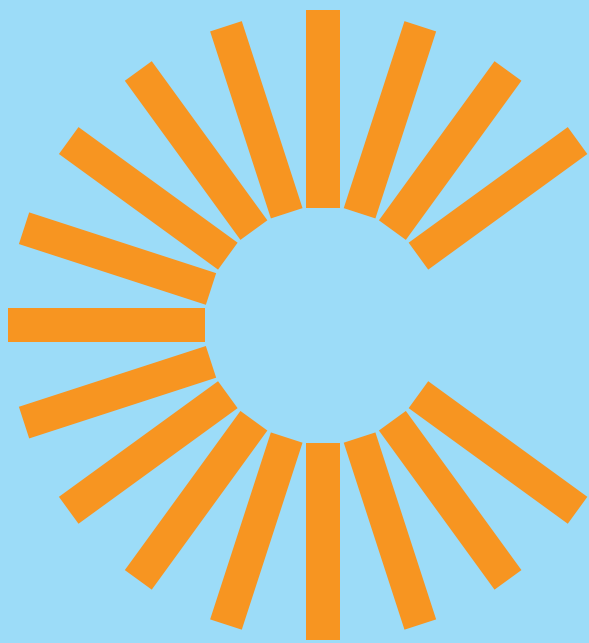


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# Canberra Writers Festival

**23-27 OCTOBER 2024**

[canberrawritersfestival.com.au](http://canberrawritersfestival.com.au)

# PARTNERS

Canberra Writers Festival is grateful for the support of all our partners.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the ACT, the Ngunnawal people. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

# WELCOME



**ANDREW BARR**  
ACT CHIEF MINISTER

The ACT Government is proud to support this year's Canberra Writers Festival, an event that celebrates the importance of literature, ideas and storytelling. The backdrop of the Festival, Canberra, is a place where decisions are made, but it is also a city that inspires a broad artistic community. It is a city of creativity and innovation, and our literary community is vibrant and supportive.

Earlier this year Canberra lost one of our most accomplished authors in Marion Halligan. Marion was a prolific writer and no stranger to literary honours, winning the ACT Book of the Year three times and was shortlisted for the Miles Franklin and the Nita Kibble awards. Her books will continue to be enjoyed now and by future generations. The Canberra Writers Festival captures the depth and breadth of what makes Canberra unique – people like Marion.

The Canberra Writers Festival team have put together engaging program for this year's festival, featuring some of Australia's most beloved authors, including Charlotte Wood, Christos Tsiolkas, Tim Winton and Melissa Lucashenko. You will also hear some of our sharpest political brains analysing the world of national and international affairs, and the large range of First Nations programming, presented in partnership with Icon Water, will be a highlight.

Thank you to the foundation partners, the Museum of Australia Democracy Old Parliament House, National Museum Australia, Australian National Museum and National Library of Australia. Thank you to corporate partner organisations including the National Press Club, Icon Water, Doma Hotels, The Wheeler Centre, Big River Distillery, Harris Farm Markets and The Book Cow.

The media partners for this year's festival, The Saturday Paper, The Monthly, Region Media, The Canberra Times, ABC Canberra and Her Canberra – thank you for your contribution.

Thank you to the cultural partners, including Copyright Agency Cultural Fund, Molonglo, Stella, Sydney Review of Books, Scribe Publications, NewSouth Books, Monash University Press, Melbourne University Press, Griffith Review and Screen Canberra.

Finally, a big thank you as well to the volunteers and event organisers who give their time and energy to this amazing festival and ensure it will be a successful event.

Enjoy the 2024 Canberra Writers Festival.

[#cbrwritersfest](#)



## MEET THE TEAM

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### TEAM

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## JOIN THE CONVERSATION

[#cbrwritersfest](#)

# SPECIAL EVENTS

## SUNDAY OCTOBER 20th

### 6-7pm LLEWELLYN HALL, ANU: A Night with Tim Winton

(Special Event)

Presented in partnership with ANU Meet The Author & The Canberra Times.

Adult \$40 / Concession \$32

He is one of the country's most loved storytellers, and he is stepping into new dystopian terrain with his latest novel, *Juice*. Tim Winton joins CWF Artistic Director - and fellow Albany kid - Beejay Silcox, for a special conversation about literary risk-taking and life on the page.



## WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 23 OPENING NIGHT

### 6-7:30pm King's Hall: What if? (90 mins special)

Sponsored by CyberCX

Adult \$60 / Concession \$52

We live in a time of big, era-defining questions. What if Trump wins the US election - again? What if deepfakes kill the news? What if AI kills the arts? What if tech bros kill democracy? What if another pandemic hits? What if we miss our climate targets? And the biggest question of all: What if we refuse to learn from our mistakes?

*What if? What if? What if?* What are the big ideas on the table? How do we turn our fears into possibilities? Is there a case for hope?

Join a stellar panel of thinkers for a night of reflection and reckoning. Featuring: Mark Kenny, David Lindenmayer, John Lyons, Katherine Manstead, Amy Remeikis, Vanessa Turnbull-Roberts and Senator David Pocock.

Hosted by Emma Shortis.

## FRIDAY OCTOBER 25

### 7-8 pm NATIONAL PRESS CLUB Inside the Maxwell Trial

(Special Event: International Guest)

Adult \$40/ Concession \$35

The criminal trial of Ghislaine Maxwell - Jeffrey Epstein's long-time confidant and facilitator of his horrific crimes - made international headlines, but only four reporters were admitted into the courtroom in New York. Lucia Osborne-Crowley was one of them. Karen Middleton joins Lucia to discuss her explosive, behind-the-scenes account of that trial, *The Lasting Harm*. A conversation not to be missed.

