

2023 Book Week Read, Grow, Inspire



Illustration by Sara Acton

28th August 2023
SCHOOLS DAY OUT

NWF
NEWCASTLE
WRITERS
FESTIVAL

Creator of **STORY
HUNTER**

Event Information

The Newcastle Writers Festival's Schools Program returns to a live presentation for the first time in four years. We can't wait to welcome primary students back in August! The program is part of this year's Book Week celebrations and draws on the theme, 'Read, Grow, Inspire'. In the popular presentations, writers and illustrators perform from their work, talk about their craft and take questions from students. The workshops offer a more intensive and individual learning experience for Stage 2 and 3 students.

BOOKINGS

Bookings open at 9.00am on Tuesday 25 July, 2023

TICKETING

Tickets are \$6 per student for presentations and \$18.50 for workshops.

Book online via trybooking.com/events/eventlist/eventListingAccount/schoolsdayout

Teachers and guardians are free when accompanying students. All supervising adults are to remain for the duration of the events.

If you wish to be issued with an invoice, contact admin@newcastlewritersfestival.org.au

RISK MANAGEMENT

A risk management plan and venue risk assessment is available on request by emailing admin@newcastlewritersfestival.org.au

LOCATION

All sessions are being held across Newcastle City Hall, The Playhouse, Newcastle Museum and Newcastle Library. The bus drop-off area is located on Laman Street outside Newcastle Library.

BOOK SALES

MacLean's Booksellers will be operating a bookshop on the lower ground floor of City Hall in the Banquet Room and also at the Playhouse. All presenters will be available after their events to sign copies.

We acknowledge the Awabakal and Worimi peoples on whose unceded land the Festival is held.

Cover image courtesy of Sara Acton

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:



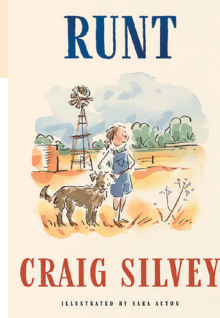
Festival Contact Details

Contact // Rosemarie Milsom 0403 041 588

Email // admin@newcastlewritersfestival.org.au

newcastlewritersfestival.org.au

2023 Book Week



Sara Acton presents Ideas Everywhere

K-2

Read, draw and imagine with children's author and illustrator Sara Acton. Explore where ideas come from and how to draw inspiration from the world around you. Create characters and draw your own unique illustration.

For Years K to 2 // 10.00am - 10.45am, 11.30am - 12.15pm & 1.15pm-2.00pm

MULUBINBA ROOM, CITY HALL

Tickets \$6 per student

(Students are to bring drawing utensils)



Dub Leffler presents Draw Along With Me

K-4

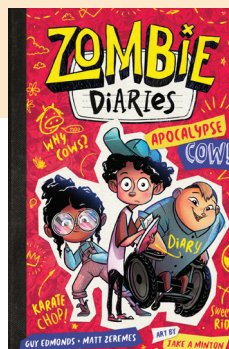
Create colourful characters inspired by Australia's wonderful flora and fauna with award-winning illustrator Dub Leffler. Students will be guided through a series of engaging exercises so that even the most reluctant artist can create a character with confidence.

For Years K to 4 // 11.30am - 12.15pm

CONCERT HALL, CITY HALL

Tickets \$6 per student

(Students are to bring clipboards and drawing utensils)



Guy Edmonds and Matt Zeremes present Love Losing

3-6

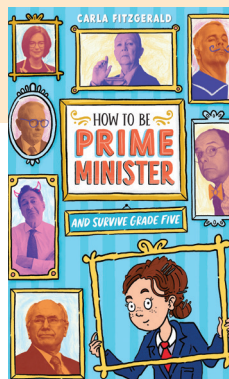
Guy and Matt are Emmy-winning writers, directors and actors, but they haven't always won stuff! Their career path is a 15-year road of ups, downs, potholes and loads of trips off the beaten track. Through resilience and persistence they've been able to forge their way forward. Hear from them

about how they did it and learn about resilience, creativity and leadership.

For Years 3 to 6 // 10.00am - 10.45am & 1.15pm - 2.00pm

CONCERT HALL, CITY HALL

Tickets \$6 per student



Carla Fitzgerald presents If Kids Ruled the World

3-6

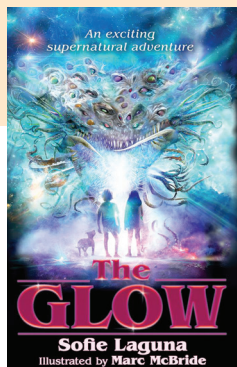
What would you do if you were the boss of the country? Make weekends longer? Or ban plastic bottles? What if kids drove cars? What if our pets could talk? What if you travelled to Mars? In this interactive session, Carla will demonstrate how 'what if' questions can ignite your imagination and fuel your narrative writing.

