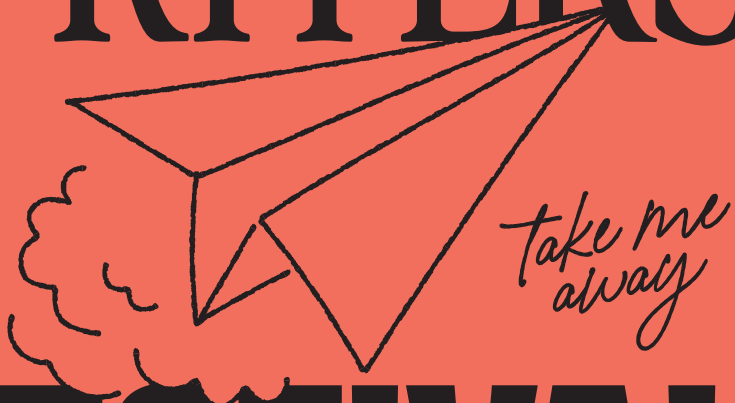


SYDNEY WRITERS'



FESTIVAL MAY—2024

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The Monthly
The Saturday Paper
7am



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MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Stephen King famously described books as “uniquely portable magic”. This captures one side of the beauty of books perfectly. They can be our companions, a secret in our pocket, a compact treasury of knowledge. But just as we can take books with us, books and stories can take us away from ourselves and from reality. They let us escape into different worlds, live other lives and travel in time and space.

We all read for different reasons, but these gifts of respite, empathy and the expansion of what we know and understand are very precious.

In 2024, the Festival brings together writers of the everyday and the fantastical, writers of dazzling fictions, magical words, captivating life stories and sweeping accounts of history and ideas. As ever, the Festival puts diverse views and voices on stage for audiences seeking different experiences. Our guest curators, poet Jazz

Money and writer and academic Amy Thunig, have put together a series of brilliant discussions that are listed on page 14. You can decide whether to stick with what you love or go out on a limb and challenge yourself with discovery or discomfort. You can choose to explore the intersections of writing with music, art, politics or philosophy or double down on the pure pleasure of poetry.

Listening to a story or reading a book builds bridges to a community of fellow readers, irrespective of time and place. But when we have the chance here and now to share a conversation with writers and fellow readers we instantly become part of a living community. Come and join this community and let the Festival take you away.

Ann Mossop
Artistic Director

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.

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-  Open captioning
-  Auslan-interpreted
-  Assistive listening

SYDNEY TOWN HALL SYDNEY TOWN HALL

MAY 23
6-7PM

ANN PATCHETT ON ORDINARY JOYS



TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

Chat with cherished writers and real life friends

The bestselling author of bookshelf staples including *Bel Canto*, *Commonwealth* and *The Dutch House* returns with *Tom Lake*. Hear stories from Ann Patchett in conversation with fellow writer and her penpal, Meg Mason (*Sorrow and Bliss*).

Ann Patchett appears thanks to the support of Rosie Williams and John Grill AO.

Supported by the City of Sydney.



MAY 23
8-9.15PM

SWF GREAT DEBATE: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IS BETTER THAN THE REAL THING

TICKETS FROM
Adult \$35
Concession \$30

Man vs machine – an intellectual battle royal

Decide humankind's fate with team captains Annabel Crabb and David Marr, who will duke it out alongside teammates Rhys Nicholson, Toby Walsh and more. Adjudicated by Yumi Stynes.

Supported by the City of Sydney and UNSW Sydney.

2



THANK YOU

THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE WONDERFUL AUSTRALIAN PUBLISHERS WHO WORK WITH US TO BRING THEIR AUTHORS TO THE FESTIVAL. THANKS ALSO TO OUR INTERNATIONAL COLLEAGUES FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE.

SPECIAL THANKS TO EDWINA JOHNSON.

THANKS TO LOUISE ADLER, MICHAEL MOHAMMED AHMAD, DANIELA BALDRY, CAROLINE BAUM, SARAH BENJAMIN, TOBY CHADD, NIKKI CHRISTER, ANNABEL CRABB, MEREDITH CURNOW, HERMIONE DAVIS, WINNIE DUNN, VANESSA DUSCIO, KATE EVANS, RICHARD EVANS, LYNDSEY FINERAN, JULIA FOLEY, DAVID GAUNT, DANIELLE HARVEY, MICHAEL HUXLEY, NICHOLAS JOSE, PHILIP KEIR, MICHAELA KALOWSKI, BENJAMIN LAW, ADAM LIAW, HAMISH MACDONALD, MICHAELA MCGUIRE, ANDREW MAIDEN, JESS MALPASS, MAEVE MARSDEN, KARINE MAURIS, JAZZ MONEY, EMMA MURPHY, ANDY PALMER, GILL PERKINS, CHIP ROLLEY, JACKIE RYAN, MEG SAMUELSON, TESS SIVIOUR, KATRINA STRICKLAND, VERONICA SULLIVAN, LYDIA TASKER, AMY THUNIG, CHRIS TOOHER, MICHAEL WILLIAMS, PERI WILSON AND TAMARA ZIMET.

WITH THANKS TO OUR PROGRAM PARTNERS:

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BRISBANE WRITERS FESTIVAL
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MELBOURNE WRITERS FESTIVAL
NGANA BARANGARI
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SYDNEY THEATRE COMPANY
THE WHEELER CENTRE
VARUNA – THE NATIONAL WRITERS' HOUSE

MAY 25
5.30-6.30PM

BONNIE GARMUS: LESSONS IN CHEMISTRY (SATURDAY)



ALLOCATION EXHAUSTED

TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

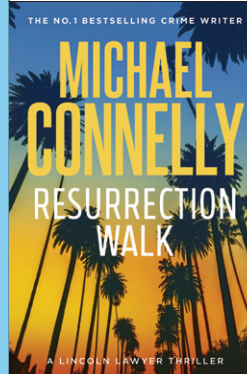
The smash hit charming book clubs and social media alike

Join Bonnie Garmus, whose hilarious debut about science, sexism and subverting the status quo has been adapted into a TV series starring Brie Larson, in conversation with Indira Naidoo.

Bonnie Garmus appears thanks to the support of The Salon.



3



MAY 25
7.30-8.30PM

MICHAEL CONNELLY'S LIFE OF CRIME

TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

International king of crime fiction talks books and beyond

Crime-writing superstar Michael Connelly talks about his compelling body of work, bringing his novels to the screen and his latest book, *Resurrection Walk*, with Michael Williams.

Supported by ARA.



4

MAY 26
2-3PM

BONNIE GARMUS: LESSONS IN CHEMISTRY (SUNDAY)



TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

After selling out Town Hall, Bonnie returns for a second event

Due to popular demand, Bonnie Garmus returns to the stage for this special second session. Limited tickets remain, so get in quick!

Bonnie Garmus appears thanks to the support of The Salon.



5

HALL CITY RECITAL HALL CITY RECITAL HA

MAY 24
6-7PM

RICHARD FLANAGAN AND ANNA FUNDER ON WRITING




TICKETS FROM
Adult \$50
Concession \$45

Redefining genre with Australian literary greats



Two of Australia's most important writers, Richard Flanagan (*Question 7*) and Anna Funder (*Wifedom*), discuss writing in the margins between fiction and non-fiction, history and memoir, personal and public. With historian Clare Wright.

Supported by the Jibb Foundation.

6

MAY 25
5.30-6.30PM

THE DROWNING WITH BRYAN BROWN AND SAM NEILL

TICKETS FROM
Adult \$50
Concession \$45

The boys are back in town...

Last year, Bryan Brown interviewed Sam Neill at the Festival. This year, it's Bryan's turn in the hot seat as Sam interviews him about his gripping new crime novel, *The Drowning*.

Supported by ARA.

8



MAY 24
8-9PM

PAUL LYNCH: PROPHET SONG

The 2023 Booker Prize winner discusses his breathtaking parable

Sit down with novelist Paul Lynch, who won the 2023 Booker Prize for his fifth book, *Prophet Song*, a dystopian nightmare set in Ireland's near future. In conversation with Michael Williams.

Supported by the Consulate General of Ireland and Culture Ireland.

TICKETS FROM
Adult \$50
Concession \$45

7



MAY 25
7.30-8.30PM

CREATIVITY, JOY, GRACE

Flatten fear and nurture inspiration

Find sanctuary in this uplifting and inspiring conversation as award-winning journalist Julia Baird (*Bright Shining*) and bestselling author Holly Ringland (*The House That Joy Built*) celebrate creativity, joy and grace. With Michaela Kalowski.

Supported by UNSW Sydney.

TICKETS FROM
Adult \$50
Concession \$45

9



NOW WE'RE TALKING...




Breakfast with
Craig Reucassel
702AM or the ABC listen app

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The Saturday Paper

FROM \$79.



SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE — SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE — SYDNEY OPERA H**MAY 21**
7–8.30PMSYDNEY
OPERA HOUSE,
CONCERT HALL**TICKETS FROM**
\$45**16 THE GENE EDITING REVOLUTION
WITH JENNIFER DOUDNA****The promise and peril of CRISPR**

The world is on the cusp of extraordinary changes – from cures for intractable illnesses to dramatic reductions in greenhouse gasses – thanks to Nobel Prize winner Jennifer Doudna. Learn about the benefits – and some of the threats – of the gene editing revolution in this fascinating talk.

Presented by Sydney Opera House, BQI, Sydney Writers' Festival and UNSW Sydney.

**ART GALLERY OF NSW — ART GALLERY OF NSW — ART GALLERY OF NSW****MAY 22**
6–7PMART GALLERY
OF NSW,
MEERS HALL**Adult** \$20
Concession/
AGNSW
Members \$15**17 KATY HESSEL AND TRACEY MOFFATT****Creator of *The Great Women Artists* podcast interviews an Australian icon**

Legendary Australian contemporary artist, photographer and filmmaker Tracey Moffatt chats with art historian Katy Hessel, whose brilliant podcast won *British Vogue's* seal of approval.

Katy Hessel appears thanks to the support of Rosie Williams and John Grill AO.

**UNSW SYDNEY — UNSW SYDNEY — UNSW SYDNEY — UNSW SYDNEY -****MAY 23**
6.30–7.30PMUNSW
KENSINGTON,
LEIGHTON HALL**FREE, bookings**
required via
unsw.to/refuge**20 REFUGE: VIET THANH NGUYEN
& SHANKARI CHANDRAN****Two prize-winning authors on narrating refugees' epic stories**

Share dramatic experiences of escape and its aftermath with Miles Franklin winner Shankari Chandran (*Safe Haven*) and Pulitzer Prize winner Viet Thanh Nguyen (*A Man of Two Faces*). With Daniel Ghezelbash.

Viet Thanh Nguyen appears thanks to the support of Fiona and Matthew Playfair. Presented by UNSW Sydney.

**RIVERSIDE THEATRES, PARRAMATTA — RIVERSIDE THEATRES, PARRA****MAY 24**
5–6.30PMRIVERSIDE
THEATRES,
PARRAMATTA**FREE, bookings**
required**18 ABC RADIO SYDNEY DRIVE WITH RICHARD GLOVER
FEATURING *THANK GOD IT'S FRIDAY!*****TGIF! live from Parramatta**

Join ABC Radio Sydney's Richard Glover for a special Festival edition of *Thank God It's Friday!* with Wendy Harmer, Jean Kittson and Tommy Dean and three of the Festival's literary stars, Shankari Chandran (*Safe Haven*), Robyn Davidson (*Unfinished Woman*) and Chris Hammer (*The Seven*).

Supported by the City of Parramatta.

**MAY 24**
8–9PMRIVERSIDE
THEATRES,
PARRAMATTA**ALL TICKETS** \$50**19 CRIME LORDS**
An unholy trinity of crime-writing superstars

Get your crime fix as superstars Michael Connelly (*Resurrection Walk*), Chris Hammer (*The Seven*) and Michael Robotham (*Lying Beside You*) dissect this compelling genre. With Benjamin Stevenson.

Supported by the City of Parramatta.