## SATURDAY OCTOBER 26

### 9:30-10:30am NATIONAL PRESS CLUB: Coming Up Trumps: A Morning with Fred C. Trump III

Adult \$40 / Concession \$35

Every family has a weird uncle. Just ask Fred C. Trump III. Fred never asked for any of this. The divisive politics. The endless headlines. A hijacked last name. But as "Uncle Donald" slouches towards the White House - again - Fred is speaking up. In a Canberra Writers Festival exclusive, Fred joins us live from the US to discuss the memoir he never wanted to write - a tale of money, cruelty, family demons and the dark heart of American power. Hosted by Fran Kelly.

## FRIDAY OCTOBER 25

### 12-1pm ARC CINEMA: Your Favourites, Melissa Lucashenko

Adult \$32 / Concession \$ 28

Melissa Lucashenko has created some of the most memorable characters in Australian fiction. Her latest novel, *Edenglassie*, is a masterclass in people watching. How does she build such human - and humane - depth into her work? Come and find out. Melissa talks to award winning historian Shannyn Palmer.



## SATURDAY OCTOBER 26

### 10-11am SENATE: Black Witness

Adult \$28 / Concession \$22

Amy McQuire has been writing on Indigenous affairs since she was a teenager. Over the past two decades, she has reported on most of the key events involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, including numerous deaths in custody, the Palm Island uprising, the Bowraville murders and the Northern Territory Intervention. She knows the power of storytelling and the cruelty of silence. Her new book shows how Black journalism can pave the way for equality and justice. Join Amy for a potent and necessary conversation.

### 10:30-11:30am THEATRETTE: Send in the Poets

Adult \$32 / Concession \$ 22

In our darkest hours, we turn to poetry for solace, hope, healing and resolve. How might poetry also help us to chart a way forward? Join this brilliant quartet of word-crafters – Jeanine Leane, Elfie Shiosaki and Cheryl Leavy – for a life-affirming poetry showcase.

### 12.30pm -1:30pm NLA THEATRE: Continuity and Connection

Singer, songwriter, storyteller: Nardi Simpson is a glorious polymath. She wowed Australian readers with her debut novel, *Song of the Crocodile*. Now she is back with an exquisite new story, *The Belburd*, which braids together past, present and future. Melissa Lucashenko joins Nardi to discuss the craft and power of interwoven narratives. Hosted by Julieanne Lamond.

### 2:30-3:30pm HOUSE OF REPS: The Voice, A Year On

Adult \$28 / Concession \$22

It has been a year since Australia said 'No'. What have we learned - and refused to learn - about ourselves and our country? And what's next? Join David Hume, Anita Heiss and Amy McQuire for a much-needed reflection. In conversation with Shannyn Palmer.



## SUNDAY OCTOBER 27

### 10-11am ARC CINEMA: Your Favourites, Anita Heiss

Adult \$28 / Concession \$22

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the Bathurst Wars. Anita Heiss's thrilling new novel, *Dirrayawadha*, takes its title from the Wiradyuri command 'to rise up' and is set during these pivotal frontier conflicts. Join Anita in conversation with Astrid Edwards (recorded for The Garret podcast).

### 12:30-1:30pm THEATRETTE: Reading Praiseworthy

Adult \$28 / Concession \$22

Alexis Wright's fourth novel has been described as "mighty in every conceivable way". A decade in the making, it is the first book to win both the Stella Prize and the Miles Franklin Literary Award, and that is just the beginning of the acclaim. But the book is imposing and demanding - a 740-page monolith. Join passionate readers Cheryl Leavy, Astrid Edwards, Julieanne Lamond and Jeanine Leane for a guide into the extraordinary world of *Praiseworthy* and Wright's singular genius. Bring your copy of *Praiseworthy* and get ready to get reading!

### 3-4pm NLA THEATRE: Language as Archive

Adult \$28 / Concession \$22

Before British colonisation, there were more than 250 languages spoken on this continent. Less than half survive today, and most of them are under threat. In a live episode of their hit podcast, *Archive Fever*, historians Yves Rees and Clare Wright are joined by special guests Cheryl Leavy and Paul Girrawah House to discuss orality as archive: how language helps us know the past and why the work of language revitalisation – bringing languages back to life – is so vital to the future.

# VENUE: NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA

## THURSDAY OCTOBER 24

### 6-7pm GANDEL ATRIUM: Fran Kelly - My Life in Stories

Adult \$35 / Concession \$30

Fran Kelly has spent her career telling other people's stories. Now - for one night only - she'll be telling her own; and Fran has stories to tell. From her early days as a political correspondent to her time as host of ABC Radio National's Breakfast program, Fran has been at the forefront of Australian media for decades. How do you become one of the nation's most beloved and trusted storytellers? What a joy it will be to find out. Hosted by Karen Middleton.



## FRIDAY OCTOBER 25

### 6:00-7:00pm GANDEL ATRIUM:

### Markus Zusak - My Life With Dogs

Adult \$35 / Concession \$30

Every dog owner thinks they have the best dog. Nobody is wrong. Markus Zusak - the beloved author of The Book Thief - returns to the page for the first time in seven years with a true-life tale of his three big, wild, pound-hardened dogs. There are street fights, park brawls, public shamings, property trashing, bodily injuries, stomach pumping, purest comedy, shocking tragedy, and carnage that needs to be seen to be believed. There is also a great deal of love. Markus talks to Sally Pryor about the three hounds of chaos who changed him forever.

