

SYDNEY WRITERS'



FESTIVAL MAY—2025

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MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



IN THIS TOGETHER

When a series of brilliant books about love and loss, parents and children and relationships made and broken came across my desk, I thought that the theme of our 2025 Festival would be shaped around these connections. But as our list of Festival guests grew, something bigger and broader started to emerge, something that captures *the state* of being connected, the idea that we are 'in this together'. Whether this is about being connected to other people, to the natural world or to the planet, being 'in this together' resonates with personal joys and global sorrows. It traces a thread through so much of the extraordinary work that writers will be bringing to the Festival this year – Samantha Harvey's Booker Prize winner *Orbital*, Helen Garner's *The Season* and Lemn Sissay's *Let the Light Pour In* are just some examples.

At a time when polarisation, mutual hostilities and political upheaval feel oppressively present, it also captures the fact that the Festival experience itself is an escape from this kind of division as writers and readers of all ages come together to talk and to listen.

Freedom of expression is a core value of the Festival and so, as ever, the program encompasses a huge range of writers and writing from Australia and around the world. You can choose to come and discover outstanding fiction or poetry or to tune in to big topics and difficult conversations. Nathan Luff has created a vibrant program of sessions for children, families and young adults, with everyone from Costa Georgiadis to Jeff Kinney and Lynette Noni taking to the stage.

At the Festival Hub Carriageworks, at Sydney's iconic meeting place Sydney Town Hall or in the heart of Sydney at Parramatta, our writers and audiences will be in this festival together.

With thanks

My special thanks go to Guest Curator Nardi Simpson, who has created conversations that celebrate writing beyond the self and the music of words.

We are also fortunate to have Durkhanai Ayubi, Michelle Brasier, Maeve Marsden and Jennifer Wong bringing together storytellers with the power to delight and move us. Blak & Bright and Bebe Oliver join our community of partners to showcase First Nations writers.

This is a very special Festival program, with many international guests thanks to valuable collaborations with our long-term partner, Auckland Writers Festival and Lyndsey Fineran, and also to Brisbane Writers Festival and Jackie Ryan, Margaret River Readers and Writers Festival and Sian Baker, Melbourne Writers Festival and Ronnie Sullivan and The Wheeler Centre and Gene Smith.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Sydney Writers' Festival acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this nation. They are the first storytellers of our land and we honour their tradition of passing down stories.

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which our events take place. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

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WITH THANKS TO EDITOR GROUP FOR PROOFREADING THE PROGRAM. ALL DETAILS WERE CORRECT AT TIME OF PUBLICATION.

MULTIPACK — MULTIPACK — MU

Too many events on your wish list? You're in luck! Purchase tickets to 4 or more events and receive a discount.

Buy **4 events** and get **5% off**

Buy **5 events** and get **10% off**

Buy **6 or more events** and get **15% off**

For more ticketing information scan the QR code.



Assistive listening

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HALL SYDNEY TOWN HALL SYDNEY TO



MAY 21
6-7PM

LIANE MORIARTY AND DAVID NICHOLLS

TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

What happens when your stories of everyday life go global?
Join Liane Moriarty and David Nicholls as they compare the experiences of seeing their powerful local stories turn into bestselling novels and bingeable television series and films. With ABC Radio National's Claire Nichols (*The Book Show*). Supported by ARA.

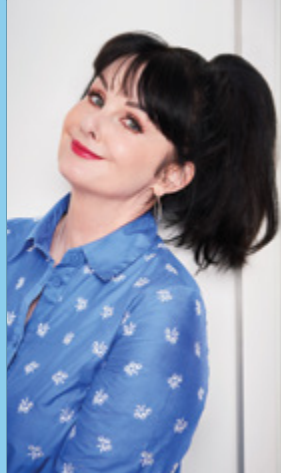


MAY 21
8-9PM

MARIAN KEYES: MY FAVOURITE MISTAKE

TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

Reigniting life's spark with love, family and Irish small-town politics
Join bestselling Irish author Marian Keyes as she discusses the latest Walsh Family dramas involving lost sparks, old flames and small-town politics with *Mamamia's* Holly Wainwright. Supported by the City of Sydney. Supported by the Consulate General of Ireland and Culture Ireland.



MAY 22
6-7PM

JEANETTE WINTERSON: 40 YEARS OF ORANGES ARE NOT THE ONLY FRUIT

TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

Literary icon reflects on debut that became a classic
Listen to Jeanette Winterson talk about her pioneering debut novel, *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*, 40 years after its publication. Jeanette Winterson appears thanks to the support of The Salon.



MAY 22
8.15-9.30PM

SWF GREAT DEBATE: TRUE FRIENDS STAB YOU IN THE FRONT

TICKETS FROM
Adult \$35
Concession \$30

Hilarious Festival favourite that gets provocative, pithy and personal

Debate Oscar Wilde's famous aphorism about friends who betray you with Matilda Boseley, Annabel Crabb, David Marr, Rhys Nicholson, Justine Rogers and Jennifer Wong. Adjudicated by Yumi Stynes. Supported by the City of Sydney and UNSW Sydney.

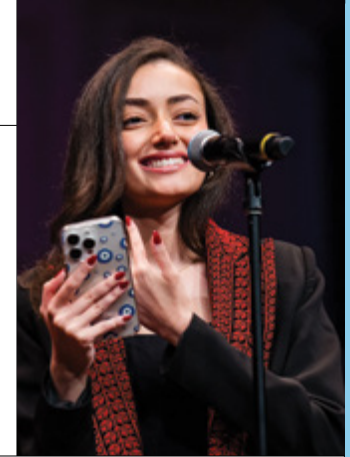


MAY 23
8-9.30PM

BANKSTOWN POETRY SLAM

TICKETS FROM
Adult \$30
Concession \$20

Beloved Sydney institution returns to the Festival with international guest Plestia Alaaqad
Come together for a powerful night of poetry, performances and a shared passion for language with Bankstown Poetry Slam, headlining poet Plestia Alaaqad and host Bilal Hafda. Presented in partnership with Bankstown Poetry Slam.



MAY 24
6-7PM

BARRIE CASSIDY AND FRIENDS: STATE OF THE NATION

TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

On this side of another election, where do we stand?

Assess the state of Australian politics in this special post-election wrap-up edition of Barrie Cassidy's panel discussion, featuring award-winning journalists Waleed Aly, George Megalogenis, Amy Remeikis and Niki Savva.

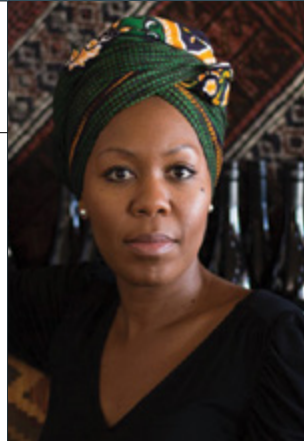


SYDNEY TOWN HALL

MAY 24 8-9.15PM DREAMS OF THE FUTURE

TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

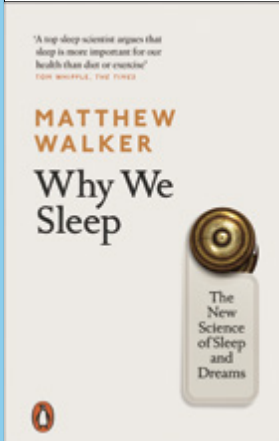
Powerful stories for change
Envision a better world for everyone using the power of words to create change in this inspiring collaboration between Sydney Writers' Festival and Vivid Sydney.
Presented in partnership with Vivid Sydney.



MAY 27 6-7.15PM WHY WE SLEEP, FEATURING PROFESSOR MATTHEW WALKER

TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

How to sleep more deeply for a longer, healthier life
Hear neuroscientist Matthew Walker discuss his work on the science of sleep and how we can harness it to live a longer, happier and healthier life. With host Sana Qadar.
Presented in partnership with Vivid Sydney.



SUBSCRIBE TO THE SATURDAY PAPER

The Saturday Paper

FROM \$79.

AROUND SYDNEY



FIRETALK

Voices that spark and glow with history, resilience and creativity
Join First Nations writers, poets and songwriters around the fire as they share stories that reflect on the past, speak to the present and dream bold futures into being.

MAY 28, JUNE 4, JUNE 11
6.30-7PM
WALUMILLAWNS, BARANGAROO

FREE

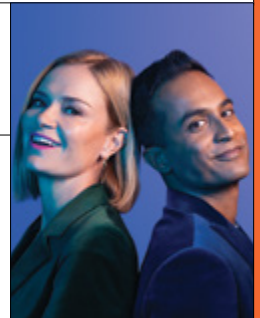
Presented in partnership with Vivid Sydney.

MAY 23
6.30-7.30PM
RIVERSIDE THEATRES,
PARRAMATTA

NOT STUPID LIVE WITH JULIA BAIRD AND JEREMY FERNANDEZ

ALL TICKETS \$10

Nine reasons not to abandon hope
Join hosts Julia Baird and Jeremy Fernandez for a special live recording of their hit ABC podcast *Not Stupid* and catch up on all that you've missed in Australian news. Supported by the City of Parramatta.
Presented in partnership with ABC Radio National.



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WEDNESDAY MAY 21

9.30-10.30AM

STATE LIBRARY OF NSW, LIBRARY AUDITORIUM

All tickets \$30

VANISHING HISTORIES

Uncovering women disappeared from history: Miles Franklin, Mary Cecil Allen and more

Join Kerrie Davies and Yves Rees in conversation with Susan Wyndham as they uncover trailblazing Australian women whose stories have disappeared from the history books.

Supported by UNSW Sydney.

Presented in partnership with the State Library of NSW.



11AM-12PM

STATE LIBRARY OF NSW, LIBRARY AUDITORIUM

All tickets \$30

RHODRI LEWIS ON SHAKESPEARE'S TRAGEDIES

Reading Shakespeare's tragedies to understand being human in an uncertain world

Hear Princeton scholar Rhodri Lewis discuss Shakespeare's tragedies as explorations of the human condition and answer what makes them so fresh and compelling today. In conversation with Sophie Gee.

Presented in partnership with the State Library of NSW.



1-2PM

STATE LIBRARY OF NSW, LIBRARY AUDITORIUM

All tickets \$30

BUSINESS BEHAVING BADLY

The latest scandals, sackings and stocktakes of Australian businesses

Consider the state of Australian businesses with influential business commentator Joe Aston and award-winning labour relations lawyer Josh Bornstein. In conversation with host Richard Holden.

Supported by UNSW Sydney.

Presented in partnership with the State Library of NSW.



2.30-3.30PM

STATE LIBRARY OF NSW, LIBRARY AUDITORIUM

All tickets \$30

BEST OF THE FEST

Let the Festival buzz begin with insights from literary aficionados

Festival favourites Roanna Gonsalves, Beejay Silcox and Michael Williams share what to read, who to see and how to make the most of your Festival week.

Supported by UNSW Sydney.

Presented in partnership with the State Library of NSW.



4-5PM

STATE LIBRARY OF NSW, LIBRARY AUDITORIUM

All tickets \$30

MICHAEL VISONTAY: NOBLE FRAGMENTS

Literary vandalism's legacy lands in Sydney journalist's lap

Follow Michael Visontay's journey into the eccentric world of book collectors to find the scattered pages of the Gutenberg Bible and uncover the secrets of his family along the way. With Caroline Baum.

Presented in partnership with the State Library of NSW.



6-7PM

STATE LIBRARY OF NSW, LIBRARY AUDITORIUM

FREE

Bookings required

SECRET LIFE OF BOOKS: KATE GRENVILLE ON THE SECRET RIVER

Discover the hidden story behind the modern Australian classic

Celebrate 25 years since publication of *The Secret River* in this special Sydney Writers' Festival edition of the *Secret Life of Books* podcast. With author Kate Grenville and hosts Jonty Claypole and Sophie Gee.

Presented in partnership with the State Library of NSW.



BUNNAMAGOO

Bunnamagoo Estate Wines, located in Mudgee, offers a range of premium whites, reds, and rosé from family-owned vineyards. With celebrated varietals like Semillon, Shiraz, and Cabernet Sauvignon, alongside exciting newcomers like Fiano, Chenin Blanc, and Sangiovese, we craft wines that blend tradition with modern techniques and sustainable practices.

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Under no one's thumb but yours.

We're funded by readers, not billionaires

The Guardian is fiercely independent, which means we can report on fact, not fiction, at a time when powerful people are getting away with more and more.

WORKS CARRIAGEWORKS CARRIAGEWORKS



GUEST CURATOR — GUEST CURATOR — GUEST CURATOR — GUEST CURATOR

The 2025 Festival showcases the work of Guest Curator Nardi Simpson on stage and behind the scenes as she brings important conversations to the Festival.