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BY JANE HARRISON
DIRECTED BY IAN MICHAEL

FROM
6 JUN

**DRACULA**

BY BRAM STOKER
ADAPTED AND DIRECTED BY
KIP WILLIAMS

FROM
2 JUL

**JULIA**

BY JOANNA MURRAY-SMITH
DIRECTED BY SARAH GOODES

Co-produced with
Canberra Theatre Centre

FROM
5 SEP

**SUNDAY**

BY ANTHONY WEIGH
DIRECTED BY SARAH GOODES

A Melbourne Theatre Company
production

FROM
28 OCT

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MEET
THE STAGE**

Sydney Theatre Company is where exceptional writing meets iconic performers, classic tales meet modern twists, and human stories meet the stage.

Book your seats for an extraordinary night of theatre, or save with a Season Ticket package of three or more plays.

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STATE LIBRARY OF NSW

WEDNESDAY MAY 22

 All tickets to the following events are **\$20**.

11AM–12PM

 STATE LIBRARY
OF NSW,
GALLERY ROOM

13 SYDNEY'S BOHEMIAN BEE MILES
The untold story behind the colourful legend

 Discover the fascinating life of Bee Miles, an uncompromising and fearless woman who captivated mid-20th century Australia, with biographer Rose Ellis (*Bee Miles*), novelist Kate Grenville (*Lillian's Story*) and host Caroline Baum.

LIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT— HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT

12.30–1.30PM

 STATE LIBRARY
OF NSW,
LIBRARY
AUDITORIUM

**LAUREN GROFF:
THE VASTER WILDS**

Can we adapt to save ourselves?

 Hear from *Fates and Furies* author Lauren Groff on her latest *New York Times*-bestselling historical novel, *The Vaster Wilds*, which follows a spirited girl alone in the wilderness. In conversation with *Spectrum's* Melanie Kembrey.

12
2–3PM

 STATE LIBRARY
OF NSW,
GALLERY ROOM

14 LITERARY LEGENDS
Unearthing the lives and writing of Clift, Hazzard and Harrower

Explore the literary histories of Charmian Clift, Shirley Hazzard and Elizabeth Harrower with the writers who are salvaging their stories from the archives. Featuring Brigitta Olubas, Nadia Wheatley and Susan Wyndham, with host Caroline Baum.

Supported by UNSW Sydney.


**3.30–
4.30PM**

 STATE LIBRARY
OF NSW,
GALLERY ROOM

11 BEST FRIENDS
Examine the power, influence and complexity of friendship

 Interrogate and celebrate friendship with Susan Wyndham (*Hazzard and Harrower: The Letters*) and Gyan Yankovich (*Just Friends*). Susan delves into the intimate correspondence between two literary luminaries over a lifetime, while Gyan explores the joy, power and influence of friendship today. In conversation with *Spectrum's* Melanie Kembrey.

**5.30–
6.30PM**

 STATE LIBRARY
OF NSW,
METCALFE
AUDITORIUM

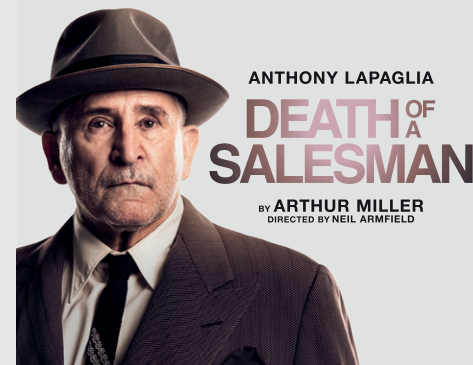
15 RETRO SYDNEY SLIDE NIGHT
Snaps and stories capturing our city's changing face

Celebrate Sydney through the decades at this slide night and talk by Nathan Mete, whose popular Instagram account @retrosydney_has become a book detailing the city's Golden Age.


THEATRE ROYAL
SYDNEY

THE LEHMAN TRILOGY
FROM 21 FEBRUARY

 After critically acclaimed sold-out runs in London and on Broadway, the five-time Tony Award®-winning Best Play, *The Lehman Trilogy*, arrives in Sydney and tells the story of a family and a company that changed the world.

"AN ASTONISHING, NOT-TO-BE-MISSED THEATRICAL EVENT" New York Stage

DEATH OF A SALESMAN
FROM 17 MAY

Emmy®, Golden Globe® and Tony Award®-winner Anthony LaPaglia takes to the Sydney stage for the first time, in a play hailed as one of the greatest of the 20th century.

"THE MOST AMAZING THEATRICAL EXPERIENCE OF MY LIFE" 3AW

THE ODD COUPLE
FROM 27 JUNE

Comedy masters Shane Jacobson and Todd McKenney are the definitive Odd Couple in Neil Simon's Tony Award®-winning comedy of friendship, divorce and misunderstandings.

"SCARCELY A MOMENT THAT IS NOT HILARIOUS" The New York Times

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or in person at 108 King Street, Sydney

WORKS CARRIAGEWORKS CARRIAGEWORKS

GUEST CURATORS—GUEST CURATORS—GUEST CURATORS—GUEST CURATORS

The 2024 Festival showcases the work of Guest Curators Jazz Money and Amy Thunig on stage and behind the scenes as they bring important conversations to the Festival.

JAZZ MONEY

Poet and artist Jazz Money, a descendant of the Wiradjuri Nation, has created a rich exploration of poetry, fireside stories from First Nations storytellers to thrill and chill and a unique conversation about Blak criticism.

Blak Crit, see page 19
Firetalks, see page 20
Speak the Light, see page 31



AMY THUNIG

Amy Thunig is a Gomeri writer and education expert who will be talking about the perils of writing about family and hosting a big conversation about storytelling and survival. Amy will also bring authors of very special books for young people to our stages on Family Day.

Dirty Laundry, see page 25
In My Blood It Runs, see page 44
Survival, Sustenance and Stories, see page 33
J.M. Field and Jeremy Worrall at the Storytime Stage, see website for details



Jazz Money and Amy Thunig are supported by the Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund.

LIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT— HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT

MAY 22 6-7.30PM BAY 17 OPENING NIGHT: TAKE ME AWAY

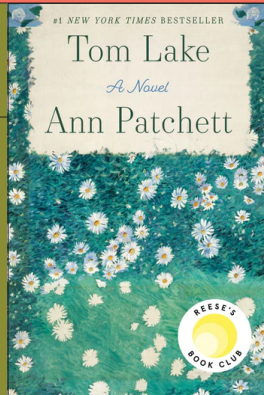
TICKETS FROM
Adult \$45
Concession \$40

Pack your bags for literary adventure

Open the Festival with a special performance by poet and artist Jazz Money, before literary luminary Ann Patchett talks to Annabel Crabb about this year's Festival theme, Take Me Away, and the essentials for any writer and reader: curiosity, courage and an open mind.

Ann Patchett appears thanks to the support of Rosie Williams and John Grill AO.

Supported by the City of Sydney.



THURSDAY MAY 23

10-10.30AM CUR22 **BRIGITTA OLUBAS AND SUSAN WYNDHAM ON WRITING LETTERS** See page 40 for details

LIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT— HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT



10-11AM BAY 17 **JULIA BAIRD: BRIGHT SHINING**

TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

Nurturing grace, even in the darkest of times

Hear from broadcaster and *Phosphorescence* author Julia Baird, whose latest book, *Bright Shining*, is a beautiful, timely exploration of that most mysterious but necessary human quality: grace. With Jacqueline Maley.

23

10-11AM TRACK 8 Adult \$25 Concession \$15

24 **CHRIS HAMMER: THE SEVEN** Crime fiction kingpin reveals how to craft a scorching thriller

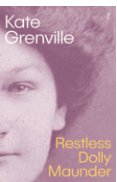
Uncover the secrets of *The Seven*, the latest whodunnit from leading crime writer Chris Hammer, whose bestselling thriller, *Scrublands*, was adapted into a miniseries for Stan. In conversation with Matthew Condon.



11AM-12PM TRACK 12 Adult \$25 Concession \$15

80 **KATE GRENVILLE: RESTLESS DOLLY MAUNDER** Celebrated author reimagines her grandmother's remarkable life

Hear from Commonwealth Writers' Prize-winning author Kate Grenville (*The Secret River*), whose latest historical novel, *Restless Dolly Maunder*, draws on family memories to explore settler colonial womanhood. With host Nicole Abadee.



11AM-12PM BAY 20, THE ARA STAGE Adult \$40 Concession \$35

27 **ROBYN DAVIDSON: UNFINISHED WOMAN** Tracks author journeys into uncharted terrain: her past

Twenty-five years in the making, Robyn Davidson's unforgettable memoir charts her Queensland childhood and her mother's tragic death. Explore this eternal adventurer's remarkable life, in conversation with Michaela Kalowski.



11AM-12PM

BAY 19

Adult \$25

Concession \$15

28 AUSTRALIA'S PLACE IN THE WORLD

Reimagining Australia's international identity

Learn from international political analysts Clinton Fernandes and Sam Roggeveen whose work asks where Australia fits in the international arena. In conversation with Verity Firth.

Supported by UNSW Sydney.



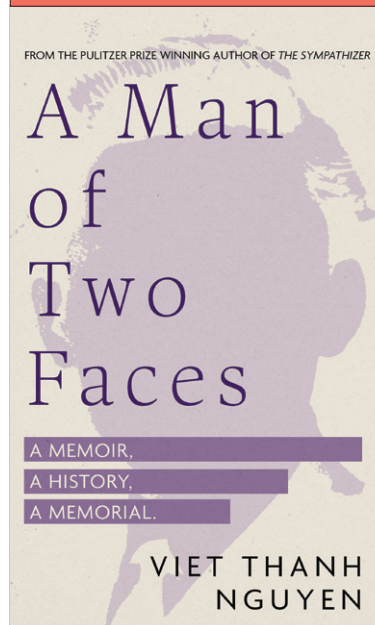
11.30AM-12PM

CURIO5

KERRI SACKVILLE ON BEING ALONE

See page 40 for details

LIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT— HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT



12-1PM

BAY 17

VIET THANH NGUYEN: A MAN OF TWO FACES

TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

CC

Tragicomic memoir from Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Sympathizer*

Hear celebrated author Viet Thanh Nguyen, hailed as "a conscience of American literature" (*The New Yorker*), discuss his new work with writer and broadcaster Benjamin Law.

Viet Thanh Nguyen appears thanks to the support of Fiona and Matthew Playfair.

31

12-1PM

TRACK 8

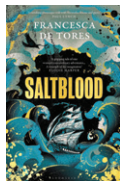
Adult \$25

Concession \$15

32 HIDDEN HEROINES

Reimagining lost tales of courage and adventure

Uncover the unsung heroines of yore with Lauren Groff (*The Vaster Wilds*) and Francesca de Tores (*Saltblood*), whose historical novels portray ordinary women doing extraordinary things. Hosted by Sophie Gee.



CC

1-2PM

BAY 19

Adult \$25

Concession \$15

33 YOUR FAVOURITES' FAVOURITES: CHRISTOS TSIOLKAS AND PETER POLITES

Two generations of Greek-Australian storytellers

Join much-loved novelist Christos Tsiolkas (*The In-Between*) as he chats with Peter Polites, whose stunning new novel, *God Forgets About the Poor*, is a love letter to his migrant mother.



1-2PM

BAY 20, THE ARA STAGE

Adult \$40

Concession \$35

34 GRAEME SIMSION AND ANNE BUIST: THE GLASS HOUSE

The complexity of mental health brought to life with heart and humour

Bestselling author of *The Rosie Project*, Graeme Simsion, joins forces with eminent psychiatrist Anne Buist to create a compelling account of the ups and downs of a busy psychiatric ward. Hosted by Sana Qadar.



CC

1-2PM

BAY 24

FREE

35 PEN LECTURE: WRITING FROM PRISON IN MYANMAR

Two previously imprisoned writers share hopes for Myanmar's future

Sean Turnell and Ma Thida have both written about being prisoners of conscience in Myanmar's notorious Insein Prison. What hope do they hold for Myanmar three years after the coup? With host Catherine Renshaw.

Presented in partnership with PEN Sydney.