## SATURDAY OCTOBER 26

### 6:00-7:00pm GANDEL ATRIUM:

### Christos Tsiolkas - My Life on the Page

Adult \$35 / Concession \$30

Christos Tsiolkas is one of Australia's most beloved and provocative novelists, and he is beloved because of his provocations. That's a rare form of admiration in this tall poppy chopping country. Christos's latest book, The In Between, is a love story; a tender tale of mid-life solace. It's his most gentle, earnest book to date, and it may be his best. In this special event, Christos reflects on his life on and off the page, with host Clare Wright.



## Preserve a piece of Australian history

We are delighted to announce the acquisition of an extensive collection from Norman Hetherington, puppeteer, artist, cartoonist, performer and creator of Mr Squiggle.



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## 2024 Annual Appeal



# VENUE: MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY AT OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE



## WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 23 - OPENING NIGHT

**6-7:30pm King's Hall: What if?**  
(90 mins special)

**Sponsored by CyberCX**

**Adult \$60 / Concession \$52**

We live in a time of big, era-defining questions. What if Trump wins the US election - again? What if deepfakes kill the news? What if AI kills the arts? What if tech bros kill democracy? What if another pandemic hits? What if we miss our climate targets? And the biggest question of all: What if we refuse to learn from our mistakes?

*What if? What if? What if?* What are the big ideas on the table? How do we turn our fears into possibilities? Is there a case for hope?

Join a stellar panel of thinkers for a night of reflection and reckoning. Featuring: Mark Kenny, David Lindenmayer, John Lyons, Katherine Manstead, Amy Remeikis, Vanessa Turnbull-Roberts and Senator David Pocock.

Hosted by Emma Shortis.

## FRIDAY OCTOBER 25

**10-11am MDR: Young Hawke**

**Adult \$28 / Concession \$22**

Before he was the Silver Bodgie, Robert J. Hawke was a scrawny kid from Border Town with a prophetic belief in his own grand destiny. Historians David Day and Frank Bongiorno consider the man behind the myth, and the myth behind the man. In conversation with Western Australian Labor Senator Varun Ghosh.

**10:30-11:30am SENATE: Battlers, Billionaires and Banks**

**Adult \$28 / Concession \$22**

Australia is experiencing its first serious outbreak of inflation in decades, global inequality is skyrocketing, there is a cost of living crisis, and the big banks are posting record profits. Join award-winning historian Stuart Kells and Canberra's own Andrew Leigh MP as they untangle some of the big knots of our economic moment, and uncover a scandal or two.



**11:30-12:30pm MDR: Democracy on a Precipice**

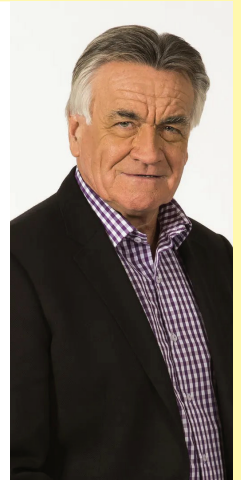
**Adult \$32 / Concession \$28**

In July, the US Supreme Court ruled that Donald J. Trump - convicted felon and Republican presidential nominee - is entitled to broad immunity from criminal prosecution for efforts to undo his 2020 election loss to Joe Biden. The Biden administration labelled the decision "a dangerous precedent" and the implications for US democracy are chilling. But in an age of disinformation and civic decline, there are signs of democratic fragility all over the globe, and Australia is no exception. Barrie Cassidy leads an expert panel of thinkers - Bruce Wolpe, Nick Bryant and Emma Shortis - to discuss our perilous geo-politics.

**12:00-1:00pm SENATE: Myths and Misremembering**

**Adult \$28 / Concession \$22**

Australia's war tales could be said to be the closest thing we have to sacred national stories, but did they actually happen? With sharp wits and clear eyes, Mark Dapin and Peter Stanley question our grand, martial myths and suggest some heroic alternatives. In conversation with Allan Behm.



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**MOAD**  
Museum of Australian Democracy  
at Old Parliament House

Photo: Robert McFarlane, Department of the House of Representatives



# VENUE: MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY AT OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE

## 1:00-2:00pm MDR: Love and Homelands

Adult \$28 / Concession \$22

Samah Sabawi shares the story of her parents and their homeland. It's a story that begins in Palestine under British rule and ends in Redland Bay in Queensland – a family story, a love story, a human story. In conversation with Cheryl Leavy.



## SATURDAY OCTOBER 26

### 10-11am SENATE: Black Witness

Sponsored by Icon Water

Adult \$28 / Concession \$22

Amy McQuire has been writing on Indigenous affairs since she was a teenager. Over the past two decades, she has reported on most of the key events involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, including numerous deaths in custody, the Palm Island uprising, the Bowraville murders and the Northern Territory Intervention. She knows the power of storytelling and the cruelty of silence. Her new book shows how Black journalism can pave the way for equality and justice. Join Amy for a potent and necessary conversation.