NARDI SIMPSON

Nardi Simpson is a Yuwaalaraay storyteller from NSW's northwest freshwater plains. Her most recent book is *The Belburd*. She has curated two events in the 2025 Festival Program which focus on bodies, song, rhythm and language as the material of storytelling and connecting.

Beyond the Self, see page 15
Songstress Poetica, see page 20



HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT

MAY 20 6-7.30PM BAY 17 OPENING NIGHT: IN THIS TOGETHER

TICKETS FROM
Adult \$45
Concession \$40
Local and international storytellers speak about togetherness and connection

Get inspired as we kick off the 2025 Festival with Thomas Mayo, Nardi Simpson, Lemn Sissay and Jeanette Winterson sharing stories to reflect the Festival theme – In This Together.

Jeanette Winterson appears thanks to the support of The Salon.

Supported by the City of Sydney.



GRIFFIN THEATRE COMPANY 2025 SEASON



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NUCLEUS
by Alana Valentine
KOREABOO
by Michelle Lim Davidson
**WHITEFELLA
YELLA TREE**
by Dylan Van Den Berg
NATURISM
by Ang Collins



**MAY 20
8.15-9.15PM
BAY 17**

TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35



**MAY 21
6-7PM
BAY 17**

TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35



**MAY 21
6.30-7.45PM
TRACK 12**

Adult \$30
Concession \$20

**MAY 21
7-8PM
BAY 20,
THE ARA STAGE**

Adult \$40
Concession \$35



**MAY 21
8-9PM
BAY 17**

TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35



CHARLOTTE WOOD: A WRITING LIFE

Australia's first Booker Prize-shortlisted writer in a decade considers legacy

Hear beloved Australian author Charlotte Wood discuss her latest release, the Booker Prize-shortlisted *Stone Yard Devotional*, and reflect on her prestigious career, in conversation with Ailsa Piper.

Supported by ARA.



THE ART AND SCIENCE OF AI

What happens when human creativity and artificial intelligence collide?

Writer Jeanette Winterson and AI researcher Toby Walsh explore how artificial intelligence is changing our understanding of being human and what this means for the future.

Jeanette Winterson appears thanks to the support of The Salon.

Supported by UNSW Sydney.



THE 2025 GRIFFIN AWARD AND KEYNOTE

Celebrate exceptional Australian playwriting with Griffin Theatre Company

Leading Australian writer Leah Purcell (*The Drover's Wife*) speaks to her extraordinary career alongside the announcement of the 2025 winner of the Griffin Award. The award's 28th annual event features readings from the three exceptional award finalists.

Presented in partnership with Griffin Theatre Company.



QUEER LOVE AND LONGING

The queer experience of life and love, then and now

Local treasure Dylin Hardcastle and international gems Alan Hollinghurst and Yael van der Wouden trace love, longing and queer experience through the decades in their heartfelt new novels. With Maeve Marsden.

Alan Hollinghurst appears thanks to the support of the Cuffley Foundation.



HARRIET WALTER: WHAT SHAKESPEARE'S WOMEN MIGHT HAVE SAID

Lending our ears to the silent soliloquies of Shakespeare's women

Enter the unexplored depths of Shakespeare's female characters with multi-award-winning British actor Harriet Walter as she shines new light on their classic stories. In conversation with Ailsa Piper.

Presented with the support of Bell Shakespeare.

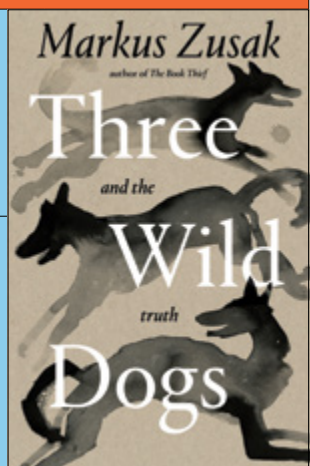


THURSDAY MAY 22

LIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT

MAY 22
10–11AM
BAY 17

MARKUS ZUSAK:
THREE WILD DOGS AND THE TRUTH



TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

Real-life Cerberus fills home with equal doses love and chaos

Twenty years after his international sensation *The Book Thief*, Markus Zusak turns to non-fiction. Listen as Markus extols on love and human-animal connection in his memoir about his three big pound dogs. In conversation with Richard Glover.

Supported by UNSW Sydney.



KATE GRENVILLE:
UNSETTLED

MAY 22
10–11AM
BAY 20,
THE ARA STAGE

What comes after an Acknowledgement of Country?

Journey through time and place with Festival favourite Kate Grenville as she reframes her colonial ancestry to place First People in the same picture. With Beejay Silcox.

Adult \$40
Concession \$35

11–11.30AM **FREE** **TOBY WALSH ON THE SIX IDEAS YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND AI** **See page 40 for details**

11AM–12PM
TRACK 12
Adult \$30
Concession \$20

YOUR FAVOURITES' FAVOURITES: BENJAMIN LAW AND MELANIE CHENG

A pet rabbit teaches a family to open their hearts

Benjamin Law talks to his new favourite writer, Melanie Cheng, about the tension between grief and hope in *The Burrow*, her tender second novel set in locked down Melbourne.



11AM–12PM
TRACK 8
Adult \$30
Concession \$20

A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH

Memoirs that reflect on love, loss and life in the aftermath

Hear from Michelle Lesh and Ailsa Piper on life-altering grief and their unexpected journeys of discovery, community and love. With host Michaela Kalowski.



11.30AM–12PM **FREE** **JOE ASTON ON WHAT HE LEARNED ABOUT QANTAS** **See page 40 for details**

LIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT



GINA CHICK:
WE ARE THE STARS

MAY 22
12–1PM
BAY 17

Finding solace and wisdom in the wilderness

Hear *Alone Australia* winner Gina Chick regale you with stories of her extraordinary life, from her unconventional childhood to deep links with nature as an adult. With Rosemarie Milsom.

TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

12–1PM
BAY 20,
THE ARA STAGE
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

OUT OF THIS WORLD

Spinning stories of humanity in outer space

Consider the limits of humanity in the universe with Booker Prize-winning novelist Samantha Harvey and UNSW Press Bragg Prize for Science Writing winner Ceridwen Dovey. With host Ashley Hay.

Samantha Harvey appears thanks to the support of Fiona and Matthew Playfair.

Supported by UNSW Sydney.



1–2PM
BAY 19
Adult \$25
Concession \$15

BEYOND THE SELF

Connecting with ourselves and each other in body and spirit

Join writers Daniel Browning, Thomas Mayo and Nardi Simpson for a discussion of the ways circles of belonging, from ourselves outward, shape our lives and work and frame the way we reach towards the spiritual.

With Bebe Oliver.



1–2PM
TRACK 12
Adult \$30
Concession \$20

HOME AND HOMESICK

Home as a beginning, a story, a memory, a dream

Abbas El-Zein, Peter Godwin and Hannah Kent navigate home through different countries, conflict and exile. In conversation with Sisonke Msimang.



1–2PM
TRACK 8
Adult \$30
Concession \$20

NIKKI GEMMELL: WING

Watching power, privilege and prestige vanish in the Australian bush

Venture into murky territory and spiky relationships in Nikki Gemmell's feminist literary thriller *Wing*. Five people wander into the bush but not everyone comes out. With writer and broadcaster Sarah Macdonald.

Supported by Kristina Stefanova.



1.30–2PM **FREE** **ADAM BAYES ON MIND-ALTERING MENTAL HEALTH** **See page 40 for details**

2-2.30PM **FREE** **MICHAEL GAWENDA ON BEING A JEW IN CONTEMPORARY AUSTRALIA**

See page 40 for details

LIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT

MAY 22
2-3PM
BAY 17

DAVID NICHOLLS: *YOU ARE HERE*

David Nicholls

TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

When feeling lost, let love rewrite the map

Travel the winding road of love through first encounters and second chances with bestselling novelist and screenwriter David Nicholls, in conversation with Jennifer Byrne on his latest love story.

CC



2-3PM

BAY 20,
THE ARA STAGE

Adult \$40
Concession \$35

CC

BRINGING THE PAST TO LIFE

Travelling around the world and back in time

Step back in time with Emily Maguire and Jock Serong as they discuss their latest historical novels with host ABC Radio National's Kate Evans (*The Bookshelf*).

Supported by ARA.



3-3.30PM

FREE **LINDA JAIVIN ON THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION IN CHINA**

See page 40 for details

3-4PM

BAY 19
Adult \$25
Concession \$15

CLI-FI: FICTION'S NEW FRONTIER

Bringing the climate into the foreground of fiction

Join James Bradley, Jane Caro and Inga Simpson in conversation with Beejay Silcox as they muse on how the changing climate is shifting the literary landscape. Supported by UNSW Sydney.



3-4PM

TRACK 12
Adult \$30
Concession \$20

FERDIA LENNON: *GLORIOUS EXPLOITS*

An original and brilliant story of war and art in ancient Sicily

Explore a world where you can hate the invaders but still love their poetry through a quirky contemporary lens with debut Irish novelist Ferdia Lennon, in conversation with Tom Wright.

Ferdia Lennon appears thanks to the support of Phillip Keir and Sarah Benjamin.

Supported by the Consulate General of Ireland.



3-4PM

TRACK 8
Adult \$30
Concession \$20

ANNE SUMMERS: 50 YEARS OF *DAMNED WHORES AND GOD'S POLICE*

Feminist icon on 50 years since and 50 years more

Reflect on 50 years of Anne Summers's classic *Damned Whores and God's Police* – and plan for the next 50 years of feminism – in conversation with Alecia Simmonds.



3.30-4PM

FREE **KERRIE DAVIES ON MILES FRANKLIN'S LITTLE-KNOWN YEARS**

See page 40 for details

LIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT



MAY 22
4-5PM
BAY 17

PAST AND FUTURE OF INDIGENOUS RECOGNITION

TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

Reflecting on the past and building towards the future
Respected Indigenous leader Thomas Mayo and historian Clare Wright reflect on the history of First Nations movements for change in Australia and look at next steps. With Lorena Allam.

CC

4-5PM

BAY 20,
THE ARA STAGE
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

CC

FAMILY SECRETS

Blood is thicker than ink in these revealing family memoirs

Join writers Candice Chung, Peter Godwin and Michael Visontay as they reveal family secrets and truths in their tender memoirs. With host Georgina Godwin.



5-6PM

BAY 19
Adult \$25
Concession \$15

AFGHAN WOMEN'S WORDS: *MY DEAR KABUL*

Testimony of the fragile space between collapse and creation

Join judge Shakila Abawi Shigarf, writer Rana Zurmaty and host Durkhanai Ayubi to discuss the accounts of the first year after the fall of Afghanistan to the Taliban from the women of *My Dear Kabul*.



5-6PM

BAY 24

FREE

YOUR NEXT FAVOURITE BOOK

Get some recommendations for your TBR pile

Whether you seek escape, challenge, inspiration or delight, you'll find your next favourite book at this panel event as some of the Festival's most exciting writers introduce their new releases. With host Michael Williams.



5-6PM

TRACK 12
Adult \$30
Concession \$20

PSYCHEDELIA

Exploring personal stories and the latest research on psychedelic treatment

Hear the cases for (and against) using psychedelics, including MDMA, to treat post-traumatic stress disorder. Adam Bayes and Rebecca Huntley discuss this controversial topic with Norman Swan.

Supported by UNSW Sydney.



LIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT

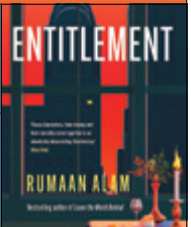
MAY 22
5-6PM
TRACK 8

RUMAAN ALAM'S *AMERICAN DREAM*

Adult \$30
Concession \$20

What we want, what we need and what we deserve

Examine the promise (or lie) of the American Dream in the 21st century with Rumaan Alam's exhilarating new novel of race, health and class, *Entitlement*. In conversation with Sisonke Msimang.



UNSW X SWF HIGHLIGHT — UNSW X SWF HIGHLIGHT — UNSW X SWF H

MAY 22
6-7PM
BAY 17

KALIANE BRADLEY:
THE MINISTRY OF TIME



TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

Bending space, time and genre with a spy thriller rom-com

Co-presented by UNSW Sydney.

Question what it means to change the world by defying history with Kaliane Bradley's bestselling debut, which blends time travel, romance and spy thriller. With host Melanie Kembrey.

Kaliane Bradley appears thanks to the support of Rosie Williams and John Grill AO.



LIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT



STAN GRANT:
MURRIYANG, SONG OF TIME

MAY 22
6-7PM
BAY 20,
THE ARA STAGE

Challenging political binaries with breath, silence and forgiveness

Reconnect with love and kindness for these troubled times through the practice of Yindymarra – deep silence and respect – in this experiential event with acclaimed writer Stan Grant.

Supported by ARA.