1-2PM

TRACK 12

Adult \$25

Concession \$15

130 FIRST FICTIONS

Three acclaimed storytellers ignite their imaginations

Separate fact from fiction with writers Jennifer Croft, Bri Lee and Louise Milligan, who are branching out into novels after forging illustrious careers in other genres and forms. With Matthew Condon.

Jennifer Croft appears thanks to the support of Scribe.



2-3PM

BAY 17

TICKETS FROM

Adult \$40

Concession \$35

37 SUZIE MILLER: PRIMA FACIE

A forensic cross-examination of our times, from Broadway to book

Put the courts on trial with lawyer turned Olivier Award-winning playwright Suzie Miller as she discusses novelising her theatrical triumph that tackles sexual assault. In conversation with Nicole Abadee.

Supported by UNSW Sydney.



CC

2-3PM

TRACK 8

Adult \$25

Concession \$15

38 MELISSA LUCASHENKO: EDENGLASSIE

Love, romance and colonial myths

Sit down with Melissa Lucashenko, whose critically acclaimed new novel, *Edenglassie*, is a brilliant epic that torches colonial myths across two centuries. In conversation with ABC's Daniel Browning.



CC

2.15-2.45PM CUR39 LECH BLAINE ON PETER DUTTON

See page 40 for details

3-4PM

BAY 24

FREE

26 HOW TO READ A NOVEL WITH SOPHIE GEE

Between the lines and beyond the covers

Reading a novel may seem simple – start at the beginning. But, if you want to think more deeply about how writing works, join literature expert and novelist Sophie Gee for an insightful exploration.



3–4PM

BAY 19

Adult \$25

Concession \$15

40 **FOUND IN TRANSLATION****Three acclaimed translators bring us the world's best stories**

Explore the fine art of literary translation with these award-winning polyglots, who are introducing Anglophone readers to stories from around the globe. With Jennifer Croft, Daniel Hahn, Stephanie Smee and host Jemma Birrell. Jennifer Croft appears thanks to the support of Scribe.



3–4PM

TRACK 12

Adult \$25

Concession \$15

42 **THE FIRST TIME LIVE****The First Time** podcast talks writing, publishing, failure and success

Co-host of *The First Time* podcast, Kate Mildenhall, talks to debut writers Melanie Saward and James Colley and podcast 'Agony Aunt' Charlotte Wood about the highs and lows of the writing life.



3–4PM

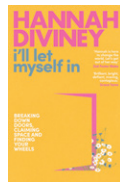
BAY 20,
THE ARA STAGE

Adult \$40

Concession \$35

52 **GOOD DIFFERENT****Breaking down doors, claiming space and finding your wheels**

When they couldn't find the stories they needed, they wrote them for themselves. Hear from writer and activist Hannah Diviney (*I'll Let Myself In*) and journalist Matilda Boseley (*The Year I Met My Brain*) on how they navigate the world.



4–5PM

BAY 17

TICKETS FROM

Adult \$40

Concession \$35

44 **JULIAN BORGER: I SEEK A KIND PERSON****An enthralling memoir of family history and the Holocaust's resonance through generations**

"I seek a kind person who will educate my intelligent boy, aged 11." An extraordinary 1938 personal advertisement that started Julian Borger's quest into his father's past and story of Holocaust survival. With Michaela Kalowski.

Supported by ARA.



4–5PM

TRACK 8

Adult \$25

Concession \$15

144 **LEÏLA SLIMANI ON A WRITER'S LOT****Acclaimed French-Moroccan novelist ponders art, life and her craft**

Hear from Prix Goncourt-winning *Lullaby* author Leïla Slimani on judging the International Booker Prize, being Macron's ambassador for the French language and her latest novel, *Watch Us Dance*. With Claire Nichols.

4.30–
5.30PM

BAY 24

FREE46 **SINGAPORE STORYTELLERS****Six Singaporean writers share stories of their island home**

How does place permeate the written word? In a series of readings, this collective of Singaporean writers reflect on connection to place in their work, spanning poetry, novels, plays and more.



5–6PM

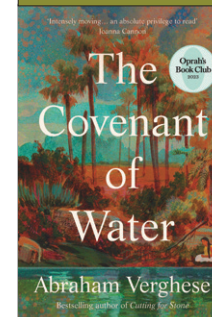
BAY 19

Adult \$25

Concession \$15

47 **BLAK CRIT****How art, writing and culture overlap for First Nations thinkers**

First Nations critics discuss their unique vantage point between culture, community and criticism for understanding and communicating contemporary culture. Writers and thinkers Susie Anderson, Daniel Browning and Jeanine Leane are joined by host Neika Lehman.

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

5–6PM

BAY 20,
THE ARA STAGE

Adult \$40

Concession \$35

**ABRAHAM VERGHESE:
THE COVENANT OF WATER****An epic family saga of love, faith and life in South India**

Examine the marriage of medicine and literature as physician, professor and bestselling novelist of *Cutting for Stone*, Abraham Verghese, discusses his sweeping new saga, *The Covenant of Water*. With host Roanna Gonsalves.

Supported by ARA and UNSW Sydney.

48

5–6PM

TRACK 12

Adult \$25

Concession \$15

49 **CAPTURING WAR****Snapshots from some of the world's most acclaimed photojournalists**

Hear from award-winning photojournalists on using their cameras to document conflicts in Afghanistan, Gaza, Iraq and Ukraine. Hosted by ABC Radio's Robbie Buck.



6–7PM

BAY 17

TICKETS FROM

Adult \$40

Concession \$35

50 **FANTASTICAL WORLDS****Forging new frontiers in fantasy**

Imagine another world with popular fantasy authors Garth Nix (*The Old Kingdom* series), Shelley Parker-Chan (*The Radiant Emperor* duology) and Samantha Shannon (*The Roots of Chaos* series). Hosted by Aimée Lindorff.



6–7PM

TRACK 8

Adult \$25

Concession \$15

51 **SWEATSHOP STORIES****Western Sydney's finest writers unite for a powerhouse performance**

These diverse and eclectic stories tap into the soul of contemporary Australia through exploration of race, class, gender and sexuality from emerging to established voices. Presented in partnership with Sweatshop Western Sydney Literacy Movement.



6-7PM
BAY 24
FREE

145 **NATALIE HAYNES STANDS UP FOR THE CLASSICS**
This comedian brings the ancient world entertainingly up to date

Explore the Greek goddesses as Natalie Haynes brings *Divine Might* to life in the comic vein of her wildly popular BBC Radio 4 show.



6.30-7.30PM
BLACKSMITH'S WORKSHOP
FREE

53 **FIRETALK**
Some stories are best told by firelight

Sit fireside with some of the continent's finest First Nations storytellers as they spin yarns that will make you laugh, cry and shiver in fright. With Tony Birch, Laneyuk, Enoch Mailangi, Mykaela Saunders and Melanie Saward. Hosted by Jazz Money.



7.30-8.30PM
TRACK 8
Adult \$25
Concession \$15

54 **AUSSIE CRIME ALL-STARS**
Meet the local authors who are getting away with murder

Grab your Akubra for this panel of Australia's hottest crime writers. Sulari Gentill, Dinuka McKenzie and Benjamin Stevenson chat about outback noir and what makes local crime fiction unique. With host Alex Adsett.



LIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT— HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT



7.30-8.30PM
BAY 17

LOVE AND LONGING

TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35



K Patrick and Christos Tsiolkas reveal their sentimental sides

Swoon with K Patrick (*Mrs S*) and Christos Tsiolkas (*The In-Between*) in this beautiful discussion of romance, desire and the pleasures of writing queer love stories. With Madeleine Gray.

55

7.30-8.30PM
TRACK 12
Adult \$25
Concession \$15

56 **BANKSTOWN POETRY SLAM**
Australia's largest poetry slam returns to the Festival

Bankstown Poetry Slam brings their award-winning community platform to the Festival. With the goal of empowering through spoken word poetry, settle in for an evening of performance from a line-up of captivating wordsmiths.



FRIDAY MAY 24

8.30-9.30AM
BAY 24
FREE

58 **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 Matthew Condon and Jacqueline Maley.

Presented in partnership with *The Monthly*.



10-10.30AM CUR59 **ANNA CLARK ON FISHING**

See page 40 for details

10-11AM
BAY 17
TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

60 **A.C. GRAYLING: THE MEANING OF LIFE IN A TECHNOLOGICAL AGE**
Finding answers in changing times

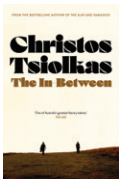
The quest for a life worth living has been the business of philosophers for millennia. How can we pursue answers to life's big questions in an increasingly unstable technological age? Join pre-eminent philosopher A.C. Grayling for this special talk.



10-11AM
TRACK 8
Adult \$25
Concession \$15

75 **CHRISTOS TSIOLKAS: *THE IN-BETWEEN***
A tender turn with an AusLit icon

Discover a new side of Christos Tsiolkas in his eighth novel, *The In-Between*, which portrays a moving romance between two middle-aged men. In conversation with host Ailsa Piper.



11-11.30AM CUR63 **RICHARD HOLDEN ON MONEY IN THE 21ST CENTURY**

See page 41 for details

11AM-12PM
BAY 19
FREE, bookings required

64 **IN CONVERSATION: 2024 STELLA PRIZE WINNER**
Get to know this year's Stella Prize winner

The winner of this year's Stella Prize sits down with Chair of the Judges, Beejay Silcox, to discuss their creative inspirations, writing process and prize-winning work.

Presented in partnership with Stella.



11AM-12PM
BAY 20, THE ARA STAGE
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

65 **STAGE TO PAGE**
Flip the script on adaptation

Turn adaptation upside down with Jane Harrison (*The Visitors*), Suzie Miller (*Prima Facie*) and Alana Valentine (*Wed by the Wayside*), who discuss going from play to paperback. With Maeve Marsden.



11AM-12PM
TRACK 12
FREE, bookings
required

66 **ABC CONVERSATIONS**
A Yakuza history lesson and true crime exposé
ABC Radio's *Conversations* presenter, Sarah Kanowski, records a show with Jake Adelstein (*Tokyo Noir*) about his time as a crime investigator and newspaper reporter in Japan's underworld.
Jake Adelstein appears thanks to the support of Scribe.



12-12.30PM CUR67 **CLIVE HAMILTON ON LIVING IN A HOTTER AUSTRALIA**

See page 41 for details

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

70 **THE WAR ON JOURNALISTS**
News from the Frontlines
With conflict continuing in Ukraine, and the death toll of journalists in Gaza reaching alarming proportions, we look at the role of journalists in war. Featuring Julian Borger, John Lyons and Alisa Sopova. Hosted by Hamish Macdonald.



12-1PM
TRACK 8
Adult \$25
Concession \$15

69 **THE GIFT OF GREEK MYTH**
Giving wise and witty voice to the goddesses of antiquity
Settle in for some classics as beloved historical fiction writer Kate Forsyth (*Psyche*) exhumes Greek mythology's underappreciated women. With Tom Wright.



LIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT— HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT



1-2PM
BAY 20,
THE ARA STAGE

THE SECRET LIVES OF WOMEN

TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

Unveiling invisible lives from Santo Domingo to Singapore

Uncover hidden women as cross-cultural novelist Elizabeth Acevedo, Balli Kaur Jaswal and Leïla Slimani discuss the rich inner worlds of their characters, whose aspirations are often obscured by duty and expectation.

139

1-2PM
BAY 19

TRUE LIVES

Adult \$25
Concession \$15

First Nations authors reclaiming Australia's stories

Join masterful writers Tony Birch (*Women & Children*) and Debra Dank (*We Come With This Place*), whose latest books centre First Nations people and Country. In conversation with Paul Daley.



71

1-2PM
BAY 24
FREE

79 **HOW TO REWRITE THE HISTORY BOOKS**

Two acclaimed thinkers on digging up the past

Learn how archaeologist David Wengrow and *Dark Emu* author Bruce Pascoe are reckoning with historical records and rewriting outworn stories. With host Anna Clark. David Wengrow appears thanks to the support of Kristina Stefanova.