### 10:30-11:30am HOUSE OF REPS: Being Peter Dutton

Adult \$28 / Concession \$22

From rookie Queensland cop to leader of the opposition, Peter Dutton's trajectory is more than a political origin story, it's a cultural mirror. His fears, furies and preoccupations tell us something important about ourselves. Lech Blaine and Niki Savva take a deep dive into the mind of the opposition leader, and consider where he might lead us.

## 12-1pm SENATE: What would a real progressive agenda look like?

Adult \$28 / Concession \$22

Australian political debates are often rhetoric-heavy and policy-light - full of bluster and point scoring. Terms like 'progressive' and 'conservative' can seem hollow at best, and misleading at worst. What does it mean to be a political progressive in our current conversation? And what *could* it mean if we ditched the populist shibboleths and went back to basics? Join Richard Denniss, Veronica Gorrie and David Lindenmayer as they consider the kind of Australia a progressive government could build. Hosted by Amy Remeikis.

## 12:30-1:30pm HOUSE OF REPS : The Democracy Trilogy

Adult \$28 / Concession \$22

How did Australians come to have a political voice? Stella Prize-winning historian, Clare Wright, has spent more than two decades tracing this question through artefacts and archives. The result is a groundbreaking, three-volume masterpiece - The Democracy Trilogy - a milestone in Australian political storytelling. Join Clare and Barrie Cassidy, as they discuss the latest and final volume of the trilogy - *Näku Dhäruk* - the tale of the Yirrkala Bark Petitions, founding documents in Australian democracy.

## 2:30-3:30pm SENATE: Ghost Stories

Adult \$28 / Concession \$22

There are many ways to be haunted. Local author Kaaron Warren was inspired by Old Parliament House and the archival treasures of Canberra; Dylin Hardcastle has written a love story - a tale of alternative lives and spectral futures. Join them for a discussion about the ghosts we cannot quiet. In conversation with Yves Rees.

## 2.30-3.30pm MDR: Shifting Sands

Adult \$28 / Concession \$22

Abbas El-Zein, Ian Parmeter and Bruce Wolpe consider the powerful reverberations for international relations - and Australian geo-strategy - of escalating instability in the Middle East. In conversation with John Lyons.





# VENUE: MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY AT OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE

## 2-3pm SENATE: What would a real conservative agenda look like?

Adult \$28 / Concession \$22

Our political parties are often focused on saying who they aren't, and what they won't do. Terms like 'progressive' and 'conservative' can seem hollow at best, and misleading at worst. What does it mean to be a political conservative in our current conversation? And what *could* it mean if we ditched the populist shibboleths and went back to basics? Join journalists Mark Kenny, Paul Sakkal and Niki Savva as they consider the kind of Australia a conservative government could build.



## 2:30-3:30pm HOUSE OF REPS : The Voice, A Year On

Sponsored by Icon Water

Adult \$28 / Concession \$22

It has been a year since Australia said 'No'. What have we learned - and refused to learn - about ourselves and our country? And what's next? Join David Hume, Anita Heiss and Amy McQuire for a much-needed reflection. In conversation with Shannyn Palmer.

## 3:30-5:00pm SENATE: Status Anxiety

(90 min special event)

Sponsored by The Griffith Review

Status affords some of us power and wealth and others empty promises. But why does status so often go unnoticed? How does it influence everything from social inequality to personal relationships? And what changing forces have come to bear on the high or low status we have ascribed ourselves and others over the centuries? Lucia Osborne-Crowley, Sam Elkin, Rick Morton, Rebecca Harkins-Cross and Qin Qin investigate our hidden hierarchies. Hosted by Carody Culver.



## Step back in time at the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House

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## MOAD

Museum of Australian Democracy  
at Old Parliament House



# VENUE: MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY AT OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE

**SUNDAY OCTOBER 27**

## **10-11am MDR: BOOK LAUNCH - Working for the Brand**

**Adult \$32 / Concession \$28**

When you go to work, you agree to exchange your labour in exchange for your pay, right? But what you may not realise, is you are also selling your rights to free speech and to participate in democracy. Welcome to corporate cancel culture. Josh Bornstein and Amy Remeikis explore a phenomenon that is routinely ignored in debates about free speech.

## **10:30-11:30am SENATE: The Women Time Forgot**

**Adult \$28 / Concession \$22**

A celebrity decorator with blue hair. A single mother who advised JFK in the Oval Office. A Christian nudist with a passion for almond milk. Yves Rees and Western Australian Labor Senator Varun Ghosh consider the extraordinary women who reoriented Australia towards the United States years before politicians began to lumber down the same path.

## **10:30-11:30am HOUSE OF REPS: Anthropocene of the Crime**

**Adult \$28 / Concession \$22**

Michael Brissenden's latest novel is a propulsive thriller; Royce Kurmelovs' new book is a corporate exposé - true crime at its best. Both are also tales of the climate crisis. David Lindenmayer joins them to consider the novel ways our writers are helping us understand our planetary calamity and chart a way forward.



## **12-1pm MDR: The Men Who Killed the News**

**Adult \$28 / Concession \$22**

Crikey owner and ex-News Corp and Fairfax editor, Eric Beecher, lifts the lid on the abuse of power by media moguls – from William Randolph Hearst to Elon Musk – and on his own unique experience of working for (and being sued by) the Murdochs. Hosted by Karen Middleton.

## **12:30-1:30pm SENATE: American Reckoning**

**Adult \$28 / Concession \$22**

As we approach the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, many argue the American experiment is failing. Division, mistrust and misinformation are now its defining characteristics. It is easy to blame new societal pressures, but there is a much older story to tell here. Join Nick Bryant and Emma Shortis, as they trace America's fractures back to the beginning.

