Coburn, Rico Craig, and Sarah Holland-Batt.</p> <p>Host / Michele Seminara</p> <p>Tickets \$12.50</p>	<p>10.00am-11.00am</p> <p>NIMBLEFOOT: ROBERT DREWE IN CONVERSATION</p> <p>Host / Joanna Atherfold Finn</p> <p>Tickets \$17.50</p>	<p>10.00am-11.00am</p> <p>THE SON ALSO RISES: PADDY MANNING ON LACHLAN MURDOCH</p> <p>Host / Antony Loewenstein</p> <p>Tickets \$25</p>	<p>10.00am-11.00am</p> <p>NINE LIVES FOR OUR PLANET</p> <p>With Hunter Valley women environmental activists Linda Gill, Sue Higginson, Dom Jacobs and Carly Phillips.</p> <p>Host / John Watts</p> <p>FREE</p>	 <p>Mawunyo Gbogbo</p>
<p>11.30am-12.30pm</p> <p>THE LOWDOWN ON LONGEVITY: NORMAN SWAN IN CONVERSATION</p> <p>Host / Cassie McCullagh</p> <p>Tickets \$25 or \$15 live stream</p> <p><small>This event will be live streamed. Zoom details emailed after 8am AEST on the day of event. Check spam folders.</small></p>	<p>11.30am-12.30pm</p> <p>GIRLS, INTERRUPTED</p> <p>With Meg Vertigan and Kate Ryan.</p> <p>Host / Catharine Coleborne</p> <p>FREE</p>	<p>11.30am-12.30pm</p> <p>THE LIFE OF IRIS</p> <p>Fiona Kelly McGregor in conversation with Nancy Cushing.</p> <p>Tickets \$17.50</p>	<p>11.30am-12.30pm</p> <p>WHAT POEMS TEACH US</p> <p>With Dimitra Harvey, Peter Ramm, and Mark Tredinnick.</p> <p>Host / Paul Hetherington</p> <p>Tickets \$12.50</p>	<p>11.15am-12.15pm</p> <p>A SEARCH FOR THE SOUL OF THE NATION</p> <p>Julianne Schultz in conversation with Kent Anderson.</p> <p>FREE</p>	<p>11.15am-12.15pm</p> <p>HAUNTED PLACES AND SPACES</p> <p>With Robbie Arnott, Bronwyn Birdsall, and Holly Ringland.</p> <p>Host / Geordie Williamson</p> <p>Tickets \$25</p>	<p>11.30am-12.30pm</p> <p>STORY HUNTER: BIG IDEAS BY YOUNG WRITERS</p> <p>Join us for a special reading by primary students from some of the participating schools in our Story Hunter creative writing program.</p> <p>Host / Bethany Falzon</p> <p>FREE</p>	 <p>Pip Williams</p>
<p>12.30pm-1.15pm // NUspace Courtyard FREE LUNCHTIME PERFORMANCE BY NERDS & MUSIC - Clark Gormley and Wayne Thompson will perform their most 'literate' songs.</p>							
<p>1.30pm-2.30pm</p> <p>WOMEN AND WORDS: PIP WILLIAMS IN CONVERSATION</p> <p>Host / Ailsa Piper</p> <p>Tickets \$33 or \$15 live stream</p> <p><small>This event will be live streamed. Zoom details emailed after 8am AEST on the day of event. Check spam folders.</small></p>	<p>1.30pm-2.30pm</p> <p>SHORT AND SWEET</p> <p>Ashley Kalagian Blunt and Susan McCreery discuss the art and craft that shape a novella.</p> <p>Host / Michael Sala</p> <p>FREE</p>	<p>1.30pm-2.30pm</p> <p>RAGING GRACE</p> <p>With Andy Jackson, Kerri Shying and Gaelle Sobott.</p> <p>FREE</p>	<p>1.30pm-2.30pm</p> <p>SHARDS OF THE SUBURBS</p> <p>With Bronwyn Rennex and Beth Spencer.</p> <p>Host / Jodi Vial.</p> <p>FREE</p>	<p>1.30pm-2.30pm</p> <p>ADMISSIONS: VOICES WITHIN MENTAL HEALTH</p> <p>With Claire Albrecht, Mohammad Awad and Kristen Dunphy.</p> <p>Host / Magdalena Ball</p> <p>FREE</p>	<p>1.30pm-2.30pm</p> <p>NEW BLOOD: CRIME WRITERS TO WATCH</p> <p>With Shelley Burr, James McKenzie Watson, and Matthew Spencer.</p> <p>Host / Anna Downes</p> <p>Tickets \$20</p>	<p>1.30pm-2.30pm</p> <p>BOOK LAUNCH</p> <p>Celebrate the launch of poet Jean Kent's new anthology <i>The Shadow Box</i>. Launched by John Foulcher.</p> <p>Followed by Poetry Retrospective: Jean and John will read and discuss a selection of their work published in the past 50 years.</p> <p>Host / Lindsay Knight</p> <p>FREE</p>	<p>1.30pm-2.30pm</p> <p>BOOK LAUNCH</p> <p>Celebrate the launch of Meg Vertigan's debut novel, <i>The Strong Dress</i>, exploring the tragic dance of power, gender and scientific overconfidence in 1970s suburban Australia.</p> <p>Host / Keri Glastonbury</p> <p>FREE</p>