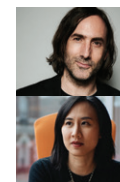


1-2PM
TRACK 12
FREE, bookings
required

73 **ABC RN: THE BOOKSHELF**

Recorded LIVE from Carriageworks!

Paul Lynch (*Prophet Song*), Celeste Ng (*Our Missing Hearts*) and Christos Tsiolkas (*The In-Between*) join hosts Cassie McCullagh and Michaela Kalowski from ABC RN's *The Bookshelf* to discuss the books they're enjoying and being challenged by.



2-3PM
TRACK 8
Adult \$25
Concession \$15

45 **CHARLOTTE WOOD: STONE YARD DEVOTIONAL**

Goodness, forgiveness and moral failure

Hear from Charlotte Wood, much-loved author of *The Natural Way of Things* and *The Weekend*, whose 10th book explores grief, forgiveness and what it means to be 'good'. In conversation with Beejay Silcox.



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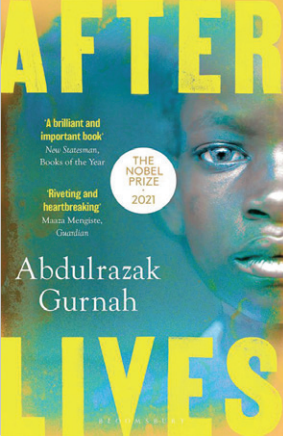
NEVER CLOSER
Written by Grace Chapple
Directed by Hannah Goodwin
25 May - 16 Jun

THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME
Based on the novel by Mark Haddon
Adapted for the stage by Simon Stephens
17 Aug - 22 Sep

COUNTING AND CRACKING
Writer and Associate Director S. Shakhidharan
Director and Associate Writer Eamon Flack
28 Jun - 21 Jul AT CARRIAGEWORKS



LIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT— HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT



2-3PM
BAY 17

**ABDULRAZAK GURNAH:
AFTERLIVES**

TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

Nobel Prize winner's saga of colonialism in Africa

Explore his writing and unpack the legacies of empire with acclaimed writer Abdulrazak Gurnah, whose 10th novel explores displacement, loss and love during and after German occupation of East Africa. With Sisonke Msimang.

76

3-4PM
TRACK 12
Adult \$25
Concession \$15

**29 YOUR FAVOURITES' FAVOURITES:
ANNABEL CRABB AND ROBERT SKINNER**

Life, liberty and the hapless quest for meaning

Laugh along with memoirist Robert Skinner and beloved broadcaster Annabel Crabb as they discuss Robert's rollicking debut, *I'd Rather Not*, which Annabel describes as "an absolute bag of lollies".



3-4PM
BAY 19
Adult \$25
Concession \$15

**77 NAM LE: 36 WAYS OF WRITING
A VIETNAMESE POEM**

Explore the explosive poetry debut from bestselling author of *The Boat*

Join renowned writer Nam Le who, 15 years after *The Boat*, returns to his great themes of identity and representation in a virtuosic debut book of poetry. In conversation with Felicity Plunkett.



3-4PM
BAY 20,
THE ARA STAGE
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

78 COLONIAL TRUTHS
Literary legends expose bloody truths of national history

Unpack the legacies of Australia's frontier wars with Miles Franklin-winning novelist Melissa Lucashenko and esteemed writer and journalist David Marr, discussing their latest books *Edenglassie* and *Killing for Country*, with Matthew Condon.



3-4PM
BAY 24
FREE

72 SMH BEST YOUNG NOVELISTS
Award-winning emerging novelists

Join *Spectrum's* Melanie Kembrey to celebrate the winners of the SMH Best Young Novelist awards in its 28th year. This event is a must for emerging writers and supporters of Australian literature.

Presented in partnership with *The Sydney Morning Herald*.



4-5PM
TRACK 8
Adult \$25
Concession \$15

81 JAMES BRADLEY: THE WORLD IN THE OCEAN

A paean to the oceans as waters heat and rise

Dive into the unknown with James Bradley, whose latest book, *Deep Water*, blends history, science, nature writing and environmentalism to explore the natural world's fathomless recesses. With journalist Helen Sullivan.



CC

4-5PM
BAY 17
TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

82 FEMINIST FIREBRANDS

Plot the pathways forward with these incendiary feminist voices

Four waves in, the feminist fight for gender equality is far from over. Writers and activists Hannah Ferguson, Sisonke Msimang and Jennifer Robinson discuss the most pressing issues facing women today with host Jo Dyer.

Supported by UNSW Sydney.



CC

5-6PM
BAY 19
Adult \$25
Concession \$15

**83 A LINE IN THE SAND: TWENTY
YEARS OF RED ROOM POETRY**

Leading poets reading work from Red Room Poetry's new anthology

Join Eunice Andrada, Kim Cheng Boey, Brendan Cowell, Toby Fitch, Laura Jean McKay, Jazz Money, Bruce Pascoe and Omar Sakr as they read from *A Line in the Sand: Twenty Years of Red Room Poetry*.

Presented in partnership with Red Room Poetry.



5-6PM
BAY 20,
THE ARA STAGE
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

84 DIRTY LAUNDRY

What happens after you spill your secrets?

Writers Benjamin Law, Rhys Nicholson and Amy Thunig have all aired dirty laundry in their memoirs. Join them as they sweep up the fallout on the other side of publication, in conversation with George Haddad.



5-6PM
BAY 24
FREE

85 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 Michael Williams.



5-6PM
TRACK 12
Adult \$25
Concession \$15

**86 YOUR FAVOURITES' FAVOURITES:
CHARLOTTE WOOD AND EMILY PERKINS**

Stella Prize-winning novelist talks shop with "long-time favourite" author

Hear *Stone Yard Devotional* writer Charlotte Wood in conversation with Emily Perkins, author of Charlotte's "long-time favourite", *The Forrests*, whose new novel, *Lioness*, explores marriage, privilege and finding freedom.



6-7PM

BAY 17

TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

87 **5KM FROM THE FRONTLINE****The human face of the war in Ukraine**

Hear from journalist Alisa Sopova and photographer Anastasia Taylor-Lind, whose extraordinary documentary photography series offers a unique, personal and deeply affecting look at the Ukraine war. With ABC RN's Hamish Macdonald.

Anastasia Taylor-Lind and Alisa Sopova appear thanks to the support of Phillip Keir and Sarah Benjamin.



6-7PM

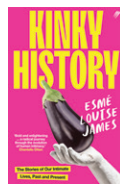
TRACK 8

Adult \$25
Concession \$15

88 **HISTORY OF SEX****Leading sexperts look back at hot and heavy history**

Bone up on carnal knowledge across the centuries with sex historian and TikTok sensation Esmé Louise James (*Kinky History*) and David Baker (*Sex: Two Billion Years Of Procreation And Recreation*). With evolutionary biologist Robert Brooks.

Supported by UNSW Sydney.



6.30-7.30PM

TRACK 12

Adult \$25
Concession \$15

89 **CLEMENTINE FORD: I DON'T****Untying the knot on matrimonial myths**

Hear from bestselling feminist writer Clementine Ford as she lays out the case against marriage, exploring its fascinating origins rooted in patriarchy and overturning enduring beliefs.



7.30-9PM

BAY 17

TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

91 **QUEERSTORIES****Vulnerable and fierce, hilarious and heartbreaking**

Celebrating the culture and creativity of the LGBTIQ+ community one true story at a time, Queerstories has played to crowds big and small, from Mudgee to Murwillumbah, Albury to Adelaide, Brisbane and beyond. Featuring J.M. Field, George Haddad, Bebe Oliver, K Patrick and Samantha Shannon.



7.30-8.30PM

TRACK 8

Adult \$25
Concession \$15

92 **FEAST****Revel in tales of culinary delights in this comedy event**

Join five of the Festival's funniest writers and comedians for a night of storytelling, laughter and food obsession. Featuring James Colley, Yumi Stynes, Oliver Twist, Jennifer Wong and more.



7.30-9PM

BAY 20, THE ARA STAGE

Adult \$40
Concession \$35

122 **DO WE NEED BOOKS?****An intergenerational showdown for fans of the SWF Great Debate**

Battle out the ultimate bookish question with philosopher A.C. Grayling and art historian and content creator Mary McGillivray in this live recording of the *Principle of Charity* podcast. Hosted by Emile Sherman and Lloyd Vogelman.

**SATURDAY MAY 25**

8.30-9.30AM

BAY 24

FREE

95 **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 Louisa Lim and Kerry O'Brien.

Presented in partnership with *The Saturday Paper*.



10AM-4PM

MAIN FOYER

FREE

94 **POETRY PRESCRIPTIONS****A poem a day keeps the doctor away**

Visit the Prescription Poetry Booth to revitalise your broken heart, cure the blister on your heel and everything in between.

Presented in partnership with Story Factory.

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

10-11AM

BAY 17

TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

**CELESTE NG: OUR MISSING HEARTS****The gripping, heart-rending follow-up to *Little Fires Everywhere***

Sit down with *New York Times*-bestselling author Celeste Ng, whose smash hit *Little Fires Everywhere* was adapted into a miniseries starring Reese Witherspoon. Listen in as she discusses her new dystopian novel with Claire Nichols.

Celeste Ng appears thanks to the support of Sam Meers AO.

96

10-11AM

BAY 24

FREE

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

Bring your best trivia buffs and ample coffee for this special edition of *Good Weekend's* Saturday institution, The Quiz. With editor Katrina Strickland, quizmaster Brian Yatman and host Benjamin Law.

Supported by the *Good Weekend*.



11AM-12PM

BAY 19

Adult \$25
Concession \$15

98 **ANIMAL MAGIC****Walk on the wild side with *Griffith Review 82: Animal Magic***

Award-winning writers Chris Flynn and Laura Jean McKay explore the curiosities and complexities of writing about animals, from dinosaurs to the secret residents of the deep. With *Griffith Review* editor Carody Culver.

Presented in partnership with *Griffith Review*.



11AM-12PM

TRACK 8
Adult \$25
Concession \$15

99 THE DINNER DILEMMA

Delicious dinner inspiration to feed the whole family

Take your seat at the table with *The Food Fix* book and podcast gurus Yumi Stynes and Simon Davis and their special guests as they bring real world answers to the big question: What's for dinner?



LIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT— HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT



11AM-12PM
BAY 20,
THE ARA STAGE

SAMANTHA SHANNON
ON THE ROOTS OF
CHAOS SERIES

Adult \$40
Concession \$35

Damsels are slaying dragons for themselves

Meet the new mother of dragons, Samantha Shannon, whose bestselling queer fantasy series, *The Roots of Chaos*, is grounded in women's empowerment. With host Shelley Parker-Chan.

100

12-1PM

BAY 17
TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

101 TRENT DALTON: FROM ELI TO LOLA

Beloved author returns to SWF in this career-spanning conversation

Trent Dalton, award-winning author of *Boy Swallows Universe* (now a hit Netflix series), returns with *Lola in the Mirror*, a big, beautiful novel about grappling with our past, present and possible futures. In conversation with Cassie McCullagh

Supported by ARA.



12-1PM

BAY 24
FREE

102 DICEY TOPICS

Roll the die and dive deep into taboo topics

A Festival favourite returns with this live edition of Dickey Topics. Join David Marr and Benjamin Law as they discuss the taboo subjects we are told to keep private.

Supported by the *Good Weekend*.



1-2PM

BAY 19
Adult \$25
Concession \$15

90 TRAILBLAZING WOMEN

Western Sydney debut novelists talk career paths: from emerging to acclaimed

Winnie Dunn, Shirley Le and Sara M Saleh speak about their trailblazing journeys: from humble beginnings as emerging grassroots writers to nationally celebrated and published authors. With Michael Mohammed Ahmad.

Presented in partnership with Sweatshop Western Sydney Literacy Movement.



1-2PM

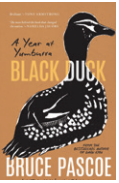
BAY 20,
THE ARA STAGE
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

103 BRUCE PASCOE AND LYN HARWOOD:
BLACK DUCK: A YEAR AT YUMBURRA

Reimagining the future of Australian farming using ancient wisdom

Reflect on life after *Dark Emu* and a year on Country at Yumburra with Bruce Pascoe and Lyn Harwood, where Black Duck Foods is bringing back traditional food-growing processes. With host Kerry O'Brien.