## **12:30-1:30pm HOUSE OF REPS: Back in the USSR**

**Adult \$28 / Concession \$22**

Malcolm Knox's new novel is a black comedy about Soviet-era autocrats. It arrives at the same time as a posthumous memoir from Alexei Navalny, the Russian opposition leader - and vocal critic of Russia's modern-day tsar, Vladimir Putin - who paid the ultimate price for his beliefs. Michael Brissenden joins Malcolm to draw out the connections.

## **2-3 pm MDR: Mean Streak: Reckoning with Robodebt**

**Adult \$28 / Concession \$22**

It was mathematically wrong, ethically rotten, and just plain illegal. So how did a dodgy debt collection algorithm lead to one of the most shocking, large-scale failures in Australian government history? Join Rick Morton as he tells the sordid story of Robodebt. In conversation with Michael Williams (recorded for The Monthly's weekly podcast, *Read This*).



## **2:30-3:30pm HOUSE OF REPS: Lebanon Days**

**Presented in partnership with ABC Conversations**

**Adult \$28 / Concession \$22**

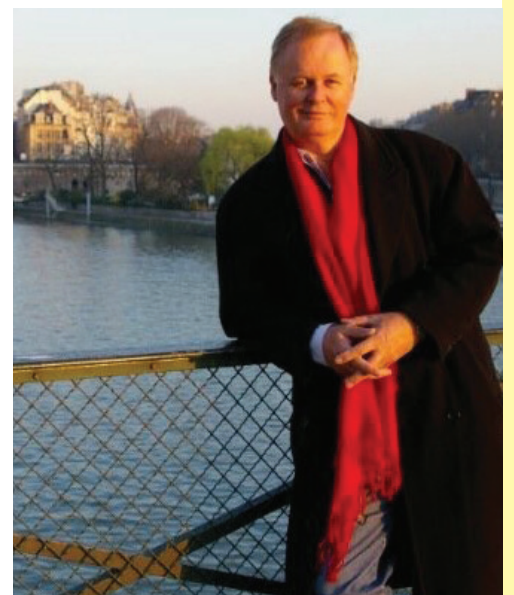
From 2018 to 2021, writer and researcher Theodore Ell accompanied his wife on her diplomatic posting to Lebanon and unexpectedly found himself witness to a country on the brink of collapse. Theo talks to Richard Fidler about his insightful new memoir: an outsider's account of Beirut, and a survivor's account of the 2020 port explosion (recorded for ABC Radio's Conversations).

## **2:30-3:30pm SENATE: From ANZUS to AUKUS**

**Presented in partnership with Melbourne University Press**

**Adult \$28 / Concession \$22**

Two allies. Two agreements. 70 years of entwined history. Allan Behm, Andrew Fowler and Sam Roggeveen consider the risks and rewards of the America/Australia alliance. In conversation with Emma Shortis.

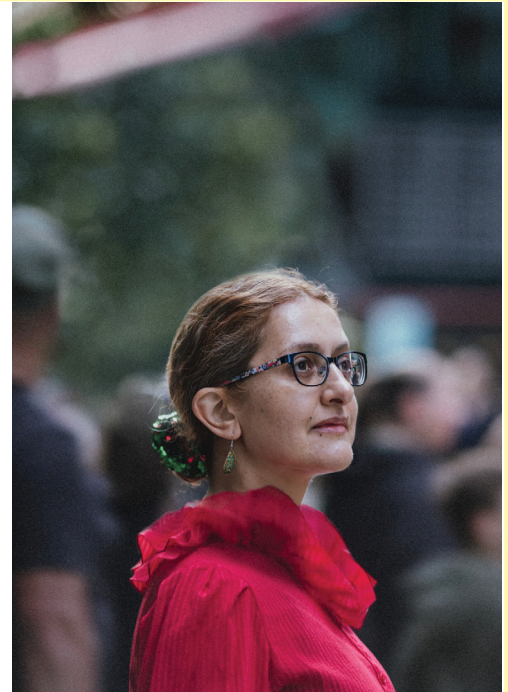


# VENUE: MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY AT OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE

## 4:00-5:00pm SENATE: Your Favourites, Louise Milligan

Adult \$28 / Concession \$22

Louise Milligan's first novel is a taut and pacy thriller about a young investigative reporter who finds herself on the other side of a news story. It is as clever as you would expect, but also a great big romp. Louise is joined by fellow multi-award winning journalist Samantha Maiden, who knows the turf and gets all the jokes.



## 4:00-5:00pm HOUSE OF REPS : Memories and Fables

Presented in partnership with Radio National's *The Bookshelf*

Adult \$28 / Concession \$22

Yumna Kassab and Abbas El-Zein have both written extraordinary stories of life in a warzone: one is fictional - a potent allegory - the other an award-winning memoir. In a special conversation, the two writers join forces to consider the limits and possibilities of their forms with local author Zoya Patel, who has written one of each. In conversation with Kate Evans (recorded for Radio National's *The Bookshelf*).



## 3.30-4.30pm MDR: A Long March

Presented in partnership with Monash University Publishing

Adult \$28 / Concession \$22

In 1975, as Gough Whitlam's government hurtled towards its demise, a nineteen-year-old arts student at the University of Melbourne, Kim Carr, began a long march. Join the former Victorian senator and Labor cabinet minister as he discusses his memoir with Frank Bongiorno, and ponders a vital political question: How should Labor argue the case for a workable, appealing, durable version of social democracy for twenty-first-century Australia?