Adult \$40
Concession \$35



7-8PM

BAY 19

Adult \$25
Concession \$15

THE BOGONG: NOW IS THE HOUR

Where Blak voices rise, stories thrive and spirit endures

The Bogong is a powerful gathering of Blak storytellers, where words ignite resistance, resilience and identity. Experience the unfiltered truth of First Nations survival with Eric Avery, Daniel Browning, Debra Dank, Kirli Saunders, Nardi Simpson and host Bebe Oliver.

Presented in partnership with Blak & Bright.



7-8PM

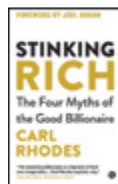
TRACK 12

Adult \$30
Concession \$20

BAD BILLIONAIRES

How billionaires control politics, news, economics and their own narrative

Consider the economic inequity of the billionaire class with author of *Stinking Rich*, Carl Rhodes. In conversation with journalist and writer Paddy Manning.



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7-8PM

TRACK 8

Adult \$30
Concession \$20

CRAFTING THE PERFECT CRIME

With old friends, the past never stays buried for long

Join bestselling crime novelists Chris Whitaker and Christian White as they discuss how to craft the perfect mystery that keeps readers guessing until the very end. With host Hayley Scrivenor.



LIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT

MAY 22
8-9PM
BAY 17

STATE OF THE ART: THE NOVEL

TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

Four brilliant practitioners examine the health of the novel

Join esteemed novelists Rumaan Alam, Robbie Arnott, Samantha Harvey and Torrey Peters as they discuss the state of the novel with host ABC Radio National's Kate Evans (*The Bookshelf*).

Samantha Harvey appears thanks to the support of Fiona and Matthew Playfair.



8-9PM

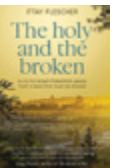
BAY 20,
THE ARA STAGE

Adult \$40
Concession \$35

ITTAY FLESCHER: THE HOLY AND THE BROKEN

A writer's call for Israeli-Palestinian peace

Hear from educator, journalist and peace-builder Ittay Flescher on his search for empathy in narratives of the past and understanding how we might find a way forward. With Michael Visontay. Ittay will appear via video.



FRIDAY MAY 23

8.30-
9.30AM

BAY 24

FREE

COFFEE AND HEADLINES WITH 7AM

Start your day at Carriageworks with coffee and the latest news

Editor in Chief of Schwartz Media Erik Jensen discusses today's headlines with special guests.

Presented in partnership with 7am.



10-10.30AM

FREE

NORMAN SWAN ON WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOUR KIDS

See page 41 for details

10-11AM

BAY 17

TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

THE MORIARTY SISTERS

One family, three successful writers

Join the Moriarty sisters, Jaclyn, Liane and Nicola, as they discuss their career beginnings, different publishing paths and many successes with writer and broadcaster Sarah Macdonald.



10-11AM

BAY 20,
THE ARA STAGE

Adult \$35
Concession \$30

HOLDING UP THE MIRROR

Writers reflect on anti-semitism and xenophobia now

As global and local events see communities under pressure and Jewish writers return to the stories of the past to think about the present, we bring together writers Philippe Sands and Michael Gawenda to consider the current moment with host Samantha Selinger-Morris.



10–11AM

TRACK 12

FREEBookings
required**ABC RADIO NATIONAL: THE BOOKSHELF**

Recorded LIVE from Carriageworks!

Catherine Chidgey, Mariana Enríquez and Alan Hollinghurst join hosts Kate Evans from ABC Radio National's *The Bookshelf* and Claire Nichols from ABC Radio National's *The Book Show* to discuss the books they're enjoying and being challenged by. With an introduction by poet Afra Atiq.

Alan Hollinghurst appears thanks to the support of the Cuffley Foundation.

Presented in partnership with ABC Radio National.



11–11.30AM

FREE**MARCEL DIRSUS ON HOW TYRANTS RISE (AND FALL)**See page 41
for details**HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT**

MAY 23
11AM–12PM
BAY 19

SONGSTRESS POETICA

Adult \$25
Concession \$15

The refreshing rhythms of First Nations poetry and song

Poets and artists Afra Atiq, Jazz Money and Kirli Saunders discuss the power of poetry and song for Blak women. With host Alethea Beetson.

Presented in partnership with Hachette Australia.

11AM–12PM

TRACK 8

Adult \$30

Concession \$20

**ROBERT DESSAIX:
ART, TRAVEL, IDEAS AND LOVE**

Musings on the shimmering treasures that make up a life

Join Robert Dessaix as he peers into the kaleidoscope of memory to find what makes life worth living, sharing his musings in his latest memoir *Chameleon*. With Caroline Baum.



12–12.30PM

FREE**LUKE MCNAMARA ON
HATE SPEECH AND THE LAW**See page 41
for details**HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT**

MAY 23
12–1PM
BAY 17

**HELEN GARNER:
THE SEASON**

HELEN GARNER
The Season

TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

Observing football, life and family from the sidelines

Hear iconic Australian writer Helen Garner's reflections on football and the cycles of life in *The Season*, her first full-length book in a decade. In conversation with David Leser.

CC BY

Supported by UNSW Sydney.



12–1PM

BAY 20,
THE ARA STAGE

Adult \$40

Concession \$35

CC

1–2PM

BAY 19

Adult \$25

Concession \$15

1–2PM

BAY 24

FREE

1–2PM

TRACK 12

Adult \$30

Concession \$20

1–2PM

TRACK 8

Adult \$30

Concession \$20

**SUZANNE AND GINA CHICK:
MOTHER-DAUGHTER BONDS**

Tracing literary lineage and inheritance with mother and daughter memoirists

Join Suzanne and Gina Chick on stage together for the first time to discuss their work and three generations of Australian writers with their publisher Jane Palfreyman.

**THE SHORTEST HISTORIES OF EVERYTHING**

Making big stories bite-sized

Join history writers Andrew Ford and Andrew Leigh as they discuss how to trim complex histories of music and economics while still keeping the essence of truth.

**PEN LECTURE: THE FICTIONAL SPACE**

Literature sorts fact from fiction in the face of authoritarianism

Writer and lawyer Shankari Chandran uses the powerful space of fiction for truth-telling and preserving the narratives of the Sri Lankan genocide in the face of authoritarianism's presentation of fiction as fact.

Presented in partnership with PEN Sydney.

**YOUR FAVOURITES' FAVOURITES: HANNAH KENT AND CHARLOTTE MCCONAGHY**

Uncovering the buried seeds of our humanity

Hannah Kent and Charlotte McConaghay consider the lengths we'll go to to protect the ones we love in Charlotte's heart-stopping new novel, *Wild Dark Shore*.

**LECH BLAINE: AUSTRALIAN GOSPEL**

Finding safety in the pubs of country Queensland

Hear Lech Blaine unpack memory and inheritance from his stranger-than-fiction childhood memoir *Australian Gospel* to answer the question of what makes a family. In conversation with Ashley Hay.

**HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT**

MAY 23
2–3PM
BAY 20,
THE ARA STAGE

**CHINA PAST, PRESENT,
FUTURE**

TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

Understanding China's future means understanding its past

Discuss the crucial history that made China what it is today with writers Linda Jaivin, Louisa Lim and Edward Wong in conversation with host Peter Hartcher.

CC



LIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT

MAY 23
2–3PM
BAY 17

ALAN HOLLINGHURST: *OUR EVENINGS*

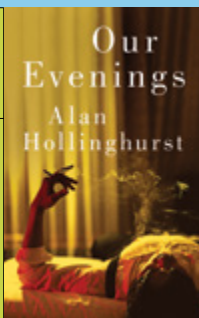
TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

A tender portrait of an English life from the 60s to today

Hear Alan Hollinghurst discuss his seventh novel, a rich and pleasurable account of a lifetime in modern England and the search for identity. In conversation with Georgina Godwin.

Alan Hollinghurst appears thanks to the support of the Cuffley Foundation.

Supported by ARA.



3–4PM
BAY 19

Adult \$25
Concession \$15

MALCOLM KNOX: *THE FIRST FRIEND*

With friends like these, who needs enemies?

Hear Malcolm Knox discuss his satirical tragicomedy of Stalinist autocrats and friends dragged along for the ride in *The First Friend*. With Charlotte Wood.



3–4PM
TRACK 12

Adult \$30
Concession \$20

CATHERINE CHIDGEY: *THE BOOK OF GUILT*

An unsettling, unusual, brilliant dystopian vision of 1970s England

Hear from Catherine Chidgey about her unnerving new novel, which mixes Shirley Jackson and Kazuo Ishiguro's *Never Let Me Go*. With Beejay Silcox.



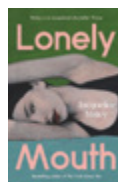
3–4PM
TRACK 8

Adult \$30
Concession \$20

WHAT WOMEN WANT

Women getting what they want, one way or another

Join Jacqueline Maley, Debra Oswald and Holly Wainwright as they discuss the remarkable, unpredictable and powerful wants of the women in their novels. In conversation with host Nicole Abadee.



3–4PM

FREE

ANDREW LEIGH AND RICHARD HOLDEN ON INEQUALITY

See page 41
for details

4–5PM
BAY 17

TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

COLM TÓIBÍN: FROM *BROOKLYN TO LONG ISLAND*

Returning to Brooklyn in a long-awaited sequel

Hear how Laureate of Irish Fiction Colm Tóibín returned to the Lacey family of international bestseller *Brooklyn* with the long-awaited sequel, set 20 years after Rose's death. With ABC Radio National's Kate Evans (*The Bookshelf*).

Colm Tóibín appears thanks to the support of Rosie Williams and John Grill AO.

Supported by the Consulate General of Ireland and Culture Ireland.



cc

4–5PM

BAY 20,
THE ARA STAGE
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

THE POWER OF CHOICE

Intimate portraits of what makes a good death

See photographs from award-winning photographer Julian Kingma's collection *The Power of Choice* and hear him discuss the choice of voluntary assisted dying with contributor Andrew Denton and host Ashley Hay.



cc

5–6PM

BAY 19
Adult \$25
Concession \$15

FRUITS OF THE LOOM

Connecting the Arab diaspora in fragments, moments and memories of home

A heartfelt dialogue between Egyptian-Australian author Daniel Nour and Palestinian-Australian author Micaela Sahhar about their debut non-fiction works and themes of home, faith, family, language and love. With Winnie Dunn. Presented in partnership with Sweatshop Literacy Movement.



5–6PM

BAY 24

FREE

STEMMINIST BOOK CLUB

Which is mightier: the pen or the stethoscope?

This special Festival edition of the STEMminist Book Club discusses the phenomenon of doctors who write. Hosted by Caroline Ford with guests Jumaana Abdu, Melanie Cheng and Sarah Sasson. Supported by UNSW Sydney.



5–6PM

TRACK 12
Adult \$30
Concession \$20

THE END OF THE WEST?: *GLOBAL ROAMING LIVE*

The making of a new global order

Join Geraldine Doogue, Hamish Macdonald and special guests Philippe Sands, Bec Strating and Edward Wong for a discussion of the end of 'the West' in this live recording of ABC Radio National's *Global Roaming*.

Philippe Sands appears thanks to the support of Phillip Keir and Sarah Benjamin.

Presented in partnership with ABC Radio National.



5–6.15PM

TRACK 8
Adult \$30
Concession \$20

2025 STELLA PRIZE WINNER ANNOUNCEMENT

Discover the 2025 Stella Prize winner live at the Festival

Join the judges, Debra Dank, Astrid Edwards, Leah Jing McIntosh and Rick Morton, to announce the 2025 winner of the Stella Prize.

Presented in partnership with Stella.



LIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT

MAY 23
6–7PM
BAY 17

UNTRUE CRIME

TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

On the mysterious business of writing about crime

Novelist Shankari Chandran, investigative journalist Kate McClymont and Diamond Dagger Award winner Ian Rankin discuss the line between fact and fiction in the stories they tell about crime. With host Matthew Condon.



cc

6–7PM

BAY 20,
THE ARA STAGEAdult \$35
Concession \$30**ZOË FOSTER BLAKE:
THINGS WILL CALM DOWN SOON****How to get everything you want, except a break**

For those juggling everything the world throws at them, join Zoë Foster Blake, in conversation with *Mamamia's* Holly Wainwright, for a reminder that things will *definitely* calm down soon.

6.30–
7.30PM

BAY 19

Adult \$25
Concession \$15**DRAG QUEENS DOWN UNDER****Drag Storytime for grown-ups: Because reading is fundamental**

Join in a celebration of the camp, colour and creativity of Australian drag in this evening of storytelling with drag queens featured in *Drag Queens Down Under* Etcetera Etcetera, Space Horse, Coco Jumbo, Maxi Shield and Art Simone.



7–8PM

TRACK 8

Adult \$30
Concession \$20**TURMOIL AND TYRANNY****Understanding global change and challenges**

Join political scientist and author Marcel Dirsus (*How Tyrants Fall: And How Nations Survive*) and award-winning foreign correspondent Peter Greste (*The Correspondent*) for an essential conversation about the uncertainty of our current time.