For Years 3 to 6 // 10.00am - 10.45am, 11.30am - 12.15pm

& 1.15pm-2.00pm

CUMMINGS ROOM, CITY HALL

Tickets \$6 per student



Sofie Laguna presents Characters: Why do we need them?

3-6

How does an actor become a writer? What are the similarities between acting and writing? Where do you find characters? How can they help us to tell a story? Why are they important?

An award-winning writer, Sofie draws on her experience as an actor to inspire children to write stories.

For Years 3 to 6 // 10.00am - 10.45am & 11.30am - 12.15pm

THE PLAYHOUSE

Tickets \$6 per student



Jeremy Lachlan presents The Long and Winding Road

4-6

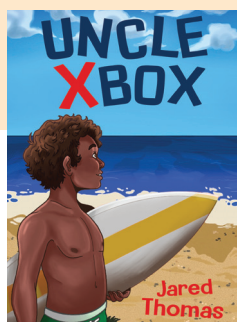
Join best-selling author Jeremy Lachlan for an in-depth discussion about his creative life. He will talk about the long and winding road to becoming an author, the inception of his epic action-adventure series, The Jane Doe Chronicles, his creative process, inspiration, and how personal triumphs

and tragedies have shaped the plots of his award-winning novels.

Years 4 to 6 // 10.00am - 10.45am & 1.15pm - 2.00pm

HUNTER ROOM, CITY HALL

Tickets \$6 per student



Jared Thomas presents Sense of Adventure

4-6

Author Jared Thomas discusses how his Nukunu culture and sense of adventure inspired the writing of UNCLE XBOX and other popular titles for young readers.

Years 4 to 6 // 11.30am - 12.15pm - HUNTER ROOM, CITY HALL

1.15pm - 2.00pm - THE PLAYHOUSE

Tickets \$6 per student

The Schools Day workshops will be presented by trained writers from our **Story Hunter program**. Story Hunter offers a year-round program of engaging workshops in classrooms, school libraries and halls and aims to provide teachers with information packs and resources, and students with new skills and knowledge while fostering engagement with reading and writing. Bookings can be made throughout the year visit newcastlewritersfestival.org.au/story-hunter

Years 3 to 4

3-4

Jess Black - Into the Deep

Take a deep dive into creating believable and compelling characters for students' creative writing. Through a series of activities this workshop gives students the tools to create and develop characters that readers will remember.

10.00am-11.15am // MEETING ROOM 1, NEWCASTLE LIBRARY

Tickets \$18.50 per student

Years 3 to 6

3-6

Kirrili Lonergan - Picture Perfect

A picture becomes a story when an emotion is felt, maybe even a curiosity or noticing some small detail that deepens the story. In this workshop, children will learn the tips and tricks of illustrating a picture book and will get 'hands on' creating their own illustration spreads.

1.00pm-2.15pm // NEWCASTLE ROOM, CITY HALL

Tickets \$18.50 per student

Years 3 to 6

3-6

Jacqui Wright - Cliffhanger Endings

You've heard of happily-ever-after endings but what about cliffhangers? They keep audiences engaged until the very last word. Learn how to write an ending that keeps your reader thinking long after they've put your story down.

1.00pm-2.15pm // THEATRETTE, NEWCASTLE MUSEUM

Tickets \$18.50 per student

Years 5 to 6

5-6

Karen Eastwood - Credible Characters

Whether your protagonist is a three headed alien, a prize winning poodle or an athletic legend your reader won't care about them unless that character feels real. Focusing on point of view and transformations, this session will explore the key ingredients to write authentic characters.

10.00am-11.15am // NEWCASTLE ROOM, CITY HALL

Tickets \$18.50 per student

Years 5 to 6

5-6

Emma Biddle - Driving Dialogue

Dialogue is important for propelling the narrative forward. Through drama, vocabulary and experimentation, students will learn practical steps on how to write dialogue effectively to create compelling characters and drive their plot forward.

10.00am-11.15am // THEATRETTE, NEWCASTLE MUSEUM

Tickets \$18.50 per student

Years 5 to 6

5-6

Jess Black - World Building

How do authors create worlds so real it feels like readers can jump into them? World building is an integral part of storytelling. This workshop will inspire students to deeply consider their worlds and the way that they impact character behaviour.

1.00pm-2.15pm // MEETING ROOM 1, NEWCASTLE LIBRARY

Tickets \$18.50 per student

Book Online

Bookings are essential

newcastlewritersfestival.org.au

Presenters & Workshop Hosts



Sara Acton

Sara is an award-winning author and illustrator who grew up in the Cotswolds in England and always loved drawing, especially people and other strange creatures. She studied BA Hons Fine Art and trained as an Art Teacher in London. She now lives on the NSW Central Coast. Sara illustrated the 2021 CBCA Notables Book of the Year (Early Childhood) *I'LL ALWAYS BE OLDER THAN YOU* and more recently Craig Silvey's *RUNT*.