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# VENUE: NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA

## SATURDAY OCTOBER 26

### 10:30-11:30am NLA THEATRE: Family Legacies and Literary Vandals

*Presented in partnership with ABC Conversations*

**Adult \$28 / Concession \$22**

One hundred years ago, a New York bookseller committed a crime against history - he broke up the world's grandest book, the Gutenberg Bible, and sold it off in individual pages. This is the story of an Australian man's hunt for those fragments, and his family's debt to an act of literary vandalism. Join author Michael Visontay and Richard Fidler for a bookish detective story (recorded for ABC Radio's Conversations).



### 12:30-1:30pm NLA THEATRE: Continuity and Connection

*Sponsored by Icon Water*

**Adult \$28 / Concession \$22**

Singer, songwriter, storyteller: Nardi Simpson is a glorious polymath. She wowed Australian readers with her debut novel, *Song of the Crocodile*. Now she is back with an exquisite new story, *The Belburd*, which braids together past, present and future. Melissa Lucashenko joins Nardi to discuss the craft and power of interwoven narratives. Hosted by Julieanne Lamond.

### 2:30-3:30pm NLA THEATRE: Law Breakers

**Adult \$28 / Concession \$22**

Shankari Chandran and Suzie Miller are two of the most talented writers in the country: one is a Miles Franklin award-winning novelist, the other a globally-celebrated playwright. Both explore important social justice issues in their work. They each have a background as human rights lawyers. Is that a coincidence? Nicole Abadee uses her own legal training to investigate how writing can bring about social change.



### 4:00-5:00pm NLA THEATRE: The Edge of Forgetting

*Presented in partnership with Radio National's The Bookshelf.*

**Adult \$28 / Concession \$22**

What debt do we owe to the past and its secrets? Andra Putnis and Tess Scholfield-Peters have both grappled with this question in their family memoirs - twin tales of extraordinary grandparents. History devotee, Kate Evans, joins Andra and Tess for a discussion of loss, resilience, secrecy, occupation, migration and the slippery ethics of storytelling (recorded for Radio National's The Bookshelf).

## SUNDAY OCTOBER 27

### 10-11am NLA THEATRE: Book Tales

**Adult \$28 / Concession \$22**

It's a morning for book lovers at the National Library: twin tales of book collectors and book binders. Gail Holmes's debut novel, *In the Margins*, is drawn from the life of Frances Wolfreston, the woman who preserved the earliest part of Shakespeare's legacy. She joins Pip Williams, whose latest novel, *The Bookbinder of Jericho*, explores another little-known slice of bookish history - the bindery at Oxford University Press. In conversation with Nicole Abadee.



### 12-1pm NLA THEATRE: Your Favourites, Michelle de Kretser.

**Adult \$28 / Concession \$22**

What happens when life smashes through the boundaries of art? Join the magnificent Michelle de Kretser - one of Australia's most celebrated writers - for a discussion of her new book, *Theory and Practice*, which bends fiction, essay and memoir into exhilarating new shapes. In conversation with Bernadette Brennan.