Supported by Loneran.



7–8PM

TRACK 12

Adult \$30
Concession \$20**RAJA SHEHADEH: CHRONICLING PALESTINE****The people and places of Palestine then and now**

Palestine's leading writer, human rights lawyer Raja Shehadeh talks about family (*We Could Have Been Friends, My Father And I*), memory (*Forgotten*) and politics (*What Does Israel Fear From Palestine?*), creating stories of Palestine's past and present. Raja appears live via video.



8–9PM

BAY 20,
THE ARA STAGEAdult \$40
Concession \$35**BIG BEGINNINGS****Setting a high bar for debut novels**

Debut novelists Dominic Amerena, Kaliane Bradley and Ferdia Lennon discuss their journeys to publication and stellar success, with Madeleine Gray.

Kaliane Bradley appears thanks to the support of Rosie Williams and John Grill AO.

Ferdia Lennon appears thanks to the support of Phillip Keir and Sarah Benjamin.

Supported by the Consulate General of Ireland.

Supported by UNSW Sydney.

**HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT****MAY 23
8–9.30PM**

BAY 17

TICKETS FROM
Adult \$35
Concession \$35**QUEERSTORIES****Vulnerable and fierce, hilarious and heartbreaking**

Celebrating the culture and creativity of the LGBTQIA+ community one true story at a time, Festival favourite Queerstories has played to crowds big and small, from Mudgee to Murwillumbah, Albury to Adelaide, Brisbane and beyond. Featuring Rumaan Alam, Hasib Hourani, Daniel Nour, Torrey Peters and more.

**SATURDAY MAY 24**8.30–
9.30AM

BAY 24

FREE**COFFEE AND HEADLINES
WITH THE SATURDAY PAPER****Start your day at Carriageworks with coffee and the latest news**

Founding Editor of *The Saturday Paper* and Editor in Chief of Schwartz Media Erik Jensen discusses today's headlines with special guests.

Presented in partnership with *The Saturday Paper*.

10–11AM

BAY 17

TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35**BAKERS' DELIGHT****Flour, butter, eggs and a heaping cup of friendship**

With host Jennifer Wong, get special insight into the art and business of baking from the queens of Australian pastry, Flour and Stone's Nadine Ingram, Beatrix Bakes's Natalie Paull and Lune Croissanterie's Kate Reid.



10–11AM

BAY 19

Adult \$25
Concession \$15**ROBBIE ARNOTT: DUSK****A mythical puma stalks Tasmania leaving hunters in her wake**

Hear Voss Literary Prize winner Robbie Arnott discuss his beautiful novel *Dusk* and the gothic myths of beasts and prey that underpin it. With Michaela Kalowski.



10–11AM

BAY 24

FREE**THE GOOD WEEKEND QUIZ****Free, interactive and live edition of a beloved weekend ritual**

This wildly popular event returns so bring your best trivia buffs to this special literary edition of *Good Weekend's* Saturday institution, The Quiz. With quizmaster Brian Yatman and host Benjamin Law.

Presented in partnership with *Good Weekend*.

ILIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT

MAY 24
11AM-12PM
TRACK 8

YOUR FAVOURITES' FAVOURITES: MICHAEL ROBOTHAM AND CHRIS WHITAKER



Adult \$30
Concession \$20

A soaring thriller from sensational British novelist
Hear bestselling crime writer Michael Robotham introduce crime novelist Chris Whitaker and his new thriller *All the Colours of the Dark*, a twisting story of a teenage abduction that turns psychological for childhood best friends.



MAY 24
11AM-12PM
BAY 20,
THE ARA STAGE

Yael van der Wouden: THE SAFEKEEP

Adult \$40
Concession \$35

Booker-shortlisted historical fiction with a sapphic twist
Hear how Yael van der Wouden uncovered unexpected secrets of post-WWII Netherlands for her debut novel, *The Safekeep*. With ABC Radio National's Claire Nichols (*The Book Show*).

12-1PM
BAY 17
TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

A.C. GRAYLING ON CANCEL CULTURE

Contemporary culture wars: as affective as they are ancient



Philosopher A.C. Grayling traces 'cancel culture' back to the ancient Greeks and tries to find a middle ground among the incendiary debates fanned by contemporary culture wars.
Supported by UNSW Sydney.



12-1PM
BAY 19
Adult \$25
Concession \$15

THE WOOD AND THE TREES

From the roots to the leaves, the significance of trees



Consider the gifts and majesty of trees and their cultural and social significance with Sophie Cunningham and Inga Simpson, in conversation with host Ashley Hay.

12-1PM
BAY 24
FREE

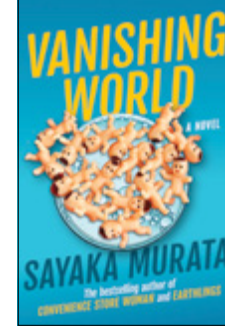
DICEY TOPICS

Roll the die and dive deep into taboo topics



A Festival favourite returns with this live edition of *Good Weekend's* Dickey Topics. Join Benjamin Law and Torrey Peters as they discuss the taboo subjects we are told to keep private.
Presented in partnership with *Good Weekend*.

ILIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT



MAY 24
1-2PM
BAY 20,
THE ARA STAGE

SAYAKA MURATA: VANISHING WORLD

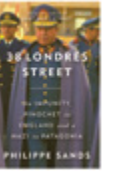
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

Turning sex and marriage on their heads in alternative Eden
After her hit *Convenience Store Woman*, Sayaka Murata turns her attention to love, marriage and sex in her dark, speculative novel, *Vanishing World*. Sayaka discusses her new novel in this live translated event with Melanie Kembrey. Sayaka will be speaking in Japanese and will be translated into English by a live interpreter.

1-2PM
TRACK 8
Adult \$30
Concession \$20

PHILIPPE SANDS: 38 LONDRES STREET

Uncovering the connection between brutal 20th-century regimes



International human rights lawyer Philippe Sands uses interviews and archives to link Pinochet's dictatorship in Chile with the Nazi regime in his new memoir-meets-detective story, *38 Londres Street*. With Rosalind Dixon. Philippe Sands appears thanks to the support of Phillip Keir and Sarah Benjamin.
Supported by UNSW Sydney.

ILIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT

MAY 24
2-3PM
BAY 17

BEN MACINTYRE: THE SIEGE



TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

Examining a pivotal moment in political history
Ben Macintyre discusses his definitive account of the 1980 Iranian embassy siege in London which put the SAS on the world stage. With ABC Radio National's Richard Fidler (*Conversations*).
Supported by ARA.



2-2.30PM

JESS HILL ON STOPPING FAMILY VIOLENCE

See page 41 for details

2-3PM
BAY 19
Adult \$25
Concession \$15

PEN PALS
Finding your people and building a writing community
Join multi-award-winning writers, performers and comedians Michelle Brasier, Virginia Gay and Chloe Elisabeth Wilson as they chat about first draft dinner parties, sharing stories and being each other's biggest fans.



2.30-3PM

GEORGE MEGALOGENIS ON THE NEW SHAPE OF AUSTRALIAN POLITICS

See page 41 for details

3–4PM

BAY 20,
THE ARA STAGE
Adult \$40
Concession \$35**FLAWED ARTISTS: THE MINEFIELD LIVE****Should we separate the art from the artists?**

In this live recording of ABC Radio National's *The Minefield*, hosts Waleed Aly and Scott Stephens and guest Anna Funder discuss the complex relationship between an artist, their work and their audience.

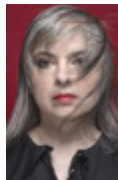
Presented in partnership with ABC Radio National.



3–4PM

TRACK 8
Adult \$30
Concession \$20**MARIANA ENRÍQUEZ: MASTERING THE MACABRE****Exorcisms are for more than just ghosts**

Hear Mariana Enríquez on the inspiration behind her queer and twisted tales of counterculture and Argentina's brutal political past in *A Sunny Place for Shady People*. With Carody Culver.



LIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT

MAY 24
4–5PM
BAY 17**IAN RANKIN:
MASTER OF CRIME**TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35**Diamond Dagger–winning crime writer puts
detective behind bars**

Following the latest instalment of the Inspector Rebus series, Ian Rankin reflects on his career as an international bestselling author and the UK's #1 crime writer. With Michael Williams.

Supported by ARA.



4–5PM

BAY 19

FREEBookings
required**YOUR KID'S NEXT READ****Pick up some tips and tricks for the young
readers in your life**

The team behind the popular Your Kid's Next Read community know it takes a village to raise readers and writers – join them as they provide advice on how to support readers of all types, from reluctant to avid.



4–5PM

BAY 24

FREE**SMH BEST YOUNG NOVELISTS****Meet these award-winning emerging novelists**

Join *Spectrum's* Melanie Kembrey to celebrate the winners of the SMH Best Young Novelist award in its 29th year. This event is a must for emerging writers and supporters of Australian literature.

Presented in partnership with *The Sydney Morning Herald*.4.30–
5.30PMBAY 20,
THE ARA STAGE
Adult \$40
Concession \$35**LEMN SISSAY: LET THE LIGHT POUR IN****A transformative, life-affirming hour of poetry, wonder
and joy**

Listen as a master of spoken word shares his life-affirming poetry of wonder and defiant joy, as well as the stories behind his work, in this transformative and experiential event.

5.30–
6.30PMBAY 19
Adult \$25
Concession \$15**CULINARY CULTURE****Tasting the social, political and historical ingredients
that flavour our food**

Culinary icons Durkhanai Ayubi and Tony Tan consider the good and bad of food culture, including our relationship with food, and the flavours of identity. With host Virginia Trioli.

5.30–
6.30PM

BAY 24

FREE**GUARDIAN AUSTRALIA'S
ARE YOU GAME SHOW****An extremely enjoyable and deeply chaotic battle of
the brains**

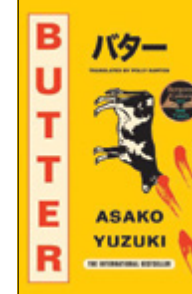
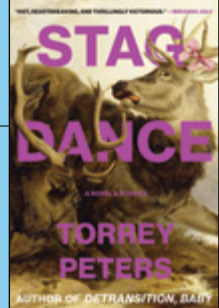
Play along with *Guardian Australia's* first ever game show as two teams of Festival guests – led by Matilda Boseley and Lucy Clark – battle it out for the ultimate prize: bragging rights. Hosted by culture editor Steph Harmon.

Presented in partnership with *Guardian Australia*.

LIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT

MAY 24
5.30–
6.30PM
TRACK 8**TORREY PETERS:
STAG DANCE**Adult \$30
Concession \$20**Pushing the limits of trans writing with cross-dressing
lumberjacks**

Romp through gender apocalypse, secret romance and cross-dressing lumberjacks with Torrey Peters's *Stag Dance*, the kaleidoscopic, gender-blurring follow-up to her bestselling debut, *Detransition, Baby*. In conversation with Yves Rees.

MAY 24
6.30–7.30PM
BAY 20,
THE ARA STAGE**ASAKO YUZUKI:
BUTTER**Adult \$40
Concession \$35**A con-woman, a journalist and food worth dying for**

Join Asako Yuzuki as she talks about her international bestseller *Butter* and the transgressive pleasures of food, in a live translated event with Carody Culver.

Asako will be speaking in Japanese and will be translated into English by a live interpreter.

6.30–
7.30PM

TRACK 12

FREEBookings
required**BARAYA BARRAY (SING COUNTRY)
WHALE SONG****Sharing the knowledge, poetry and music
within Whale Song**

Join Eric Avery, Elizabeth Luland, Kirli Saunders and host Luke Patterson to discuss listening deeply to Country and the lessons we can learn from Whales in revitalising language, Culture and storytelling.

Presented in partnership with Red Room Poetry.



LIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT

MAY 24
7.30–
8.30PM
BAY 17

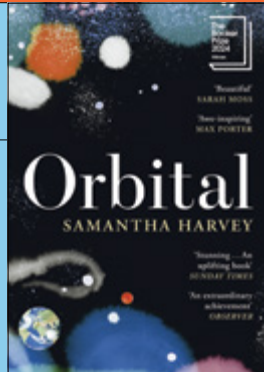
SAMANTHA HARVEY: *ORBITAL*

TICKETS FROM
Adult \$50
Concession \$45

Observing our big blue planet spinning silently beneath us

Hear author Samantha Harvey discuss her 2024 Booker Prize-winning novel, *Orbital*, a profound charting of the delicate cycles of Earth and human life. In conversation with Charlotte Wood.

Samantha Harvey appears thanks to the support of Fiona and Matthew Playfair.