Supported by UNSW Sydney.



1-2PM

TRACK 8
Adult \$25
Concession \$15

61 MORE THAN MEMOIR

Go beyond life stories to ask the big questions

Get the backstory with Jeanne Ryckmans (*Trust*), Rachelle Unreich (*A Brilliant Life*) and Nova Weetman (*Love, Death & Other Scenes*), whose recent memoirs explore love, loss, resilience and ever-present pasts. With host Caroline Baum.



1.30-2PM

CUR43

ISABELLE REINECKE ON THE POWER
OF LAW IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

See page 41 for details

2-3PM

BAY 17
TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

106 STORYTELLERS: LEIGH SALES AND LISA MILLAR

Veteran journalists shine a spotlight on the craft of non-fiction

ABC legends Leigh Sales (*Storytellers*) and Lisa Millar (*Muster Dogs*) unpack the craft of turning real life events into narrative, drawing from their recent books and a combined 65 years in journalism.

Supported by ARA.



2.30-3PM

CUR107

MATILDA BOSELEY ON THE YEAR
I MET MY BRAIN

See page 41 for details

3-4PM

BAY 19
FREE

108 HOW WE LEARN TO READ WITH SALLY RIPPIN

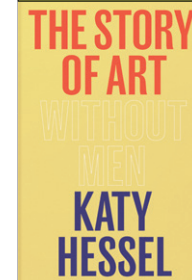
All kids can be readers

We all understand the importance of literacy for our kids, but what happens when reading just doesn't 'click'? Australian Children's Laureate Sally Rippin and Cat Rodie discuss how we learn to read and what could happen if we don't.

Supported by Australian Children's Laureate Foundation.



LIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT— HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT



3-4PM
BAY 20,
THE ARA STAGE

KATY HESSEL: THE STORY
OF ART WITHOUT MEN

Adult \$40
Concession \$35

Out with old masters, in with a new take on art history

Overtune art history as you know it with art historian and curator Katy Hessel – creator of popular podcast and Instagram account *The Great Women Artists* – in conversation with curator Beatrice Gralton.

Katy Hessel appears thanks to the support of Rosie Williams and John Grill AO.

109

SUNDAY MAY 26

8.30–
9.30AM

BAY 24

FREE

124 COFFEE AND HEADLINES WITH *READ THIS*

If you love discounted books, you don't love their authors

Ray Bonner, Richard Flanagan, Olivia Lanchester and Michael Robotham discuss a market under pressure, the impact of discounted books and how authors are paying the price. With host of *Read This* Michael Williams.

Presented in partnership with *Read This*.



10AM–4PM

MAIN FOYER

FREE

123 POETRY PRESCRIPTIONS

A poem a day keeps the doctor away

Visit the Prescription Poetry Booth to revitalise your broken heart, cure the blister on your heel and everything in between.

Presented with Story Factory.



10–11AM

BAY 17

TICKETS FROM

Adult \$40

Concession \$35

OC

125 BARRIE CASSIDY AND FRIENDS: STATE OF THE NATION

Review the year in AusPol at this Festival favourite

Relive all the thrills and spills of the year in Australian politics with veteran journo Barrie Cassidy and his hand-picked squad of the country's sharpest pundits: Bridget Brennan, Amy Remeikis, Niki Savva and Laura Tingle.



10–11AM

BAY 19

Adult \$25

Concession \$15

OC

132 YOUR FAVOURITES' FAVOURITES: TONY BIRCH AND GRAHAM AKHURST

Share stories with two generations of First Nations novelists

Sit down with beloved author Tony Birch (*Women & Children*) and debut writer Graham Akhurst, whose YA novel, *Borderland*, is an epic quest exploring First Nations identity, colonisation and fighting back.



10–11AM

TRACK 8

Adult \$25

Concession \$15

OC

127 HEDLEY THOMAS: HOW TO CATCH A KILLER

The story behind the true crime smash-hit podcast

Get the scoop on *The Teacher's Pet*, the book following the gripping podcast that helped convict a murderer. Gold Walkley Award-winning investigative journalist Hedley Thomas speaks with Matthew Condon.

Supported by the Jibb Foundation.



11.30AM–
12.30PM

BAY 17

TICKETS FROM

Adult \$40

Concession \$35

OC

128 PLAY LIKE A GIRL

Keep Tillies fever burning in this celebration of women's sports

Cheer on the athletes kicking goals for women's sport. Olympic rugby gold medalists Chloe Dalton (*Girls Don't Play Sport*), Australia's most decorated cycling Olympian Anna Meares and world champion Jana Pittman (*Enough*) chat with host Tracey Holmes.



11.30AM–
12.30PM

TRACK 8

Adult \$25

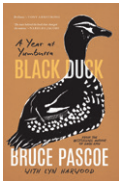
Concession \$15

OC

129 IN DEFENCE OF NATURE

Australia's foremost nature writers navigate life on a dying planet

Consider the writer's role in an era of profound ecological change with panelists James Bradley (*Deep Water*) and Bruce Pascoe (*Black Duck*). Hosted by Ashley Hay.



12.30–
1.30PM

TRACK 12

Adult \$25

Concession \$15

36 ATTACHMENT STYLES

Get personal with *Griffith Review 84: Attachment Styles*

Join beloved storytellers Richard Glover and Debra Oswald and acclaimed author Ahona Guha as they talk love, labels and psychobabble with *Griffith Review* editor Carody Culver.

Presented with *Griffith Review*.



12.30–
1.30PM

BAY 20,
THE ARA STAGE

Adult \$40

Concession \$35

131 FRAGILE DEMOCRACY

What are the clear and present dangers for democracies around the world?

Donald Trump and his attacks on the US electoral system have raised red flags about the strength of American democracy. But in an age of disinformation and civic decline, signs of fragility are visible elsewhere and Australia is no exception. With Festival favourite Barrie Cassidy, foreign correspondent Nick Bryant, academic Rosalind Dixon and author of *Trump's Australia* Bruce Wolpe.

Supported by UNSW Sydney.



12.30–
1.30PM

BAY 19

FREE, bookings
required

126 HOW TO EMERGE

Discover the pathways from emerging to emerged

Join Varuna Creative Director Maeve Marsden and Graham Akhurst, Winnie Dunn and Kate Mildenhall as they discuss their paths to publication and offer guidance for those with literary stars in their eyes.

Presented in partnership with Varuna, the National Writers' House.



1.30–2.30PM

BAY 17

TICKETS FROM

Adult \$40

Concession \$35

OC

133 SURVIVAL, SUSTENANCE AND STORIES

Lessons in resilience from First Nations writers and thinkers

Legendary First Nations truth-tellers Larissa Behrendt, Tony Birch, Narelda Jacobs and Amy Thunig share what sustains them in the plight for social change and its many profound challenges.

Supported by UNSW Sydney.



1.30–2.30PM

TRACK 8

Adult \$25

Concession \$15

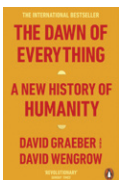
OC

134 DAVID WENGROW: *THE DAWN OF EVERYTHING*

Change the course of history, starting with the past

Transform your understanding of human evolution with professor of archaeology David Wengrow, whose groundbreaking work with the late David Graeber overturns theories on the origins of farming, cities, democracy, slavery and civilisation itself. In conversation with ABC RN's Richard Fidler.

David Wengrow appears thanks to the support of Kristina Stefanova.



2.30–
3.30PM

BAY 19

Adult \$25
Concession \$15135 **KATE MANNE: FIGHTING FATPHOBIA****The 'philosopher of the #MeToo movement' on body politics**

Philosophy professor Kate Manne is best known for her acclaimed studies on misogyny and male privilege. Her latest book, *Unshrinking*, re-evaluates fatphobia as a social justice issue. In conversation with Maeve Marsden.

2.30–
3.30PMBAY 20,
THE ARA STAGEAdult \$30
Concession \$25136 **THE DAILY AUS: NO SILLY QUESTIONS****Meet the young newsmakers taking social media by storm**

Get the inside story from *The Daily Aus* co-founders Sam Koslowski and Zara Seidler as they discuss their debut book, *No Silly Questions*, which lays out the facts behind the headlines. Hosted by ABC's Leigh Sales.

3.30–
4.30PM

BAY 17

TICKETS FROM
Adult \$40
Concession \$35

OC

137 **LIFE AND LAUGHTER****Share in the comedy of the human condition**

Catch three of Australia's most loved and versatile writers and entertainers as they share stories from their colourful lives and work. With panelists Richard Glover, Wendy Harmer and William McInnes. Hosted by Jennifer Wong.

3.30–
4.30PM

TRACK 8

Adult \$25
Concession \$15

OC

138 **DARK TECHNOLOGIES****Exposing the technology of modern warfare**

Hear about the role of emerging technologies in conflict and occupation with Walkley Award-winning journalist Antony Loewenstein (*The Palestine Laboratory*), artificial intelligence expert Toby Walsh (*Faking It*) and host Michael Richardson.

Supported by UNSW Sydney.

4.30–
5.30PMBAY 20,
THE ARA
STAGEAdult \$40
Concession \$35140 **DAVID MARR: KILLING FOR COUNTRY****Revered reporter investigates his forebears' savage legacy**

Join journalist and writer David Marr as he reckons with Australia's history of colonial politics and power in his new soul-searching familial saga, *Killing for Country*. In conversation with Laura Tingle.

4.30–
5.30PM

TRACK 12

Adult \$25
Concession \$15141 **NICK BRYANT: AMERICA'S UNENDING CONFLICT WITH ITSELF****Unpacking US politics, from the Founding Fathers to Trump**

Learn from foreign correspondent Nick Bryant, who discusses his expansive study of American politics. *The Forever War* looks at how America's contemporary polarisation has been 250 years in the making. In conversation with ABC RN's Geraldine Doogue.



LIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT— HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT—HIGHLIGHT

5.30–
6.30PM

BAY 17

**CLOSING ADDRESS:
KATE MANNE
ON THE FUTURE
OF MISOGYNY****TICKETS FROM**
Adult \$45
Concession \$40

OC

Unpack the future of misogyny with Kate Manne, philosopher of the #MeToo era

Philosopher Kate Manne is heralded for her vivid, rigorous analysis of misogyny in her books *Down Girl* and *Entitled*. Join Kate for a compelling exploration of what she believes lies ahead.

Supported by UNSW Sydney.

142



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MAY 8
6.30–
7.30PMSTATE
LIBRARY OF
NSW, LIBRARY
AUDITORIUM**PAUL MURRAY:
THE BEE STING**Adult \$40
Concession \$35

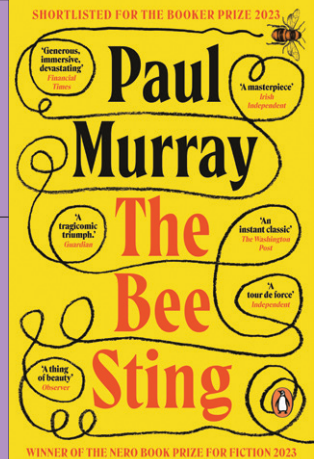
OC

An unhappy family portrayed with wit, wisdom and heart

Catch Booker Prize shortlisted author Paul Murray, one of three superb Irish writers at this year's Festival, as he discusses his third novel, *The Bee Sting*, with ABC's Kate Evans.

Supported by the Consulate General of Ireland and Culture Ireland.

146



THE CONVERSATION

**Books
& Ideas**
Newsletter

Subscribe to the **Books & Ideas newsletter** to receive reviews, essays & debates from Australia's best writers FREE in your inbox every Friday



Subscribe here

FREE EVENTS

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

POETRY PRESCRIPTIONS

CARRIAGEWORKS,
MAIN FOYER

A poem a day keeps the doctor away

Visit the Prescription Poetry Booth to revitalise your broken heart, cure the blister on your heel and everything in between. Presented in partnership with Story Factory.