## SUNDAY 20 OCTOBER

6pm-7pm

**A Night With Tim Winton - Special Event**

Llewellyn Hall, ANU

## WEDNESDAY 23 OCTOBER

6pm-7.30pm

**What If? - Opening Night**

Museum of Australian Democracy

## THURSDAY 24 OCTOBER

6pm-7pm

**Fran Kelly - My Life in Stories**

National Museum of Australia

## FRIDAY 25 OCTOBER

10am - 11am

**Young Hawke**

Museum of Australian Democracy

10am - 11am

**The Power of Quiet**

National Film & Sound Archive

10.30am-11.30am

**Battlers, Billionaires and Banks**

Museum of Australian Democracy

10.30am-11.30am

**The Most Interesting Man in Ozlit**

National Film & Sound Archive

11.30am - 12.30pm

**Democracy on a Precipice**

Museum of Australian Democracy

12pm - 1pm

**Your Favourites, Melissa Lucashenko**

National Film & Sound Archive

12pm - 1pm

**Myths and Misrememberings**

Museum of Australian Democracy

12.30pm - 1.30pm

**History Repeating**

National Film & Sound Archive

1pm - 2pm

**Love and Homelands**

Museum of Australian Democracy

2pm - 3pm

**Postcards from the Edge**

National Film & Sound Archive

2.30pm - 3.30pm

**Ghost Stories**

Museum of Australian Democracy

2.30pm - 3.30pm

**BOOK LAUNCH - The Thinning**

National Film & Sound Archive

2.30pm - 3.30pm

**Shifting Sands**

Museum of Australian Democracy

3.30pm - 4.30pm

**Earning The Risk**

National Film & Sound Archive

6pm - 7pm

**Markus Zusak - My Life With Dogs**

National Museum of Australia

7pm - 8pm

**Inside the Maxwell Trial**

National Press Club

## SATURDAY 26 OCTOBER

9.30am - 10.30am	<b>Coming Up Trumps: A Memoir with Fred C. Trump III</b>	National Press Club
10am - 11am	<b>Black Witness</b>	Museum of Australian Democracy
10am - 11am	<b>Get Thee to a Nunnery</b>	National Film & Sound Archive
10.30am - 11.30am	<b>Being Peter Dutton</b>	Museum of Australian Democracy
10.30am - 11.30am	<b>Send in the Poets</b>	National Film & Sound Archive
10.30am - 11.30am	<b>Family Legacies and Literary Vandals</b>	National Library of Australia
12pm - 1pm	<b>What Would A Real Progressive Agenda Look Like?</b>	Museum of Australian Democracy
12pm - 1pm	<b>Doing the Work</b>	National Film & Sound Archive
12.30pm - 1.30pm	<b>The Democracy Trilogy</b>	Museum of Australian Democracy
12.30pm - 1.30pm	<b>Continuity and Connection</b>	National Library of Australia
12.30pm - 1.30pm	<b>Let's Queer Up a Few Things</b>	National Film & Sound Archive
2pm - 3pm	<b>What Would A Real Conservative Agenda Look Like?</b>	Museum of Australian Democracy
2pm - 3pm	<b>Your Favourites, Robbie Arnott</b>	National Film & Sound Archive
2.30pm - 3.30pm	<b>The Voice, A Year On</b>	Museum of Australian Democracy
2.30pm - 3.30pm	<b>Law Breakers</b>	National Library of Australia
2.30pm - 3.30pm	<b>Slutdom</b>	National Film & Sound Archive
3.30pm - 5pm	<b>Status Anxiety</b>	Museum of Australian Democracy
4pm - 5pm	<b>The Edge of Forgetting</b>	National Library of Australia
4pm - 5pm	<b>Adapting Murder</b>	National Film & Sound Archive
4pm - 5.30pm	<b>Queerstories</b>	National Film & Sound Archive
6pm - 7pm	<b>Christos Tsiolkas - My Life on the Page</b>	National Museum of Australia

## SUNDAY 27 OCTOBER

10am - 11am	<b>BOOK LAUNCH - Working for the Brand</b>	Museum of Australian Democracy
10am - 11am	<b>Book Tales</b>	National Library of Australia
10am - 11am	<b>Your Favourites, Anita Heiss</b>	National Film & Sound Archive
10.30am - 11.30am	<b>The Women Time Forgot</b>	Museum of Australian Democracy
10.30am - 11.30am	<b>Anthropocene of the Crime</b>	Museum of Australian Democracy
10.30am - 11.30am	<b>Australian Gospel</b>	National Film & Sound Archive
12pm - 1pm	<b>The Men Who Killed The News</b>	Museum of Australian Democracy
12pm - 1pm	<b>Your Favourites, Michelle de Kretser</b>	National Library of Australia
12pm - 1pm	<b>The Case for Critics</b>	National Film & Sound Archive
12.30pm - 1.30pm	<b>American Reckoning</b>	Museum of Australian Democracy
12.30pm - 1.30pm	<b>Back in the USSR</b>	Museum of Australian Democracy
12.30pm - 1.30pm	<b>Reading Praiseworthy</b>	National Film & Sound Archive
2pm - 3pm	<b>Mean Streak: Reckoning with Robodebt</b>	Museum of Australian Democracy
2pm - 3pm	<b>Drongos, Drop bears and Dictionaries</b>	National Library of Australia
2pm - 3pm	<b>Sex, Power and Truth Telling</b>	National Film & Sound Archive
2.30pm - 3.30pm	<b>Lebanon Days</b>	Museum of Australian Democracy
2.30pm - 3.30pm	<b>From ANZUS to AUKUS</b>	Museum of Australian Democracy
2.30pm - 3.30pm	<b>Your Favourites, Jessica Tu</b>	National Film & Sound Archive
3pm - 4pm	<b>Language as Archive</b>	National Library of Australia
3.30pm - 4.30pm	<b>A Long March</b>	Museum of Australian Democracy
4.00pm - 5.00pm	<b>Your Favourites, Louise Milligan</b>	Museum of Australian Democracy
4.00pm - 5.00pm	<b>Memories and Fables</b>	Museum of Australian Democracy

# MASTERCLASS SERIES

## FRIDAY 25 OCTOBER

9am - 11am	<b>Life Writing with Samah Sabawi</b>	Museum of Australian Democracy
9am - 11am	<b>The Words They Leave Behind with Kaaron Warren</b>	Museum of Australian Democracy
1pm - 3pm	<b>Ask Markus Zusak</b>	Museum of Australian Democracy
3pm - 5pm	<b>Tackling True Crime with Mark Dapin</b>	Museum of Australian Democracy

## SATURDAY 25 OCTOBER

10am - 12pm	<b>Transforming Characters with Catherine McKinnon</b>	Marie Reay Teaching Centre, ANU
10am - 12pm	<b>Facing the Dragon in Memoir with Qin Qin</b>	Marie Reay Teaching Centre, ANU
1pm - 3pm	<b>Charlotte Wood Takes Your Questions</b>	Marie Reay Teaching Centre, ANU
1pm - 3pm	<b>So You Want To Start a Podcast? With Astrid Edwards</b>	Marie Reay Teaching Centre, ANU
1pm - 3pm	<b>The Power of Play with Kate Mildenhall</b>	Marie Reay Teaching Centre, ANU
1pm - 3pm	<b>Writing Lives with Bernadette Brennan</b>	Marie Reay Teaching Centre, ANU

## SUNDAY 27 OCTOBER

9am - 11am	<b>Preparing for Publication with Carody Culver &amp; Terri Ann White</b>	Marie Reay Teaching Centre, ANU
9am - 11am	<b>Documentary Poetry with Jeanine Leane</b>	Marie Reay Teaching Centre, ANU
9am - 11am	<b>Reinvigorating Creativity with Alice Grundy</b>	Marie Reay Teaching Centre, ANU



# VENUE: NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA



## 2-3 pm NLA THEATRE: Drongos, Drop bears and Dictionaries.

Adult \$28 / Concession \$22

Grab your budgie smugglers and hop aboard the mateship, it's time to talk Aussie argot. Words underpin the myths and stereotypes of our national identity; they have also obscured harsh realities and inequalities. Join Dr Amanda Laugesen - Director of the Australian National Dictionary Centre - and beloved novelist, Pip Williams - author of *The Dictionary of Lost Words* - for a linguistic feast. In conversation with Terri-Ann White.