7.30–
8.30PM

BAY 19

Adult \$25

Concession \$15

EDWARD WONG: *AT THE EDGE OF*

A sweeping history of China through one family's story

Reflect on the parallel histories of a family and a nation undergoing momentous change, with journalist and author Edward Wong in conversation with Louisa Lim.



7.30–8.45PM

BAY 24

Adult \$30

Concession \$20

THE BEST MEDICINE

Laugh, cry and sing with Michelle Brasier's best of the Fest

Michelle Brasier curates the funniest Festival writers – Virginia Gay, Tanya Hennessy, Benjamin Law, Maeva Marsden and more – for a celebration of life in all its joy, mess and brevity.



8–9.15PM

TRACK 8

Adult \$30

Concession \$20

FEAST: FAMILY-STYLE

Food, family, stories: a veritable Festival feast!

Comedian Jennifer Wong gathers a dinner party of Festival friends to share their delicious and delightful stories of family and food. With Candice Chung, Richard Glover, Kate Reid, Samah Sabawi, Tony Tan and Virginia Trioli.



SUNDAY MAY 25

8.30–
9.30AM

BAY 24

FREE

COFFEE AND HEADLINES WITH *THE MONTHLY*

Start your day at Carriageworks with coffee and the latest news

Editor of *The Monthly* Michael Williams discusses the headlines with special guests.

Presented in partnership with *The Monthly*.



10–11AM

BAY 19

Adult \$25

Concession \$15

NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Head for home with the latest edition of *Griffith Review*

Award-winning writers Ceridwen Dovey, David Ellison and George Haddad explore the many meanings of home, from the hauntings of heritage to the secrets of domestic spaces. With *Griffith Review* editor Carody Culver.

Presented in partnership with *Griffith Review*.

**LIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT**

MAY 25
10–11AM
BAY 17

TRUMPOCALYPSE NOW

TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

What to expect from President Trump's second time around

Listen in as experts on US politics Peter Beinart, Nick Bryant and Emma Shortis unpack Trump's first months in office and what to expect over the next four years. With host Barrie Cassidy.



MAY 25
11AM–12PM

BAY 20,

THE ARA STAGE

THE F WORD

Adult \$40
Concession \$35

Feminist solutions for wicked problems

Reckon with the present state of feminism and help predict its future with Hannah Ferguson, Jess Hill and Vanessa Turnbull-Roberts. In conversation with Sisonke Msimang.



11AM–12PM

TRACK 8

Adult \$30

Concession \$20

JOHN LYONS: *A BUNKER IN KYIV*

Behind the front lines of Ukraine's civilian army

Hear from one of Australia's leading journalists, John Lyons, on the everyday resilience of Ukrainian civilians during the ongoing war. John Lyons appears live via video.



12–1PM

BAY 19

Adult \$25

Concession \$15

RITUAL

The official launch of Australia's first anthology of Muslim poetry

Launch *Ritual* with a celebratory reading of poetry from the contributors and editors Sara M. Saleh and Zainab Syed, with host, founding director of Sweatshop Literacy Movement, Michael Mohammed Ahmad.

Presented in partnership with Sweatshop Literacy Movement.



12–1PM

TRACK 12

Adult \$30

Concession \$20

SAYAKA MURATA AND ASAKO YUZUKI

Prominent Japanese writers share the stage in their native tongue

Join Sayaka Murata and Asako Yuzuki to discuss their bestselling and award-winning novels and the rise of Japanese fiction globally. This conversation will be conducted in Japanese with open-captioned English translation.



1-2PM

BAY 20,
THE ARA STAGE

Adult \$40

Concession \$35

**PETER BEINART: BEING JEWISH
AFTER THE DESTRUCTION OF GAZA****Seeking cultural clarity on Jewish identity in this painful moment**

Hear acclaimed columnist and political commentator Peter Beinart explore rewriting the narrative of Jewish identity to embrace nuance, tradition and culture, in conversation with Debbie Whitmont.

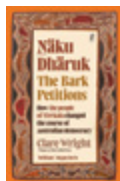


1-2PM

TRACK 8

Adult \$30

Concession \$20

**CLARE WRIGHT:
NĀKU DHĀRUK THE BARK PETITIONS****Understanding how the land rights movement changed Australian democracy**Hear the story of *Nāku Dhāruk The Bark Petitions* and the land rights movement from Stella Prize-winning historian Clare Wright. In conversation with Barrie Cassidy.

LIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT

MAY 25
2-3PM
BAY 17**MAKING A WRITER****TICKETS FROM**
Adult \$40
Concession \$35**Where Ireland succeeds and Australia struggles**

Prominent writers Colm Tóibín and Charlotte Wood discuss how they became writers and what Ireland and Australia's literary culture means to them. With host Michael Williams.

Colm Tóibín appears thanks to the support of Rosie Williams and John Grill AO.

Supported by the Consulate General of Ireland and Culture Ireland.



2-3PM

BAY 19

FREEBookings
required**HUMOUR ME****Writers lightening the world with laughter**

Join prize judge Richard Glover as he announces the winner of the 2025 Russell Prize for Humour Writing and discusses what really gets us laughing.

Presented in partnership with the State Library of NSW.



3-4PM

BAY 20,
THE ARA STAGE

Adult \$35

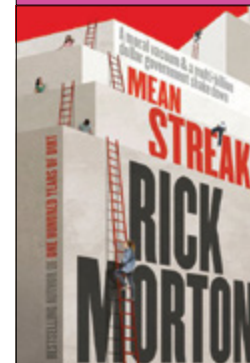
Concession \$30

STORIES OF PALESTINE**Remembering and connecting with the homeland through writing**

Immerse yourself in reflections of the homeland and moments of connection with writers Sara Haddad, Hasib Hourani and Samah Sabawi, hosted by Micaela Sahhar.



LIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT

MAY 25
3-4PM
TRACK 8**RICK MORTON: THE
STORY OF ROBODEBT**Adult \$30
Concession \$20**An infamous political tragedy and the lies that built it**

Let two-time Walkley Award-winning journalist Rick Morton take you through the Robodebt saga – its four and a half years of lies, deadly consequences and damning implications for Australia. With Erik Jensen.

MAY 25
3.30-
4.30PM
BAY 17**SPIES, LIES AND
SECRETS****TICKETS FROM**
Adult \$40
Concession \$35**This conversation is for your ears only**

Join Jack Beaumont and Ben Macintyre as they lead you into the reality of espionage and intrigue, in conversation with Matthew Condon.

3.30-
4.30PM

BAY 19

Adult \$25

Concession \$15

**YOUR FAVOURITES' FAVOURITES:
ANNABEL CRABB AND JESSIE TU****The untranslatable mother-daughter bond, distanced by language**Join writer and presenter Annabel Crabb in admiring Jessie Tu, one of the brightest new voices in Australian literature, and her sophomore novel *The Honeyeater*.4.30-
5.30PMBAY 20,
THE ARA STAGE

Adult \$40

Concession \$35

PLESTIA ALAQAD: THE EYES OF GAZA**Memoir meets manifesto in the rubble of Gazan homes**

Hear Palestinian journalist and poet Plestia Alaqad's personal account of the siege of Gaza after 7 October 2023. In conversation with Sara M. Saleh.

4.30-
5.30PM

TRACK 12

Adult \$30

Concession \$20

ARCHIVE FEVER: ALL IN THE FAMILY**Sometimes the best stories are those closest to home**For this live episode of the popular *Archive Fever* podcast, co-hosts Yves Rees and Clare Wright are joined by Lech Blaine and Anne-Marie Te Whiu to probe the promise and pitfalls of family archives.

4.30–
5.30PM

TRACK 8

Adult \$30

Concession \$20

THE BUSINESS OF BEAUTY**What could women be without the expectation of beauty?**

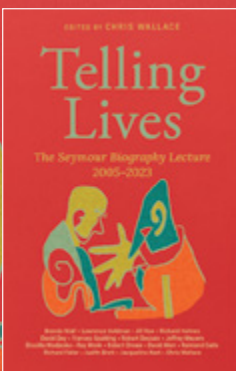
Listen as presenter and debut memoirist Lucinda Price (aka Froomes), writer and nutritionist Rebecca Reynolds and researcher and debut novelist Chloe Elisabeth Wilson rewrite women's beauty standards with host Yumi Stynes.

Supported by UNSW Sydney.

**HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT**MAY 25
5.30–
6.30PM
BAY 17**CLOSING ADDRESS:
ANNA FUNDER: BEARS
OUT THERE****TICKETS FROM**
Adult \$45
Concession \$40**Writing in the age of bots and brologarchs**

Anna Funder's work explores the best and worst that humans are capable of. Hear her discuss how we can resist the exploitation of our humanity in a world where bots and tech bros see humans as raw material.

Supported by ARA.



From political profiles to 'tragic poems' this anthology unpacks the artforms of autobiography, biography, and memoir—celebrating the deft skill required to tell the truth of a life beautifully.




NATIONAL LIBRARY
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Brenda Niall • Lawrence Goldman • Jill Roe
Richard Holmes • David Day • Frances Spalding
Robert Dessaix • Jeffrey Meyers • Drusilla Modjeska
Ray Monk • Robert Drewe • David Marr
Raimond Gaita • Richard Fidler • Judith Brett
Jacqueline Kent • Chris Wallace

Proud to play our part

The City of Sydney is proud to partner with Sydney Writers' Festival 2025.

We are committed to supporting arts and culture in our city.

CITY OF SYDNEY 

FREE EVENTS – FREE EVENTS – FREE EVENTS – FREE EVENTS –

Join some of the Festival's most inquisitive minds at this year's fascinating and **FREE** events.

MAY 21
6–7PM

STATE LIBRARY
OF NSW
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FREE

Bookings
required

SECRET LIFE OF BOOKS: KATE GRENVILLE ON *THE SECRET RIVER*

Discover the hidden story behind the modern
Australian classic

Celebrate 25 years since publication of *The Secret River* in this special Sydney Writers' Festival edition of the *Secret Life of Books* podcast. With author Kate Grenville and hosts Jonty Claypole and Sophie Gee.

Presented in partnership with the State Library of NSW.



MAY 22
5–6PM

BAY 24

FREE

YOUR NEXT FAVOURITE BOOK

Get some recommendations for your TBR pile

Whether you seek escape, challenge, inspiration or delight, you'll find your next favourite book at this panel event as some of the Festival's most exciting novelists introduce their new releases. With host Michael Williams.



MAY 23
8.30–
9.30AM

BAY 24

FREE

COFFEE AND HEADLINES WITH 7AM

Start your day at Carriageworks with coffee and the latest news

Editor in Chief of Schwartz Media Erik Jensen discusses today's headlines with special guests.

Presented in partnership with 7am.



MAY 23
10–11AM

TRACK 12

FREE

Bookings
required

ABC RADIO NATIONAL: *THE BOOKSHELF*

Recorded LIVE from Carriageworks!

Catherine Chidgey, Mariana Enríquez and Alan Hollinghurst join hosts Kate Evans from ABC Radio National's *The Bookshelf* and Claire Nichols from ABC Radio National's *The Book Show* to discuss the books they're enjoying and being challenged by. With introduction by poet Afra Atiq.

Alan Hollinghurst appears thanks to the support of the Cuffley Foundation.

Presented in partnership with ABC Radio National.



MAY 23
1–2PM

BAY 24

FREE

PEN LECTURE: THE FICTIONAL SPACE

Literature sorts fact from fiction in the face of authoritarianism

Writer and lawyer Shankari Chandran uses the powerful space of fiction for truth-telling and preserving the narratives of the Sri Lankan genocide in the face of authoritarianism's presentation of fiction as fact.

Presented in partnership with PEN Sydney.



MAY 23
5–6PM

BAY 24

FREE

STEMMINIST BOOK CLUB

Which is mightier: the pen or the stethoscope?

This special Festival edition of the STEMMinist Book Club discusses the phenomenon of doctors who write. Hosted by Caroline Ford with guests Jumaana Abdu, Melanie Cheng and Sarah Sasson.

Supported by UNSW Sydney.



MAY 24
8.30–9.30AM

BAY 24

FREE

COFFEE AND HEADLINES WITH *THE SATURDAY PAPER*

Start your day at Carriageworks with coffee and the latest news

Founding Editor of *The Saturday Paper* and Editor in Chief of Schwartz Media Erik Jensen discusses today's headlines with special guests.

Presented in partnership with *The Saturday Paper*.



MAY 24
10–11AM

BAY 24

FREE

THE GOOD WEEKEND QUIZ

Free, interactive and live edition of a beloved weekend ritual

This wildly popular event returns so bring your best trivia buffs to this special literary edition of *Good Weekend's* Saturday institution, The Quiz. With quizmaster Brian Yatman and host Benjamin Law.

Presented in partnership with *Good Weekend*.