TIMES:

94: **SAT 25 MAY, 10AM–4PM**

123: **SUN 26 MAY, 10AM–4PM**



THURSDAY MAY 23

1–2PM

CARRIAGEWORKS,
BAY 24

35 PEN LECTURE: WRITING FROM PRISON IN MYANMAR

Two previously imprisoned writers share their hopes for Myanmar's future

Sean Turnell and Ma Thida have both written about their experience as prisoners of conscience in Myanmar's notorious Insein Prison. Hear their hopes for Myanmar three years after the coup. With host Catherine Renshaw.



3–4PM

CARRIAGEWORKS,
BAY 24

26 HOW TO READ A NOVEL WITH SOPHIE GEE

Between the lines and beyond the covers

Reading a novel may seem simple – start at the beginning. But, if you want to think more deeply about how writing works, join literature expert and novelist Sophie Gee for an insightful exploration.



4.30–5.30PM

CARRIAGEWORKS,
BAY 24

46 SINGAPORE STORYTELLERS

Six Singaporean writers share stories of their island home

How does place permeate the written word? In a series of readings, this collective of Singaporean writers reflect on connection to place in their work, spanning poetry, novels, plays and more.



6–7PM

CARRIAGEWORKS,
BAY 24

145 NATALIE HAYNES STANDS UP FOR THE CLASSICS

This comedian brings the ancient world entertainingly up to date

Explore the Greek goddesses as Natalie Haynes brings *Divine Might* to life in the comic vein of her wildly popular BBC Radio 4 show.



6.30–7.30PM

CARRIAGEWORKS,
BLACKSMITH'S
WORKSHOP

53 FIRETALK

Some stories are best told by firelight

Sit fireside with some of the continent's finest First Nations storytellers as they spin yarns that will make you laugh, cry and shiver in fright. With Tony Birch, Laniyuk, Enoch Mailangi, Mykaela Saunders and Melanie Saward. Hosted by Jazz Money.



FRIDAY MAY 24

8.30–9.30AM

CARRIAGEWORKS,
BAY 24

58 COFFEE AND HEADLINES WITH *THE MONTHLY*

Start your day at Carriageworks with coffee and the latest news

See page 21
for details

11AM–12PM

CARRIAGEWORKS,
BAY 19

64 IN CONVERSATION: 2024 STELLA PRIZE WINNER

Get to know this year's Stella Prize winner

The winner of this year's Stella Prize sits down with Chair of the Judges, Beejay Silcox, to discuss their creative inspirations, writing process and prize-winning work. Presented in partnership with Stella.



11AM–12PM

CARRIAGEWORKS,
TRACK 12

66 ABC CONVERSATIONS

A Yakuza history lesson and true crime exposé

ABC Radio's Conversations presenter, Sarah Kanowski, records a show with Jake Adelstein (*Tokyo Noir*) about his time as a crime investigator and newspaper reporter in Japan's underworld.

Jake Adelstein appears thanks to the support of Scribe.



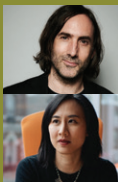
1–2PM

CARRIAGEWORKS,
TRACK 12

73 ABC RN: *THE BOOKSHELF*

Recorded live from Carriageworks!

Paul Lynch (*Prophet Song*), Celeste Ng (*Our Missing Hearts*) and Christos Tsiolkas (*The In-Between*) join hosts Cassie McCullagh and Michaela Kalowski from ABC RN's *The Bookshelf* to discuss the books they're enjoying and being challenged by.



1–2PM

CARRIAGEWORKS,
BAY 24

79 HOW TO REWRITE THE HISTORY BOOKS

Two acclaimed thinkers on digging up the past

Learn how archaeologist David Wengrow and *Dark Emu* author Bruce Pascoe are reckoning with historical records and rewriting outworn stories, with Anna Clark.

David Wengrow appears thanks to the support of Kristina Stefanova.



3–4PM

CARRIAGEWORKS,
BAY 24

72 SMH BEST YOUNG NOVELISTS

Award-winning emerging novelists

Join *Spectrum's* Melanie Kembrey to celebrate the winners of the SMH Best Young Novelist awards in its 28th year. This event is a must for emerging writers and supporters of Australian literature.

Presented in partnership with *The Sydney Morning Herald*.



5–6PM

CARRIAGEWORKS,
BAY 2485 **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 Michael Williams.



3–4PM

CARRIAGEWORKS,
BAY 19108 **HOW WE LEARN TO READ WITH SALLY RIPPIN****All kids can be readers**

We all understand the importance of literacy for our kids, but what happens when reading just doesn't 'click'? Australian Children's Laureate Sally Rippin and Cat Rodie discuss how we learn to read and what could happen if we don't.

Supported by Australian Children's Laureate Foundation.

**SATURDAY MAY 25**

8.30–9.30AM

CARRIAGEWORKS,
BAY 2495 **COFFEE AND HEADLINES WITH
THE SATURDAY PAPER**

Start your day at Carriageworks with coffee and the latest news

See page 27
for details

10–11AM

CARRIAGEWORKS,
BAY 2497 **THE GOOD WEEKEND QUIZ****Free, interactive and live edition of a beloved weekend ritual**

Bring your best trivia buffs and ample coffee for this special edition of *Good Weekend's* Saturday institution, The Quiz. With editor Katrina Strickland, quizmaster Brian Yatman and host Benjamin Law.

Supported by the *Good Weekend*.



12–1PM

CARRIAGEWORKS,
BAY 24102 **DICEY TOPICS****Roll the die and dive deep into taboo topics**

A Festival favourite returns with this live edition of Dickey Topics. Join David Marr and Benjamin Law as they discuss the taboo subjects we are told to keep private.

Supported by the *Good Weekend*.

**SUNDAY MAY 26**

8.30–9.30AM

CARRIAGEWORKS,
BAY 2495 **COFFEE AND HEADLINES WITH READ THIS**

If you love discounted books, you don't love their authors

See page 32
for details

12.30–1.30PM

CARRIAGEWORKS,
BAY 19126 **HOW TO EMERGE****Discover the pathways from emerging to emerged**

Join Varuna Creative Director Maeve Marsden and Graham Akhurst, Winnie Dunn and Kate Mildenhall as they discuss their paths to publication and offer guidance for those with literary stars in their eyes.

Presented in partnership with Varuna, the National Writers' House.

**Bookings required**

Proud to play our part

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

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

CITY OF SYDNEY 

FREE CURIOSITY LECTURE SERIES

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 23

10–10.30AM CUR22 **BRIGITTA OLUBAS AND SUSAN WYNNDHAM ON WRITING LETTERS**

CARRIAGEWORKS,
BAY 24

Uncover the letters between eminent novelists Shirley Hazzard and Elizabeth Harrower

From their research in editing a collection of letters between Hazzard and Harrower, biographer Brigitta Olubas and journalist Susan Wyndham share insights into the art of writing letters and the relationships they sustain, or destroy.



11.30AM–12PM CUR105 **KERRI SACKVILLE ON BEING ALONE**

CARRIAGEWORKS,
BAY 24

The life-changing magic of me time

Embrace idle moments as columnist, commentator and author of *The Secret Life of You*, Kerri Sackville, explains the benefits of getting comfortable with yourself and learning to cherish alone time.



2.15–2.45PM CUR39 **LECH BLAINE ON PETER DUTTON**

CARRIAGEWORKS,
BAY 24

An essential portrait of the Pied Piper of outer suburbia

Reflect on Peter Dutton's political strategy with Lech Blaine, whose *Quarterly Essay* asks where Dutton will lead the Coalition and, if elected, the 'forgotten people' – his campaign targets.



FRIDAY MAY 24

10–10.30AM CUR59 **ANNA CLARK ON FISHING**

CARRIAGEWORKS,
BAY 24

Cast a line into Australia's love affair with fishing

Self-proclaimed fishing enthusiast, author and historian Anna Clark celebrates the enduring pleasure of fishing. She charts its history in Australia from traditional First Nations practices through to the latest fishing fads.



11–11.30AM CUR63 **RICHARD HOLDEN ON MONEY IN THE 21ST CENTURY**

CARRIAGEWORKS,
BAY 24

How will your wallet fare in this digital age?

In a world where money is increasingly cheap, digital and mobile, economist Richard Holden looks at the impact of these forces on our wallets, on the block chain and on major economies.



12–12.30PM CUR67 **CLIVE HAMILTON ON LIVING IN A HOTTER AUSTRALIA**

CARRIAGEWORKS,
BAY 24

How will Australia survive and thrive on a heating planet?

Academic Clive Hamilton takes a hard look at the current climate predicament in this call to action for Australia's future. Discover how we can best prepare for escalating pressures, and perhaps even flourish.



SATURDAY MAY 25

1.30–2PM CUR43 **ISABELLE REINECKE ON THE POWER OF LAW IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST**

CARRIAGEWORKS,
BAY 24

Shifting the balance of power in a brave new world

At a time when attacks on the courts are increasing, explore how people and communities can use the power of the law and courts to redress injustices and make a difference.

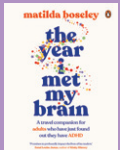


2.30–3PM CUR107 **MATILDA BOSELEY ON THE YEAR I MET MY BRAIN**

CARRIAGEWORKS,
BAY 24

Writer's aha moment following ADHD diagnosis

Navigate the stormy seas of the ADHD brain with your captain, Matilda Boseley, who embarked on an epic voyage to write the empowering, essential guidebook she wishes she'd had.

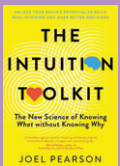


3.30–4PM CUR111 **JOEL PEARSON ON INTUITION**

CARRIAGEWORKS,
BAY 24

How to trust your gut, supported by trailblazing research

Harness your intuition with neuroscientist and psychologist Joel Pearson, whose book, *The Intuition Toolkit*, teaches you when it's safe to rely on your instincts in decision-making and when it's not.



4.30–5PM CUR114 **AHONA GUHA ON LIFE SKILLS FOR A BROKEN WORLD**

CARRIAGEWORKS,
BAY 24

Cutting through the confusion in our heads and hearts

Learn how to cope, thrive and feel hopeful for the future with clinical and forensic psychologist Ahona Guha, drawing on her practical guide, *Life Skills for a Broken World*.



ALL-DAY YA

All-Day YA is an epic celebration of all things YA (Young Adult Fiction). All-Day YA events are located at Carriageworks, Track 12. **Tickets \$15.**

SATURDAY MAY 25



10–11AM
CARRIAGEWORKS,
TRACK 12

MURDER THEY WROTE

One room. Three YA authors. Fresh blood.

The classic whodunnit is making a comeback in YA fiction but who's to blame? Hear from prime suspects Amy Doak, Meg Gatland-Veness and Jack Heath.

YA1

12–1PM
CARRIAGEWORKS,
TRACK 12

UNDER PRESSURE

Youth – the best of times, the worst of times

Graham Akhurst and Erin Gough write thrilling, funny and heartbreaking books that reflect our modern times. With anxiety on the rise, YA literature is exploring the issues facing today's young readers and beyond.

YA2



2–3PM
CARRIAGEWORKS,
TRACK 12

THE AUSTEN FORMULA

Classic rom-coms with a fresh twist

With its witty heroine and enemies-to-lovers plotting, *Pride and Prejudice* has created many rom-com tropes. YA authors Kate and Angourie Rice, Sophie Gonzales and Gabrielle Tozer talk to Nathan Luff about Austen's lasting influences on the genre.

YA3

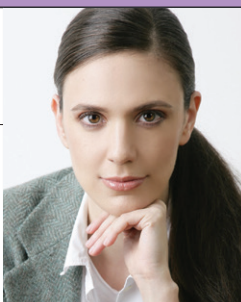
4–5PM
CARRIAGEWORKS,
TRACK 12

CREATING A MONSTER

Light in the darkness

YA fantasy readers are drawn to stories of complex monsters. Monsters as heroes. Monsters as love interests. Monsters in disguise. Vanessa Len, C.S. Pacat and Sarah Street examine bringing monsters to life, in conversation with Alex Adsett.