Jess Black

Jess is a Newcastle-based award-winning author of 47 children's books. Jess regularly teaches creative writing in schools and runs holiday workshops. Jess has written the *TALES OF MR WALKER* series about a dog who comes to live in the fanciest hotel in town. Jess has also written the *KITTY IS NOT A CAT* series, *LITTLE PAWS* series and the *KEEPER OF THE CRYSTALS* series; and is co-author of the hugely successful *BINDI*

WILDLIFE ADVENTURE series, the *KABOOM KID* series and the *ANIMAL TALES* series.



Emma Biddle

Emma Biddle is a young adult and children's author. She has previously worked as an English teacher and in publishing - needless to say, she loves books. Emma believes that writing is a reflection of the creative nature that makes us human, and a way to explore our empathy and curiosity.



Karen Eastwood

Karen is a storyteller, writer, podcast host and educator. She has worked on Newcastle Library's early literacy programs including, *Stories Come Alive*, as well as the annual *Book Week Show*. Her mission is to help people have fun building connections through the sharing of stories. She especially enjoys helping children discover how to use the magic and power of words to convey their own unique perspectives and stories.



Guy Edmonds and Matt Zeremes

Guy and Matt created, wrote, directed and acted in the Emmy Award-winning children's television series *HARDBALL* and wrote the kid book series' *ZOO CREW* and *ZOMBIE DIARIES*. *ZOMBIE DIARIES* has been translated into seven languages. Their next series, *SPOOKY FILES*, on which they're executive producers, showrunners, creators, writers, directors and actors, hits the screens later this year. It is a co-production between the ABC and BBC.



Carla Fitzgerald

Carla is an author, recovered lawyer, writing tutor and mum of three, from Sydney. Her debut picture book, *KEEPING UP WITH THE DACHSHUNDS* and her debut middle-grade novel, *HOW TO BE PRIME MINISTER AND SURVIVE GRADE FIVE* were published in 2022. Her favourite things to do are write, walk, read, eat, and hang out with her family.



Jeremy Lachlan

Jeremy was born and raised on Wiradjuri country, in Griffith, NSW. A former bookseller, his debut novel, *JANE DOE AND THE CRADLE OF ALL WORLDS*, has been published in more than 15 countries, translated into nine languages, and was the 2019 Australian Book Industry Award winner for Book of the Year for Older Children. He came up with the idea for the *Jane Doe Chronicles*

while lost in the Cairo Museum. Book three in the series, *JANE DOE AND THE QUILL OF ALL TALES* - the start of a new epic duology - is out now.



Sofie Laguna

Sofie originally studied to be a lawyer, but after deciding law was not for her, she moved to Melbourne to train as an actor. Sofie worked for many years as an actor before she began to write books. She is now an award-winning author for children and adults. Sofie has recently released a number of books for children, including the novels, *THE SONG OF LEWIS CARMICHAEL*, and

THE GLOW, both illustrated by her husband Marc McBride.



Dub Leffler

Dub is an illustrator, writer, animator and mixed media artist, working in the arts through books, film, television, muralism and art education. He is a prominent children's book illustrator and author, collaborating with Sally Morgan, Banksy, Coral Vass and others, and is known for his soft realistic portraits and emotional landscapes. He is descended from the Bigambul and Mandandanji

people of southwest Queensland as well as being of French, Syrian and Irish heritage. He lives with his daughter and chickens on the NSW Central Coast in Darkinjung country.



Kirrili Lonergan

Kirrili is a picture book illustrator with a passion for encouraging children to let go and enjoy their creative process. She currently has fourteen picture books as well as international titles and has been shortlisted for the Speech Pathology Book of Australia Awards in 2018 and 2022. She has a great understanding of children's needs through her many years working as a paediatric

nurse. She enjoys helping children to develop visual storytelling skills in a warm and supported environment by encouraging them to trust their creative and imaginative process.



Jared Thomas

Dr Jared Thomas is a Nukunu person of the Southern Flinders Ranges, Research Fellow, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Material Culture at the South Australian Museum and University of South Australia, and an Indigenous Literacy Foundation ambassador. He is the highly regarded author of critically acclaimed

books for children and young adults including *UNCLE XBOX*, *MY SPARE HEART*, *SONGS THAT SOUND LIKE BLOOD*, and *CALYPSO SUMMER*, which was selected by the International Youth Library as a White Raven Book and short-listed for the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Indigenous Writing. Jared is also the co-author of the Patty Mills series *GAME DAY*.



Jacqui Wright

Jacqui is a writer and teacher who is a passionate believer in the power of stories to connect, inform, heal and empower individuals, groups, communities and nations. Jacqui's stories, plays and articles have been published by Radio National, ABC News, Griffith Review, Fairfax, Westerly, Margaret River, Fremantle and Currency Presses and long listed for the Miles Franklin

Literary Award. Jacqui believes that putting words together in all kinds of ways - writing, drawing, speaking and recording via digital technologies - will never lose its magic!

Book Online

Bookings are essential

newcastlewritersfestival.org.au