MAY 24–25
10AM–4PM

CARRIAGEWORKS
MAIN FOYER

FREE

STORY FACTORY: THE GIVING SHOP

Personalised poems to give to someone special

Looking for a meaningful gift for a loved one? At The Giving Shop, receive a personalised poem written by Story Factory students – the perfect way to celebrate a special person in your life.



CRAIG REUCASSEL
Breakfast
5.30am - 8am
702AM listen

Radio SYDNEY

FREE EVENTS – FREE EVENTS – FREE EVENTS – FREE EVENTS –

MAY 24
12–1PM

BAY 24

FREE

DICEY TOPICS

Roll the die and dive deep into taboo topics

A Festival favourite returns with this live edition of *Good Weekend's* Dickey Topics. Join Benjamin Law and Torrey Peters as they discuss the taboo subjects we are told to keep private.

Presented in partnership with *Good Weekend*.



MAY 24
4–5PM

BAY 19

FREE

Bookings required

YOUR KID'S NEXT READ

Pick up some tips and tricks for the young readers in your life

The team behind the popular Your Kid's Next Read community know it takes a village to raise readers and writers – join them as they provide advice on how to support readers of all types, from reluctant to avid.



MAY 24
4–5PM

BAY 24

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SMH BEST YOUNG NOVELISTS

Meet these award-winning emerging novelists

Join *Spectrum's* Melanie Kembrey to celebrate the winners of the SMH Best Young Novelist award in its 29th year. This event is a must for emerging writers and supporters of Australian literature.

Presented in partnership with *The Sydney Morning Herald*.



MAY 24
5.30–6.30PM

BAY 24

FREE

GUARDIAN AUSTRALIA'S ARE YOU GAME SHOW

An extremely enjoyable and deeply chaotic battle of the brains

Play along with *Guardian Australia's* first ever game show as two teams of Festival guests – led by Matilda Boseley and Lucy Clark – battle it out for the ultimate prize: bragging rights. Hosted by culture editor Steph Harmon.

Presented in partnership with *Guardian Australia*.



MAY 24
6.30–7.30PM

TRACK 12

FREE

Bookings required

BARAYA BARRAY (SING COUNTRY) WHALE SONG

Sharing the knowledge, poetry and music within *W hale Song*

Join Eric Avery, Elizabeth Luland, Kirli Saunders and host Luke Patterson to discuss listening deeply to Country and the lessons we can learn from Whales in revitalising language, Culture and storytelling.

Presented in partnership with Red Room Poetry.



MAY 25
8.30–9.30AM

BAY 24

FREE

COFFEE AND HEADLINES WITH *THE MONTHLY*

Start your day at Carriageworks with coffee and the latest news

Editor of *The Monthly* Michael Williams discusses the headlines with special guests.

Presented in partnership with *The Monthly*.



MAY 25
2–3PM

BAY 19

FREE

Bookings required

HUMOUR ME

Writers lightening the world with laughter

Join prize judge Richard Glover as he announces the winner of the 2025 Russell Prize for Humour Writing and discusses what really gets us laughing.

Presented in partnership with the State Library of NSW.



Based on the novel by
Helen Garner
Directed by
Eamon Flack

THE SPARE ROOM

07 JUN – 13 JUL



GRIEF IS THE THING WITH FEATHERS

26 JUL – 24 AUG





ORLANDO

30 AUG – 21 SEP

Based on the novel by
Virginia Woolf
Adapted by
Carissa Licciardello & Elsie Yager



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NEWSOUTH

CURIOSITY LECTURE SERIES – CURIOSITY LECTURE SERIES – CU

The Curiosity Lecture series returns to the Festival with a line-up of our most thought-provoking speakers delivering one-time talks on their favourite topics of intrigue, interest and importance.

Curiosity events take place at Carriageworks Bay 24 and are **FREE**.

The Curiosity Lecture Series is supported by UNSW Sydney.

THURSDAY MAY 22

11–11.30AM

BAY 24

FREE

TOBY WALSH ON THE SIX IDEAS YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND AI

Everything to know about the origins and future of artificial intelligence

Hear one of the world's leading researchers in artificial intelligence, Toby Walsh, trace the origins of AI in science and culture with the six key ideas you need to understand.

11.30AM–12PM

BAY 24

FREE

JOE ASTON ON WHAT HE LEARNED ABOUT QANTAS

How a golden Australian icon disgraced itself for extraordinary profit

Unpick the dirty details of the downfall of the national airline in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic with investigative journalist Joe Aston.

1.30–2PM

BAY 24

FREE

ADAM BAYES ON MIND-ALTERING MENTAL HEALTH

The cutting-edge medical research and treatment of severe mental illness

Leading mental health expert Adam Bayes shares his latest research and clinical experience working on mood disorders, including depressive and bipolar disorders, with pioneering treatments like psilocybin.

2–2.30PM

BAY 24

FREE

MICHAEL GAWENDA ON BEING A JEW IN CONTEMPORARY AUSTRALIA

How identity can change over a lifetime

Journalist and editor Michael Gawenda explores the evolution of his Jewish identity, from secular beginnings, to a growing interest in Judaism and deepening connection with Israel.

3–3.30PM

BAY 24

FREE

LINDA JAIVIN ON THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION IN CHINA

The call to violence that reverberated through history

Learn about the lead-up to the historic beginning of the Cultural Revolution with author and China expert Linda Jaivin.

3.30–4PM

BAY 24

FREE

KERRIE DAVIES ON MILES FRANKLIN'S LITTLE-KNOWN YEARS

Legendary Australian Miles Franklin's lost years uncovered

Hear Kerrie Davies uncover Miles Franklin's lost years, after *My Brilliant Career*, when Miles worked as a servant and, after literary rejections, moved to the United States.

FRIDAY MAY 23

10–10.30AM

BAY 24

FREE

NORMAN SWAN ON WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOUR KIDS

The secrets behind the critical primary school years

Get your questions answered about raising healthy and happy kids from ages 5 to 10 with Norman Swan and his newest medical guidebook.

11–11.30AM

BAY 24

FREE

MARCEL DIRSUS ON HOW TYRANTS RISE (AND FALL)

What goes up, must come down

With democracies faltering worldwide, learn the blueprint for bringing down tyrants with political advisor Marcel Dirsus.

12–12.30PM

BAY 24

FREE

LUKE MCNAMARA ON HATE SPEECH AND THE LAW

What do we know about the impact of the law on the harms of hate speech?

As state and federal governments move to criminalise forms of hate speech, look at the effect that laws can have on hate speech and its victims, with legal expert Luke McNamara.

3–4PM

BAY 24

FREE

ANDREW LEIGH AND RICHARD HOLDEN ON INEQUALITY

How economics underpins change for the worse and the better

Economics professor at UNSW Sydney Richard Holden and Parliamentarian Andrew Leigh unpack the causes and consequences of economic inequality.

SATURDAY MAY 24

2–2.30PM

BAY 24

FREE

JESS HILL ON STOPPING FAMILY VIOLENCE

How to end gendered violence in one generation, as promised

Hear investigative journalist and Stella Prize winner Jess Hill analyse what's working and what's not in preventing family violence and map out what we can do to finally change things.

2.30–3PM

BAY 24

FREE

GEORGE MEGALOGENIS ON THE NEW SHAPE OF AUSTRALIAN POLITICS

How minority governments help or hinder Australian democracy

Examine the state of Australian democracy and the possible future of minority governments with journalist and political commentator George Megalogenis.

ALL-DAY YA – ALL-DAY YA – ALL

All-Day YA is an epic celebration of all things YA (Young Adult Fiction). All-Day YA events are located at Carriageworks Track 12 and Bay 17.

SATURDAY MAY 24

10–11AM

TRACK 12

Adult \$25
Concession \$15

ALL THE THRILLS AND CHILLS

Settle in at the edge of your seat

YA authors Mike Lucas, Margot McGovern and Neal Shusterman write page-turners that shock, delight and sometimes even terrify their readers. Hear them discuss the art and appeal of inspiring goosebumps.



12–1PM

TRACK 12

Adult \$25
Concession \$15

IN FULL BLUME

Meet the authors walking in Judy Blume's footsteps

Judy Blume garnered attention for writing open and honest works for teenagers. Fifty years later, fresh authors continue to follow in her footsteps. Hear Ange Crawford, Hayley Lawrence and Steph Tisdell address the joys and challenges of writing for young adults today.



2–3PM

TRACK 12

Adult \$25
Concession \$15

HEART AND SOUL

The irresistible allure of romantasy

As romantasy continues to delight readers of all ages, we are joined by some of the latest stars of this hybrid-genre: Keshe Chow, Sophie Clark and Tricia Levenseller. Hosted by Annie McCann.



4–5PM

TRACK 12

Adult \$25
Concession \$15

LADY'S KNIGHT

Cheesecake and dragons and knights, oh my!

Bestselling duo Amie Kaufman and Meagan Spooner are back with *Lady's Knight*, a medieval romp sure to delight their readers old and new. Be among the first to discover this delightful new novel. With host Jeremy Lachlan.



5.30–
6.30PM

BAY 17

Adult \$25
Concession \$15

WANDERING WILD WITH LYNETTE NONI

Something to swoon over

Lynette Noni is the bestselling and award-winning author of *The Prison Healer* series, *The Medoran Chronicles*, and the *Whisper* duology. She appears in conversation with Alex Adsett to discuss her latest novel, *Wandering Wild*.



FAMILY DAY – FAMILY DAY – FA

Family Day is filled with activities that will whisk kids away into a world of wonder. Enjoy talks, storytelling sessions, arts and craft stations, a mobile library, live animals and more. Let your imagination run wild with our free activities. All events take place on Sunday 25 May at Carriageworks. Free events take place in Bays 22–24 (no bookings required). Ticketed events are held in Track 12 and Bay 17.

SUNDAY MAY 25

9.30–
10.15AM

TRACK 12

All tickets \$10

MAKE YOUR OWN COMIC

Calling all budding graphic novelists

In this fun, interactive session, learn how to tell a great visual story using panels, design and word balloons with graphic novelist Mike Barry.

Rec. ages 8–12.



10–10.30AM

BAY 24

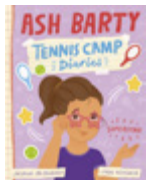
FREE

STORYTIME WITH JADE GOODWIN

Bringing imagination to life

Come enjoy some storytelling fun with Jade Goodwin, the illustrator of *Let's Try Again Another Day* and the beloved series *Little Ash* and *Yarn Quest*.

Rec. ages 4+



10.30–11AM

BAY 24

FREE

DEADLY REPTILES

Amazing reptile facts galore!

Come test your reptile knowledge with Corey Tutt. Corey introduces an incredible world of reptiles, some of them deadly in more ways than one.

Rec. ages 5–12.



10.45–
11.30AM

TRACK 12

All tickets \$10

TOTALLY TERRI LIBENSON

From greeting cards to international bestselling graphic novels

Terri Libenson is an American cartoonist and creator of the graphic novel series *Emmie and Friends*. Discover Terri's journey from greeting cards to bestselling author. In conversation with Kylie Howarth.

Rec. ages 7–12.



11–11.30AM

BAY 24

FREE

COSTA'S GARDEN

Discover the joy of nature

Australia's favourite gardener Costa Georgiadis is joined by Megan Daley, the author of *The Beehive*, to introduce young readers to the awe and wonder of the natural world.

Rec. ages 4–8.



FAMILY DAY – FAMILY DAY – FAMILY DAY – FAMILY DAY – FAMILY

11.30AM–
12PM

BAY 24

FREE

TARONGA PRESENTS

Go wild with Taronga Zoo!

Join Kristin Darell, author of Taronga's latest junior fiction series, as she introduces some wildlife visiting from Taronga Zoo.

Rec. ages 3–12.

Presented in partnership with Taronga Zoo Sydney.



12–12.30PM

BAY 24

FREE

STORY SALAD LIVE

The popular ABC Kids listen podcast – LIVE!

Join Matt and his special guest for a live version of the hit ABC Kids podcast *Story Salad*.

Rec. ages 6–12.

Supported by ABC Kids.



12–1PM

BAY 17

All tickets \$20

CC

THE HOT MESS SHOW WITH JEFF KINNEY

A deliciously entertaining and interactive event

Join *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* author Jeff Kinney for wild on-stage antics. Celebrate the latest Wimpy Kid book while satisfying your craving for family fun!

Rec. ages 7–12.



12.30–1PM

BAY 24

FREE

STORYTIME WITH KYLIE HOWARTH

Experience some bush magic

Enjoy storytelling fun with Kylie Howarth, the author and illustrator of beloved picture books *Bush Magic* and *Koalas Stole My Undies*, along with the new graphic novel series Kev and Trev.

Rec. ages 4+



1–1.30PM

BAY 24

FREE

STORYTIME WITH JACQUELINE HARVEY

Meet the bestselling author of the Alice-Miranda books

Enjoy storytelling fun with Jacqueline Harvey, the author of bestselling series: Kevin the Sheep, Willa and Woof, Alice-Miranda, Kensy and Max, and her latest, *The Girl and the Ghost*.