YA4



FAMILY DAY

Family Day is filled with activities that will whisk kids away into a world of wonder.

Enjoy talks, storytelling sessions, arts and craft stations, Russ the Story Bus, live music and more. **Free events** take place in Bays 22–24 (no bookings required).

Ticketed events are held in Track 12 and Bay 20, The ARA Stage. **All ticketed events are \$10.**

SUNDAY MAY 26

9:15–10AM
CARRIAGEWORKS,
TRACK 12

All tickets \$10

CH11 PROUDFOOT AND FRIENDS

Laugh, dance and sing

Join award-winning children's performer Lucas Proudfoot and a cast of unforgettable characters on a non-stop musical adventure around Pelican Bay. Rec. ages 3–7



10–10.30AM
CARRIAGEWORKS,
BAY 24
FREE

CH12 WORST WEEK EVER!

What could possibly go wrong?

Join Worst Week Ever creators Eva Amores and Matt Cosgrove for half an hour of mayhem as they take you through the hit series and reveal insights into its creation. Rec. ages 7–12



10:15–11AM
CARRIAGEWORKS,
BAY 20,
THE ARA STAGE
All tickets \$10

CH13 EMMA MEMMA

All aboard the Butterfly Bus!

Emma Memma is excited to be twirling our way to chat about *The Wheels on the Butterfly Bus* and how she incorporates her love of dance, sign language and music into her books. Rec. ages 3–7



11–11.30AM
CARRIAGEWORKS,
BAY 24
FREE

CH14 STORY SALAD LIVE

The popular ABC Kids listen podcast – LIVE!

Join Matt from *Play School* and one of his super storyteller friends for a live version of the hit ABC Kids podcast, *Story Salad*. Rec. ages 3–9
Supported by ABC Kids.



11.15AM–12PM
CARRIAGEWORKS,
TRACK 12
All tickets \$10

CH15 LITTLE LUNCH

Interactive storytelling fun

In this fun-filled session, Little Lunch creators Danny Katz and Mitch Vane share hilarious insights into the creation of the books and the hit TV spinoff. Rec. ages 5–10



12–12.30PM CH16 **IN MY BLOOD IT RUNS**CARRIAGEWORKS,
BAY 24

FREE

History. Learning. Love. Resistance.

In My Blood It Runs is adapted for young readers from the acclaimed documentary about 10-year-old Arrernte and Garawa boy, Djuwan Hoosan. Creators Djuwan Hoosan, Carol Turner and Blak Douglas explore the process of translating this important story from film to the page, in conversation with Melanie Saward. Rec. ages 8+

1–1.30PM CH17 **EPIC ILLUSTRATOR BATTLE**CARRIAGEWORKS,
BAY 24

FREE

There can only be one champion!

Illustrators Matt Cosgrove, Chris Kennett, Cheryl Orsini and Aura Parker are pitted against each other in a ferocious battle to determine the 2024 illustrator champion of champions. Hosted by Louise Park. Rec. ages 3+

2–2.30PM CH18 **EWV GROSS!**CARRIAGEWORKS,
BAY 24

FREE

Foul facts and putrid pictures

Dan Marshall has written a disgustingly wonderful guide to all things yuck. He joins us to share his favourite discoveries that are guaranteed to make you say *Eww Gross!* Rec. ages 6+

2–2.45PM CH19 **IN CONVERSATION WITH MORRIS GLEITZMAN**CARRIAGEWORKS,
TRACK 12

All tickets \$10

Something to tweet about

Tweet is Morris Gleitzman's first novel since his bestselling and beloved *Once* series. Don't miss hearing from one of Australia's most treasured storytellers in conversation with Kristin Darell. Rec. ages 8+
Supported by ARA.

3–3.30PM CH10 **EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED**CARRIAGEWORKS,
BAY 24

FREE

Safety goggles advised

Join Cristy Burne for an all-new extravaganza of science, creativity and adventure. Cristy works at the intersection of story, science, technology and creativity. Safety goggles advised. Rec. ages 6+

3.15–4PM CH11 **THE INBE-TWEENS**CARRIAGEWORKS,
TRACK 12

All tickets \$10

Not a kid, not yet a teenager

Too old for kids' books? Too young for YA? Middle-grade novels are perfectly pitched for the inbe-tweens. Authors Deborah Abela, Samera Kamaledine and Nova Weetman discuss the joy of writing for this important age group. Rec. ages 8+

3.30–4PM CH12 **SPOOKY CAMPFIRE TALES**CARRIAGEWORKS,
BAY 24

FREE

Not for the faint-hearted

Join Ashleigh Barton and John Larkin around the campfire as they share some seriously spooky tales guaranteed to raise the hairs on the back of your neck. Rec. ages 8+

12–26 MAY
VARIOUS
TIMES CH13 **INCREDIBILIA**STATE LIBRARY
OF NSW,
DIXSON ROOMTicketed by
State Library
of NSW**Magical theatre featuring 20 stories, 101 objects,
music and song!**

Inspired by the work of celebrated children's author Libby Hathorn, the State Library of NSW presents a new show – *Incredibilia* – adapted by acclaimed theatre-maker, Kim Carpenter (*Theatre of Image*). With music by Peter Kennard's extraordinary one-man band. Rec. ages 5–10



Write yourself into history

We collect Australia's stories. Deposit your book today.

nla.gov.au/legal-deposit

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA

Open the cover on a vanished literary world

with these highly anticipated new releases

visit unsw.press

the end of the morning
Charmian Clift

Hazzard AND Harrower
THE LETTERS

NEWSOUTH

FREE KIDS ACTIVITIES



Let your imagination run wild with our free activities for kids. All events take place on Sunday 26 May in Bays 22–24, Carriageworks and are **FREE (no bookings required)**.

SUNDAY MAY 26

10AM–4PM BAY 22–24 BBY1 **RUSS THE STORY BUS**

BAYS 22–24

FREE

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 for borrowing books. All ages.

Russ the Story Bus is supported by ARA, Bushells Foundation, James N. Kirby Foundation, Jibb Foundation, Thyne Reid Foundation and Waratah Education Foundation.



10AM–4PM BAY 22–24 BBY2 **THE BIG FAMILY DAY BACKDROP**

BAYS 22–24

FREE

Unleash the artist within

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



10AM–3.30PM BAY 22–24 BBY3 **BADGEMAKING WITH CHERYL ORSINI**

BAYS 22–24

FREE

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–3PM BAY 22–24 BBY4 **AMANDA'S CRAFT CORNER**

BAYS 22–24

FREE

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.



10.30–4PM BAY 22 BBY5 **STORYTIME STAGE**

BAY 22

FREE

Get cosy and listen to a story

The best kids' storytellers are dropping by to share stories all day long. Hear from Sally Rippin, Chris Kennett, Aura Parker, J.M. Field, Jeremy Worrall, Louise Park and Angie Who. Rec. ages 3+



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 for more details.**

MAY 25

3–4PM

ASHFIELD TOWN HALL

N1 **THE SECRET LIVES OF POLITICIANS**

Lech Blaine, Niki Savva and Margot Saville talk
AusPol's key players

Free, bookings required

MAY 24

6–7PM

BRYAN BROWN THEATRE,
BANKSTOWN

N3 **BRYAN BROWN: THE DROWNING**

Iconic actor and crime fiction writer returns home to Bankstown

All Tickets: \$5

MAY 26

1–2PM

BOYD EDUCATION CENTRE,
BUNDANON

N2 **KATY HESSEL: THE STORY OF ART WITHOUT MEN**

Experience art history re-written at Bundanon, an art destination on the NSW South Coast

General Admission: \$25 Concession: \$20

Ticket price includes museum entry.

Katy Hessel appears thanks to the support of Rosie Williams and John Grill AO.

MAY 24

12.30–1.30PM

CHATSWOOD LIBRARY ON
THE CONCOURSE

N5 **KATE MILDENHALL: THE HUMMINGBIRD EFFECT**

Transcend time in kaleidoscopic novel connecting four women's stories across the ages

FREE, bookings required

MAY 22

6.30–7.30PM

CONCORD LIBRARY

N6 **SULARI GENTILL: THE MYSTERY WRITER**

Award-winning crime aficionado on creating murder mysteries

FREE, bookings required

MAY 25

11.30AM–12.30PM

AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM,
LECTURE THEATRE,
DARLINGHURST

N26 **KAVA AND CLIMATE: TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND SUSTAINABLE LIVING IN THE PACIFIC**

Join 'Alopi Latukefu for a special interactive Kava ceremony and climate conversation

FREE, bookings required

MAY 21

6.45–7.45PM

SYDNEY JEWISH MUSEUM,
DARLINGHURST

N32 **THE UNTOLD AUSTRALIAN STORY OF MAUS**

How Art Spiegelman's graphic novel reunited a family decades after the Holocaust

All tickets \$25

MAY 21
7–9PM

SYDNEY THEATRE
COMPANY, THE THEATRE
BAR AT THE END OF THE
WHARF, DAWES POINT

**N25 PATRICK WHITE PLAYWRIGHTS
AWARD READING**

Be the first to hear a brand new award-winning play
FREE, bookings required

MAY 22
6.30–7.30PM

WOOLLAHRA LIBRARY
AT DOUBLE BAY

N30 CHRIS FLYNN: *HERE BE LEVIATHANS*

A wonderfully wild collection of stories to spark your
imagination
All tickets \$10

MAY 22
6–7PM

EPPING LEISURE AND
LEARNING CENTRE

**N7 BENJAMIN STEVENSON:
*EVERYONE ON THIS TRAIN IS A SUSPECT***

Discuss the hotly anticipated follow-up from bestselling
crime-writing comedian
FREE, bookings required

MAY 22
6.30–7.30PM

GORDON LIBRARY

N8 ROBYN DAVIDSON IN CONVERSATION

Tracks author journeys into uncharted terrain: her past
FREE, bookings required

MAY 25
6.30–9PM

PARRAMATTA ARTISTS'
STUDIOS, GRANVILLE

N33 EAT YOUR WORDS

A culinary tour in words and stories out west
FREE, bookings required

MAY 24
2–3PM

HORNSBY CENTRAL
LIBRARY

N37 DINUKA MCKENZIE: *TIPPING POINT*

Detective Kate Miles returns in Dinuka's much-awaited
latest thriller
FREE, bookings required

MAY 24
6.30–7.30PM

HURSTVILLE LIBRARY AND
SERVICE CENTRE

N9 PETER POLITES: *GOD FORGETS ABOUT THE POOR*

Greek-Australian novelist on the love story dedicated
to his migrant mother
FREE, bookings required

MAY 21
6.30–7.30PM

MANLY LIBRARY

N11 JAMES BRADLEY: *DEEP WATER*

Dive into the ocean's wonders through history, science and
environmentalism
All tickets \$5

MAY 26
1–2PM

MARRICKVILLE LIBRARY

**N13 SHELLEY PARKER-CHAN:
*HE WHO DROWNED THE WORLD***

Reimagine the Ming dynasty's beginnings in this discussion on
Shelley's queer historical fantasy series
FREE, bookings required

MAY 24
7.30–8.30PM

WESTWORDS, PARRAMATTA

N28 AUBURN POETS AND WRITERS: LIVING IN THE AIR

The Western Sydney collective returns with a new show
All tickets \$10

MAY 22
6–7PM

PHIVE,
PARRAMATTA

**YUMNA KASSAB:
*POLITICA***

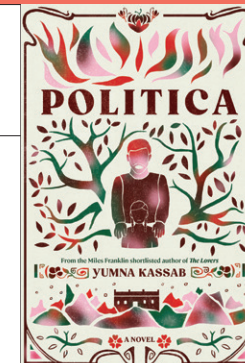
All tickets \$10

Sit down with the City of Parramatta's
inaugural Laureate in Literature

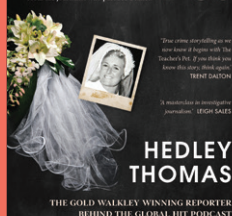
The Parra local and laureate discusses *Politica*, her
latest novel traversing a region shaped by war.
Discuss how Parramatta has shaped Yumna's
body of work, which Western Sydney writers
to watch and, naturally, the Wanderers.