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<p>3.30pm-4.30pm</p> <p>MATTERS OF THE HEART: CRAIG SILVEY IN CONVERSATION</p> <p>Host / Dan Cox</p> <p>Tickets \$33 or \$15 live stream</p> <p><i>This event will be live streamed. Zoom details emailed after 8am AEST on the day of event. Check spam.</i></p>	<p>3.00pm-4.00pm</p> <p>ON VIBRATIONAL POETICS AND ART: FAYEN D'EVIE IN CONVERSATION</p> <p>Host / Peter Johnson</p> <p>FREE</p> <p><i>Presented in partnership with Newcastle Art Gallery.</i></p>	<p>3.00pm-4.00pm</p> <p>WRITING INDIGENOUS LIVES</p> <p>Paul Daley, Eleanor Limprecht and Jock Serong share how they approached the inclusion of Aboriginal protagonists and culturally significant places in their new novels.</p> <p>Host / Nardi Simpson</p> <p>Tickets \$20</p>	<p>3.00pm-4.00pm</p> <p>RECKONING WITH CHILDLESSNESS</p> <p>With Lucy Nelson and Sian Prior.</p> <p>Host / Beejay Silcox</p> <p>Tickets \$17.50</p>	<p>3.00pm-4.00pm</p> <p>RUSSIA, IF YOU'RE LISTENING</p> <p>The ABC's Matt Bevan returns to the festival with a special presentation based on his hugely popular podcast.</p> <p>FREE</p>	<p>3.00pm-4.00pm</p> <p>HERE BE LEVIATHANS: CHRIS FLYNN IN CONVERSATION</p> <p>Host / Kate Mildenhall</p> <p>FREE</p>	<p>3.00pm-4.00pm</p> <p>SPECIAL EVENT: CELEBRATE THE SUBURBAN REVIEW'S 10TH PUBLISHING YEAR</p> <p>With Claire Albrecht, Lily Cameron, Caitlin Doyle-Markwick, Bastian Fox Phelan, Andrew Menken, Erin McFadyen, Luke Patterson, and Huyen Hac Helen Tran.</p> <p>FREE</p>	<p>3.00pm-5.00pm</p> <p>Playstate Curate 8 Union St</p> <p>HERE'S ONE I MADE EARLIER</p> <p>With Helen Hopcroft, Wolf Ifritah, Richie Lewis, Fiona Kelly McGregor and Kay Proudlove.</p> <p>FREE</p> <p><i>Proudly supported by City of Newcastle</i></p>



Newcastle Writers Festival acknowledges the Awabakal and Worimi peoples, the traditional owners of the unceded land on which the festival takes place. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and recognise the continuing connection to land, water and community.

Digital tickets

As part of our COVID-19 measures, we are issuing e-tickets only (except at onsite box offices during the festival). This should minimise the number of people at box offices and help provide contactless admission to events. Please make sure you have a printout of your e-ticket or have it ready on a mobile device for our volunteers to view as you enter the venue. (Assistance will be available if you do not have a smartphone.)

Practise good hand hygiene and social distancing

Hand sanitiser stations have been positioned throughout venues for you to use. You must sanitise your hands before handling books in the festival bookshop. Please maintain social distancing in queues.