Rec. ages 6+



1.30–2PM

BAY 24

FREE

GREEK MYTHS RETOLD

Set sail on an odyssey

Mythology enthusiasts R.A. Spratt and David Conley breathe new life into some of the greatest Greek myths.

Rec. ages 8–12.



1.30–2.15PM

TRACK 12

All tickets \$10

PETE HELLIAR AND ANDREW JOYNER: GALILEO, HORSE DETECTIVE

Saddle up for some horsing around

Come celebrate the release of the new junior fiction series *Detective Galileo* with its creators Pete Helliar and Andrew Joyner. Hosted by Tanya Hennessy.

Rec. ages 6–12.



2–2.30PM

BAY 24

FREE

THE MOVIES THAT MADE US ... WRITE!

Lights, camera, action!

Nat Amooore and Mick Elliott spent their childhoods hooked on Hollywood. Now they both work in film and TV and their books are packed with secret references to the movies they loved. Grab your popcorn as Nat and Mick reveal the films that inspired their stories.

Rec. ages 7–12.



2.30–3PM

BAY 24

FREE

AN EPIC RECORD BREAKING ATTEMPT

Help us break a record or two

Ever wanted to be part of history? Join Carla Fitzgerald and Dani Vee as they attempt to break some Festival records, like the most chickens juggled by an author, live on stage.

Rec. ages 7–12.



3–3.30PM

BAY 24

FREE

EPIC ILLUSTRATOR BATTLE

There can only be one winner

Illustrators David Conley, Jade Goodwin, Kylie Howarth and Andrew Joyner are pitted against each other in a ferocious battle to determine the illustrator champion of champions. Hosted by R.A. Spratt.

Rec. ages 3+



3–3.45PM

TRACK 12

All tickets \$10

JESSICA TOWNSEND: IN CONVERSATION

Time to return to Nevermoor

Join Jessica Townsend to discuss *Silverborn*, the highly anticipated fourth book in the award-winning *Nevermoor* series. In conversation with Reece Carter.

Rec. ages 8–12.



3.30–4PM

BAY 24

FREE

MIDDLE GRADE MYSTERIES

Puzzles, clues, investigations and red herrings

Join authors Allison Rushby and A.L. Tait as they play sleuth and reveal the secrets behind writing a good mystery novel for kids.

Rec. ages 8–12.



KIDS ACTIVITIES – KIDS ACTIVIT

SUNDAY MAY 25

10AM–
3.30PM

BAYS 22–24

FREE

BADGEMAKING WITH CHERYL ORSINI

Design and make your own badge

Take home a magical memento of your time at Family Day by making a badge with Cheryl Orsini, the much-loved author and illustrator of picture books including *The Magic Bookshop* and *Caravan Fran*.

Rec. ages 4+



10AM–
3.30PM

BAYS 22–24

FREE

AMANDA'S CRAFT CORNER

Time to get your craft on!

Let your imagination soar as we dive into the world of craft and stories, hosted by author and craft connoisseur Amanda Lieber.

All ages.



10AM–4PM

BAYS 22–24

FREE

THE BIG FAMILY DAY BACKDROP

Unleash the artist within

Attention artists of all ages! We need your help to create an amazing backdrop for our Family Day antics. You might even get to hang out with a real life famous illustrator.

All ages.



10AM–4PM

BAYS 22–24

FREE

RUSS THE STORY BUS

A magical library on wheels

Russ the Story Bus is no ordinary bus – he's a mobile library covered in illustrations with a belly full of books. Russ is open all day to borrow from.

All ages.

Supported by ARA, Jibb Foundation, Thyne Reid Foundation, James Kirby Foundation, Waratah Education Foundation, Mazda Foundation, Harold Mitchell Foundation and Acadian Assest Management.



10AM–4PM

BAYS 22–24

FREE

YOTO LISTENING ZONES

Screens off. Imagination on.

Visit the Yoto Listening Zones and have fun exploring a range of Yoto audio players that put kids safely in control of their listening, learning and play. No microphones. No cameras. No ads.

All ages.

Supported by Yoto.



IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

The Festival takes over the city and beyond. Tickets for In Your Neighbourhood events are available from participating venues. [See swf.org.au](http://swf.org.au) for more details.

SYDNEY CITY — SYDNEY CITY — SYDNEY CITY — SYDNEY CITY — SYDNEY CITY

MAY 18
10.30AM–2.30PM

State Library of NSW

CHILDREN'S WORKSHOPS AT THE LIBRARY

Writing and illustrating workshops for kids

All tickets \$10

MAY 19
6–9PM

State Library of NSW,
Library Auditorium

2025 NSW LITERARY AWARDS

Celebrate the winners of this year's awards and their contribution to culture

FREE Bookings required

MAY 21
1.30–3PM

Australian National
Maritime Museum,
The Theatre

WHY WE SWIM

Join us to explore our relationship with swimming and our connection to water

Adult \$25 Concession \$20 Museum Members \$15

MAY 21
6–8PM

State Library of NSW,
The Library Bar

TRIVIA IN THE LIBRARY BAR

Test your bookish smarts at the State Library of NSW's rooftop Library Bar

FREE Bookings required

MAY 22
6.30–7.30PM

State Library of NSW,
Library Auditorium

THE LIBRARY THAT MADE ME – LIVE

For those who love their library

Adult \$30 Concession & SLNSW Friends \$25

MAY 25
2–3PM

Art Gallery of NSW,
Meers Hall

PORTRAIT OF A COLLECTOR

James Fairfax's nephew charts his life through his art collection

General Admission \$20 AGNSW Members \$15

Let kids' minds wonder

Yoto is an audio player for imaginative minds aged 3–12+.

Put kids in control of an inspiring world of audio. Screen-free, microphone-free, ad-free.



Scan for 10% off using the code SWF10.*

*10% off first player purchase until May 31st, 2025. Read full T&Cs on au.yotoplay.com/iegal.



PARRAMATTA — PARRAMATTA — PARRAMATTA — PARRAMATTA — PARRAMATTA**MAY 20**
6–7PM

Epping Branch Library

FREE

Bookings required

CANDICE CHUNG: CHINESE PARENTS DON'T SAY I LOVE YOU

Can a meal speak the unspoken?

Supported by the City of Parramatta.

MAY 22
6–7PM

PHIVE

All tickets \$10

A.C. GRAYLING: DISCRIMINATIONS

From ostracism to online outrage: hear from A.C. Grayling in Parramatta

Supported by the City of Parramatta.

MAY 24
10–10.45AMWentworth Point Community
Centre and Library**FREE**

Bookings required

COMIC MAKING WORKSHOP WITH KYLIE HOWARTH

Bring your stories to life!

Rec. ages 6+

Supported by the City of Parramatta.

MAY 24
10.30–11AM

Parramatta Library

FREE

Bookings required

KIRLI SAUNDERS: AFLOAT

Weaving culture, wisdom and hope for young readers

Rec. ages 4–8.

Supported by the City of Parramatta.

MAY 24
12–1PM

PHIVE

All tickets \$10

VIRGINIA TRIOLI: A BIT ON THE SIDE

Savour life's sweetest delights with beloved broadcaster

Supported by the City of Parramatta.

MAY 24
2–3PM

PHIVE

All tickets \$10

**THE BOOKS OF EVERYTHING:
SARAH FIRTH AND YUMNA KASSAB**

The absurd, the profound and everything in between

Supported by the City of Parramatta.

MAY 24
4–5PM

PHIVE

All tickets \$10

GROWING UP INDIAN IN AUSTRALIA

Vibrant and energetic stories of Australian Indian identity

Supported by the City of Parramatta.

MAY 24
6.30–8.30PMParramatta Artists
Studios, Granville

All tickets \$15

HIDDEN BEGINNINGS

Stories that start at the end

This event is supported by the City of Parramatta, Parramatta Artists Studios, The Writing and Society Research Centre, WSU and The Finishing School.

SYDNEY SUBURBS — SYDNEY SUBURBS — SYDNEY SUBURBS — SYDNEY SUBURBS**MAY 22**
5–7PMSydney Theatre Company,
Wharf 2 Theatre, Dawes Point**THE 25TH PATRICK WHITE PLAYWRIGHTS AWARD**Be the first to hear the next Patrick White Playwrights
Award winner**FREE** Bookings required**MAY 24**
11AM–12PM

Ashfield Town Hall

**WRITING AS ACTIVISM: DEBRA DANK AND
VANESSA TURNBULL-ROBERTS**

Voices of resistance and change that echo off the page

FREE Bookings required**MAY 20**
6.30–7.30PMBankstown Library and
Knowledge Centre**HAYLEY SCRIVENOR: GIRL FALLING**Award-winning author of *Dirt Town* discusses her latest
breathtaking read

All tickets \$5

MAY 23
7–8PM

Botany Town Hall

DEBRA OSWALD: ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF BETTY

The life at the centre of a century-spanning saga

All tickets \$10

MAY 22
6.30–7.30PM

Castle Hill Library

SHANKARI CHANDRAN: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The end of a civil war sparks a search for answers

All tickets \$10

MAY 25
2–3PM

Boyd Education Centre, Bundanon

**SAMANTHA HARVEY IN CONVERSATION
WITH ASHLEY HAY**

Hear the 2024 Booker Prize winner in conversation at Bundanon

Samantha Harvey appears thanks to the support of Fiona and
Matthew Playfair.

All tickets \$25

MAY 21
6.30–7.30PM

Concord Library

LINDA JAIVIN: BOMBARD THE HEADQUARTERS!

Pulling back the bamboo curtain on the Cultural Revolution

FREE Bookings required**MAY 23**
10.30–11.30AM

Woollahra Library at Double Bay

JACQUELINE MALEY: LONELY MOUTH

A story you can sink your teeth into

All tickets \$10

MAY 22
6–7PM

Five Dock Library

JESSIE TU: THE HONEYEATER

"Translation is longing. You never get it right."

FREE Bookings required**MAY 19**
6.30–7.30PM

Gordon Library

AILSAPIPER: FOR LIFE

Life after death and the light that guides the way

FREE Bookings required**MAY 23**
2–3PM

Hornsby Central Library

INGA SIMPSON: THE THINNING

When disaster looms, a journey begins

FREE Bookings required

SYDNEY SUBURBS — SYDNEY SUBURBS — SYDNEY SUBURBS — SYDN

MAY 19 6–7PM Hurstville Library and Service Centre	JUMAANA ABDU: <i>TRANSLATIONS</i> Relationships and loyalties strain amid country town disasters All tickets \$8.50
MAY 24 4.30–5.30PM Manly Library	REBECCA HUNTLEY: <i>SASSAFRAS</i> A first-hand account of successfully treating PTSD with MDMA All tickets \$6.31
MAY 25 2–3PM Marrickville Library	DYLIN HARDCASTLE: <i>A LANGUAGE OF LIMBS</i> Uncover Sydney's LGBTQIA+ history in this tender dual-narrative novel FREE Bookings required
MAY 23 7.30–8.30PM WestWords	AUBURN POETS AND WRITERS: OUTSIDE THE LAW These outlaw writers ask the right questions All tickets \$10
MAY 21 6.30–7.30PM Penrith City Library	JOCK SERONG: <i>CHERRYWOOD</i> Journey into a novel about legacy, community, wonder, love and reinvention All tickets \$5
MAY 22 8–9PM Petersham Bowling Club	READERS: BOOKS AND CONVERSATIONS WITH HANNAH KENT <i>Burial Rites</i> author on her love letter to Iceland All tickets \$12
MAY 25 1–2PM Margaret Martin Library, Randwick	EMILY MAGUIRE: <i>RAPTURE</i> Peek behind the veil of the Holy Roman Empire FREE Bookings required
MAY 20 6.45–7.45PM Ryde Library	JOSH BORNSTEIN: <i>WORKING FOR THE BRAND</i> Cancel culture goes corporate FREE Bookings required
MAY 21 6.30–7.30PM Sutherland Library	CHRISTIAN WHITE: <i>THE LEDGE</i> These friends' secrets better stay buried FREE Bookings required
MAY 22 3.30–4.30PM Royal Australian Historical Society, History House	RETHINKING MIGRATION HISTORIES: AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVES AND GLOBAL DIRECTIONS Rethinking stories about migration and movement All tickets \$10
MAY 22 6.30–8.30PM Wollongong Art Gallery	<i>DREAMING INSIDE</i>: FIRST NATIONS VOICES FROM CORRECTIONAL CENTRES Amplifying First Nations storytelling, healing and connection through poetry FREE Bookings required

CURATE YOUR FESTIVAL

We know that the Festival has a lot of events to choose from so we've curated themed event selections to help you decide what to see based on your interests.