N16

Supported by the City of Parramatta.



**The
Teacher's
Pet**



MAY 25
10–11AM

PHIVE,
PARRAMATTA

**HEDLEY THOMAS:
*THE TEACHER'S PET***

All tickets \$10

The hit true crime podcast that captured a nation

Join Hedley Thomas for a behind-the-scenes look into
The Teacher's Pet. Explore the crime, podcast
and investigation that saw justice brought to the
cold case of Sydney nurse Lynette Simms.

Supported by the City of Parramatta.

N17

MAY 26
3–4PM

PHIVE,
PARRAMATTA

**HOLLY RINGLAND:
*THE HOUSE THAT
JOY BUILT***

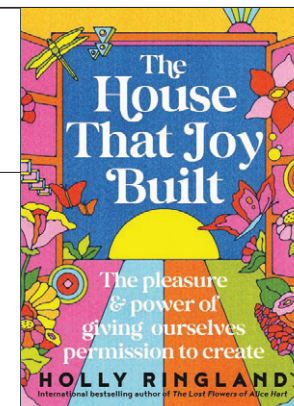
All tickets \$10

Much-loved novelist on overcoming fear
and embracing joy

Take your seat for a conversation with bestselling
author Holly Ringland and host Kate Mildenhall.
Holly's latest book, *The House That Joy Built*, is an
inspiring love letter to creativity.

Supported by the City of Parramatta.

N15



MAY 23
7–9PM

CHAOTIC SOCIAL,
PETERSHAM

**N36 CHAOTIC SOCIAL BOOK CLUB – SYDNEY WRITERS'
FESTIVAL EDITION**

Chat about the Festival book of the month among (new) friends
All tickets \$20

MAY 23
8–9PM

PETERSHAM BOWLING
CLUB

**N31 READERS: BOOKS AND CONVERSATIONS
WITH FRANCESCA DE TORES**

Forget Blackbeard, meet infamous pirate Mary Read in the
daring historical novel, *Saltblood*

All tickets \$10

MAY 25
11AM–12PM
PENRITH CITY LIBRARY

N14 JANE HARRISON: *THE VISITORS*
Groundbreaking First Nations playwright takes stage to page in novelisation
FREE, bookings required

MAY 26
1–2PM
MARGARET MARTIN LIBRARY, RANDWICK

N12 KERRI SACKVILLE: *THE SECRET LIFE OF YOU*
Discover how the power of alone time can change your life
FREE, bookings required

MAY 23
6.45–7.45PM
RYDE LIBRARY

N18 MIRANDI RIWOE: *SUNBIRDS*
Love, loyalties and imminent war in the Dutch East Indies
FREE, bookings required

MAY 25
10AM–12PM
SANS SOUCI LITERARY INSTITUTE

N38 NO WORRIES WRITING WORKSHOPS: FIND YOUR FLOW WITH KATHRYN HEYMAN
Be guided through a series of immersive writing exercises to free your imagination
Workshops \$25

MAY 25
3–4PM
SANS SOUCI LITERARY INSTITUTE

N19 RICHARD GLOVER: *BEST WISHES*
Join beloved broadcaster in harnessing wishful thinking for a better world
FREE, bookings required

MAY 26
10–11AM
SANS SOUCI LITERARY INSTITUTE

N39 NO WORRIES WRITING WORKSHOPS: START WITH A SCENE WITH ELEANOR LIMPRECHT
Be guided through a series of immersive writing exercises to free your imagination
Workshops \$25

MAY 23
6–7PM
SUTHERLAND LIBRARY

N34 DEBRA DANK: *WE COME WITH THIS PLACE*
Family, ancestors and Gudanji Country intertwine in this mosaic-like book
FREE, bookings required

MAY 20
6–9.30PM
STATE LIBRARY OF NSW, LIBRARY AUDITORIUM

N22 2024 NSW PREMIER'S LITERARY AWARDS
Celebrate the winners of this year's awards and their contribution to culture
FREE, bookings required

MAY 21
12.30–1.30PM
STATE LIBRARY OF NSW, GALLERY ROOM

N20 AND THE AWARD GOES TO ...
How do awards impact a writer's life?
FREE, bookings required

MAY 21
2–3.30PM
STATE LIBRARY OF NSW, GALLERY ROOM

N21 WINNING HISTORIES
What is the alchemy of writing award-winning histories?
FREE, bookings required

MAY 22
FROM 6.30PM
STATE LIBRARY OF NSW, THE LIBRARY BAR

N24 TRIVIA IN THE LIBRARY BAR
Test your bookish smarts at the State Library of NSW's rooftop Library Bar
FREE, bookings required

MAY 23
7–8PM
STATE LIBRARY OF NSW, LIBRARY AUDITORIUM

N23 THE LIBRARY THAT MADE ME
For those who love their library
Adult: \$20 Concession: \$15

MAY 23
6.30–7.30PM
WAVERLEY LIBRARY

N4 SIMON TEDESCHI IN CONVERSATION WITH SHEILA NGOC PHAM
Embark on a literary journey with Simon Tedeschi and explore the role of art in overcoming divides
FREE, bookings required

MAY 25
10–10.45AM
WENTWORTH POINT COMMUNITY CENTRE AND LIBRARY

N27 CRISTY BURNE: SCIENCE, CREATIVITY, ADVENTURE
Grab your goggles and get ready for explosive fun!
FREE, bookings required

MAY 23
6–8.30PM
WOLLONGONG ART GALLERY

N29 LAUNCH: *DREAMING INSIDE VOLUME 12*
A celebrated publication sharing First Nations voices from Juneë Gaol
Tickets by donation, bookings required



HOW TO BOOK

Tickets for events at Carriageworks, Sydney Town Hall and City Recital Hall can be booked directly through Sydney Writers' Festival. For tickets to events at other venues please refer to the individual event pages on our website.

Transaction fees apply for all tickets purchased online and over the phone. Family and YA events do not incur a booking fee when purchased in an order only containing Family or YA events.

ONLINE – SWF.ORG.AU

PHONE – (02) 9256 4200

Monday–Friday: 9am–5pm

Select weekends: 10am–4pm

Closed Good Friday–Easter Monday, ANZAC Day

IN PERSON

Carriageworks Box Office (sales will be card only)

Wednesday 22 May, 12pm to last event

Thursday 23–Sunday 26 May, 8am to last event

BOX OFFICES AT OTHER VENUES

Available only on days of events one hour prior to event start times.

CONCESSIONS – PROOF REQUIRED

Concession prices are available for children under the age of 16, full-time students, Health Care Card holders and Pensioner Concession Card holders. Please have your eligible card with you at the venue.

ACCESSIBLE BOOKINGS

Wheelchair accessible seating is available for all events. Auslan interpreter viewing seats can be booked online for selected events or over the phone with our bookings team. If you have any questions or specific access requirements you'd like to discuss ahead of the event, please call the bookings team on (02) 9256 4200.

One complimentary ticket can be booked by Companion Card holders, alongside a paid ticket. This can only be booked over the phone or in person. Please have your Companion Card number ready as this will be requested at the time of booking. If you have specific seating or additional support requirements, please let staff know at the time of booking.

MOBILE TICKETS AND PRINT AT HOME TICKETS

We now have mobile tickets! When booking, please select mobile tickets – these can easily be added to your phone's wallet app.

For print at home tickets, select the Print at Home Ticket option to receive your tickets direct to your inbox.

We recommend mobile tickets for easy access. To view your bookings log into the My Tickets page of our website at swf.org.au/my-tickets.

Please check your booking confirmation email for information on when your tickets will be sent out.

LIVE STREAM INFORMATION

Sydney Writers' Festival is an event for everyone – including those who can't make it to Carriageworks during the Festival. From conversations with literary luminaries to panel discussions on our world's most urgent issues, we don't want you to miss an insightful comment or witty joke that comes from our stages.

This year, we are streaming our events live from Bay 17 so everyone, wherever they are, has access to events. Watch along, text in questions directly to the Sydney stage and be a part of Sydney Writers' Festival in 2024.

Purchase a day stream ticket for \$35 and get live access to the full day's content. Day stream tickets are available for Thursday 23, Friday 24, Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 May. All events take place in Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST).

Purchase tickets at swf.org.au/livestream.

THE FESTIVAL PRECINCT

The Festival Precinct is located at Carriageworks, Eveleigh with additional events happening across the city at Sydney Town Hall and City Recital Hall.

TRAVELLING TO THE FESTIVAL PRECINCT

Carriageworks is located at 245 Wilson St, Eveleigh. This is a 10-minute walk from Redfern Station, City Road bus stops or Macdonaldtown Station. Catching public transport is strongly recommended as residential parking in the area is strictly limited. For more information on transport, visit transportnsw.info.

WALKING FROM REDFERN STATION TO CARRIAGEWORKS

Exit the station at the Little Eveleigh St exit. Turn left and follow Little Eveleigh St until you reach Wilson St. Continue left down Wilson St for approximately 7 minutes and you will arrive at Carriageworks.

TRAVELLING BETWEEN SYDNEY TOWN HALL AND CITY RECITAL HALL

Light rail services depart from George St at Town Hall every 5 minutes, with a travel time of approximately 4 minutes. Board light rail services heading to Circular Quay at the Town Hall stop and disembark at Wynyard. Head across George St to Angel Place for City Recital Hall. Walking from

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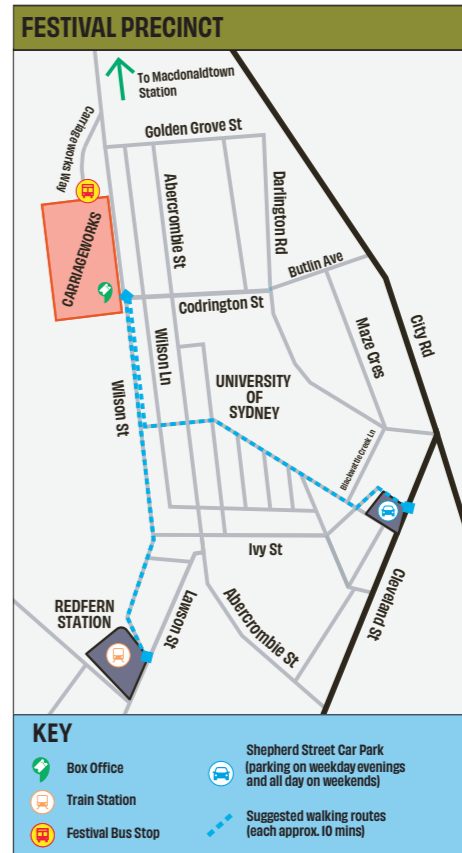
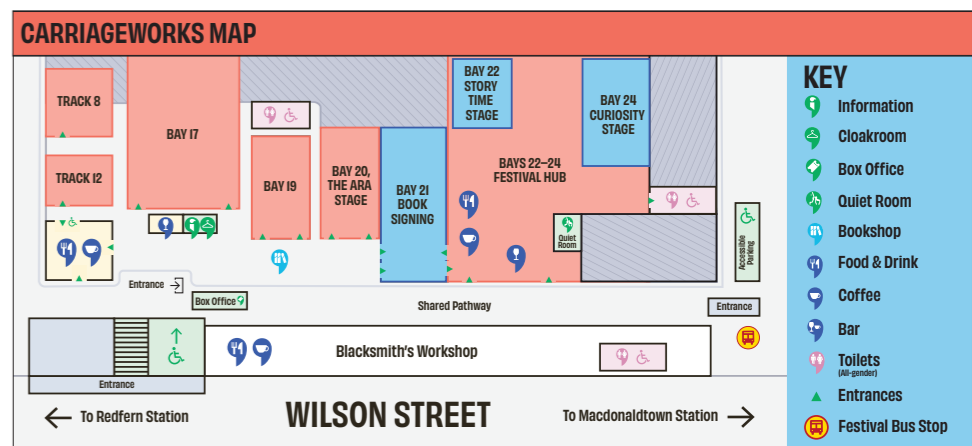
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