We have multipack discounting available so if you book **4 events** you'll get a **5% discount**, book **5 events** and get **10% off** or book **6 or more events** and get **15% off**.

Book 4 or more events to receive your discount.

BOOK CLUB OUTINGS

David Nicholls: <i>You Are Here</i>	Thurs 22 May, 2pm
Rumaan Alam's <i>American Dream</i>	Thurs 22 May, 5pm
Kalienne Bradley: <i>The Ministry of Time</i>	Thurs 22 May, 6pm
State of the Art: <i>The Novel</i>	Thurs 22 May, 8pm
Catherine Chidgey: <i>The Book of Guilt</i>	Fri 23 May, 3pm
Colm Tóibín: <i>From Brooklyn to Long Island</i>	Fri 23 May, 4pm
Asako Yuzuki: <i>Butter</i>	Sat 24 May, 6.30pm
Samantha Harvey: <i>Orbital</i>	Sat 24 May, 7.30pm

QUEER'S THE WORD

Queer Love and Longing	Wed 21 May, 7pm
Alan Hollinghurst: <i>Our Evenings</i>	Fri 23 May, 2pm
<i>Drag Queens Down Under</i>	Fri 23 May, 6.30pm
Queerstories	Fri 23 May, 8pm
Yael van der Wouden: <i>The Safekeep</i>	Sat 24 May, 11am
Mariana Enriquez: <i>Mastering the Macabre</i>	Sat 24 May, 3pm
Torrey Peters: <i>Stag Dance</i>	Sat 24 May, 5.30pm

POLITICS

Past and Future of Indigenous Recognition	Thurs 22 May, 4pm
China Past, Present, Future	Fri 23 May, 2pm
The End of the West?: <i>Global Roaming</i> LIVE	Fri 23 May, 5pm
Turmoil and Tyranny	Fri 23 May, 7pm
Barrie Cassidy and Friends: <i>State of the Nation</i>	Sat 24 May, 6pm

Trumpocalypse Now	Sun 25 May, 10am
John Lyons: <i>A Bunker in Kyiv</i>	Sun 25 May, 11am
Rick Morton: <i>The Story of Robodebt</i>	Sun 25 May, 3pm
Plestia Alaqaq: <i>The Eyes of Gaza</i>	Sun 25 May, 4.30pm

CRIME

Crafting the Perfect Crime	Thurs 22 May, 7pm
Untrue Crime	Fri 23 May, 6pm
Your Favourites' Favourites: Michael Robotham and Chris Whitaker	Sat 24 May, 11am
Ben Macintyre: <i>The Siege</i>	Sat 24 May, 2pm
Ian Rankin: <i>Master of Crime</i>	Sat 24 May, 4pm
Spies, Lies and Secrets	Sun 25 May, 3.30pm

AUSSIE TALENTS

Charlotte Wood: <i>A Writing Life</i>	Tues 20 May, 8.15pm
Markus Zusak: <i>Three Wild Dogs and the Truth</i>	Thurs 22 May, 10am
Your Favourites' Favourites: Benjamin Law and Melanie Cheng	Thurs 22 May, 11am
Stan Grant: <i>Murriyang, Song of Time</i>	Thurs 22 May, 6pm
The Moriarty Sisters	Fri 23 May, 10am
Songstress Poetica	Fri 23 May, 11am
Suzanne and Gina Chick: <i>Mother-Daughter Bonds</i>	Fri 23 May, 12pm
Your Favourites' Favourites: Annabel Crabb and Jessie Tu	Sun 25 May, 3.30pm
Your Favourites' Favourites: Hannah Kent and Charlotte McConaghy	Fri 23 May, 1pm

THURSDAY MAY 22

Free Events Childrens & YA

	TRACK 8	TRACK 12	BAY 17	BAY 19	BAY 20, THE ARA STAGE	BAY 24, CURIOSITY STAGE
8.30am	SYDNEY TOWN HALL					
9am	6pm Jeanette Winterson: 40 Years of <i>Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit</i>					
9.30am	8.15pm SWF Great Debate: True Friends Stab You in the Front					
10am			Markus Zusak: <i>Three Wild Dogs and the Truth</i>		Kate Grenville: <i>Unsettled</i>	
10.30am						
11am	A Matter of Life and Death	Your Favourites' Favourites: Benjamin Law and Melanie Cheng				CUR Toby Walsh on the Six Ideas You Need to Understand AI
11.30am						CUR Joe Aston on What He Learned about Qantas
12pm			Gina Chick: <i>We Are the Stars</i>		Out of This World	
12.30pm						
1pm	Nikki Gemmell: <i>Wing</i>	Home and Homesick		Beyond the Self		
1.30pm						CUR Adam Bayes on Mind-Altering Mental Health
2pm						CUR Michael Gawenda on Being a Jew in Contemporary Australia
2.30pm			David Nicholls: <i>You Are Here</i>		Bringing the Past to Life	
3pm	Anne Summers: <i>50 Years of Damned Whores and God's Police</i>	Ferdia Lennon: <i>Glorious Exploits</i>		Cli-fi: Fiction's New Frontier		CUR Linda Jaivin on the Cultural Revolution in China
3.30pm						CUR Kerrie Davies on Miles Franklin's Little-Known Years
4pm						
4.30pm			Past and Future of Indigenous Recognition		Family Secrets	
5pm						
5.30pm	Rumaan Alam's <i>American Dream</i>	Psychedelia		Afghan Women's Words: <i>My Dear Kabul</i>		Your Next Favourite Book
6pm						
6.30pm			Kalane Bradley: <i>The Ministry of Time</i>		Stan Grant: <i>Murriyang, Song of Time</i>	
7pm						
7.30pm	Crafting the Perfect Crime	Bad Billionaires		The Bogong: Now Is the Hour		
8pm						
8.30pm			State of the Art: The Novel		Ittay Flescher: <i>The Holy and the Broken</i>	
9pm						

FRIDAY MAY 23

Free Events Childrens & YA

	TRACK 8	TRACK 12	BAY 17	BAY 19	BAY 20, THE ARA STAGE	BAY 24, CURIOSITY STAGE
8.30am	SYDNEY TOWN HALL					Coffee and Headlines with <i>7am</i>
9am	8pm Bankstown Poetry Slam					
9.30am						
10am		ABC Radio National: <i>The Bookshelf</i>	The Moriarty Sisters		Holding Up the Mirror	CUR Norman Swan on What's Good for Your Kids
10.30am						
11am	Robert Dessaix: Art, Travel, Ideas and Love			Songstress Poetica		CUR Marcel Dirsus on How Tyrants Rise (and Fall)
11.30am						
12pm						
12.30pm			Helen Garner: <i>The Season</i>		Suzanne and Gina Chick: <i>Mother-Daughter Bonds</i>	CUR Luke McNamara on Hate Speech and the Law
1pm						
1.30pm	Lech Blaine: <i>Australian Gospel</i>	Your Favourites' Favourites: Hannah Kent and Charlotte McConaghy		The Shortest Histories of Everything		PEN Lecture: The Fictional Space
2pm						
2.30pm			Alan Hollinghurst: <i>Our Evenings</i>		China Past, Present, Future	
3pm						
3.30pm	What Women Want	Catherine Chidgey: <i>The Book of Guilt</i>		Malcolm Knox: <i>The First Friend</i>		CUR Andrew Leigh and Richard Holden on Inequality
4pm						
4.30pm			Colm Tóibín: <i>From Brooklyn to Long Island</i>		<i>The Power of Choice</i>	
5pm						
5.30pm	2025 Stella Prize Winner Announcement	The End of the West?: <i>Global Roaming</i> LIVE		Fruits of the Loom		STEMMinist Book Club
6pm						
6.30pm			Untrue Crime		Zoë Foster Blake: <i>Things Will Calm Down Soon</i>	
7pm				<i>Drag Queens Down Under</i>		
7.30pm	Turmoil and Tyranny	Raja Shehadeh: <i>Chronicling Palestine</i>				
8pm						
8.30pm					Big Beginnings	
9pm			Queerstories			

SATURDAY MAY 24

Free Events Childrens & YA

	TRACK 8	TRACK 12	BAY 17	BAY 19	BAY 20, THE ARA STAGE	BAY 24, CURIOSITY STAGE	MAIN FOYER
8.30am	SYDNEY TOWN HALL					Coffee and Headlines with <i>The Saturday Paper</i>	
9am	6pm Barrie Cassidy and Friends: State of the Nation						
9.30am	8pm Dreams of the Future						
10am							
10.30am		YA All the Thrills and Chills	Bakers' Delight	Robbie Arnott: <i>Dusk</i>		The Good Weekend Quiz	
11am	Your Favourites' Favourites: Michael Robotham and Chris Whitaker				Yael van der Wouden: <i>The Safekeep</i>		
11.30am							
12pm		YA In Full Blume	A.C. Grayling on Cancel Culture	The Wood and the Trees		Dacey Topics	
12.30pm							Story Factory: The Giving Shop
1pm	Philippe Sands: <i>38 Londres Street</i>				Sayaka Murata: <i>Vanishing World</i>		
1.30pm							
2pm		YA Heart and Soul	Ben Macintyre: <i>The Siege</i>	Pen Pals		CUR Jess Hill on Stopping Family Violence	
2.30pm						CUR George Megalogenis on the New Shape of Australian Politics	
3pm	Mariana Enriquez: <i>Mastering the Macabre</i>				Flawed Artists: <i>The Minefield</i> LIVE		
3.30pm							
4pm		YA <i>Lady's Knight</i>	Ian Rankin: <i>Master of Crime</i>	Your Kid's Next Read		SMH Best Young Novelists	
4.30pm					Lemn Sissay: <i>Let the Light Pour In</i>		
5pm							
5.30pm	Torrey Peters: <i>Stag Dance</i>		YA <i>Wandering Wild</i> with Lynette Noni	Culinary Culture		<i>Guardian Australia's</i> Are You Game Show	
6pm							
6.30pm		Baraya Barray (Sing Country) <i>Whale Song</i>			Asako Yuzuki: <i>Butter</i>		
7pm							
7.30pm			Samantha Harvey: <i>Orbital</i>	Edward Wong: <i>At the Edge of Empire</i>		The Best Medicine	
8pm							
8.30pm	FEAST: Family-style						
9pm							

SUNDAY MAY 25

Free Events Childrens & YA

	TRACK 8	TRACK 12	BAY 17	BAY 19	BAY 20, THE ARA STAGE	BAY 24, CURIOSITY STAGE	MAIN FOYER
8.30am						Coffee and Headlines with <i>The Monthly</i>	8.30am
9am							9am
9.30am		CHI Make Your Own Comic					9.30am
10am						CHI Storytime with Jade Goodwin	10am
10.30am			Trumpocalypse Now	No Place Like Home		CHI Deadly Reptiles	10.30am
11am		CHI Totally Terri Libenson			The F Word	CHI Costa's Garden	11am
11.30am	John Lyons: <i>A Bunker in Kyiv</i>					CHI Taronga Presents	11.30am
12pm						CHI Story Salad LIVE	12pm
12.30pm		Sayaka Murata and Asako Yuzuki	CHI The Hot Mess Show with Jeff Kinney	Ritual		CHI Storytime with Kylie Howarth	12.30pm
1pm					Peter Beinart: <i>Being Jewish After the Destruction of Gaza</i>	CHI Storytime with Jacqueline Harvey	1pm
1.30pm	Clare Wright: <i>Nāku Dhāruk The Bark Petitions</i>	CHI Pete Helliar and Andrew Joyner: <i>Galleo, Horse Detective</i>				CHI Greek Myths Retold	1.30pm
2pm						CHI The Movies That Made Us ... Write!	2pm
2.30pm			Making a Writer	Humour Me		CHI An Epic Recording Breaking Attempt	2.30pm
3pm						CHI Epic Illustrator Battle	3pm
3.30pm	Rick Morton: <i>The Story of Robodebt</i>	CHI Jessica Townsend: <i>In Conversation</i>			Stories of Palestine	CHI Middle Grade Mysteries	3.30pm
4pm			Spies, Lies and Secrets	Your Favourites' Favourites: Annabel Crabb and Jessie Tu			4pm
4.30pm	The Business of Beauty	Archive Fever: <i>All in the Family</i>			Plestia Alaqad: <i>The Eyes of Gaza</i>		4.30pm
5pm							5pm
5.30pm							5.30pm
6pm							6pm
6.30pm							6.30pm
7pm							7pm
7.30pm							7.30pm
8pm							8pm
8.30pm							8.30pm
9pm							9pm

Here for the readers, the writers and the idea creators

We believe celebrating writing, sharing ideas and telling stories is more important than ever. That's why we are the Principal Partner of the Sydney Writers' Festival.

At ARA, our story is about more than just delivering essential building and infrastructure services. We're always thinking about how we can create value for our customers, support our community and enrich the lives of Australians through the arts.

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