## 3-4pm NLA THEATRE: Language as Archive

Sponsored by Icon Water

Adult \$28 / Concession \$22

Before British colonisation, there were more than 250 languages spoken on this continent. Less than half survive today, and most of them are under threat. In a live episode of their hit podcast, *Archive Fever*, historians Yves Rees and Clare Wright are joined by special guests Cheryl Leavy and Paul Girrawah House to discuss orality as archive: how language helps us know the past and why the work of language revitalisation – bringing languages back to life – is so vital to the future.



# Love the Library? Join the Friends

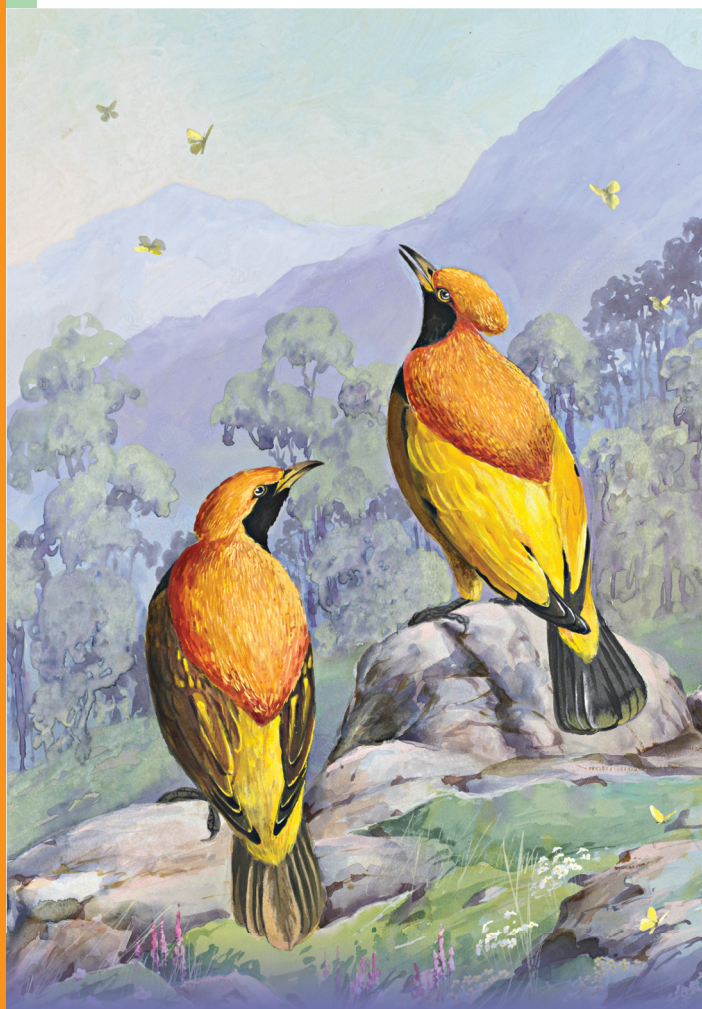
Friends of the National Library of Australia share a passion for the Library and its collections. The Friends promote and support the Library and the contribution it makes to our society.

Friends enjoy discounts off all purchases at the Library's onsite cafes and at the Bookshop, along with discounted tickets to Library events, exclusive invitations to member-only events and reciprocal benefits at State Libraries and other cultural institutions.

Sign up for a new membership during the Canberra Writer's Festival and receive a special welcome pack including a National Library publication and selected merchandise.



*Friends*  
of the Library



# VENUE: NATIONAL FILM & SOUND ARCHIVE OF AUSTRALIA

**FRIDAY OCTOBER 25**

## 10-11am ARC CINEMA: The Power of Quiet

Adult \$28 / Concession \$22

Novels don't need to make a noise to make an impact. The books that touch us most deeply are often unassuming - potent in their quiet. Join Robbie Arnott, and Booker Prize nominee Charlotte Wood, and as they talk about their favourite hushed and gentle books, and the art of less is more. In conversation with local author Kaya Wilson.

## 10:30-11:30am THEATRETTE: The Most Interesting Man in Ozlit

Adult \$28 / Concession \$22

Rodney Hall has stories to tell: he walked across Europe, harboured Salman Rushdie during the fatwa years, and has won the Miles Franklin Literary Award - twice. At 89, Rodney has a new novel to share, *Vortex*, and it just might be his best. Join Rodney and his devoted publisher, Geordie Williamson, as they discuss his magnificent life on and off the page.

## 12-1pm ARC CINEMA: Your Favourites, Melissa Lucashenko

Sponsored by Icon Water

Adult \$32 / Concession \$28

Melissa Lucashenko has created some of the most memorable characters in Australian fiction. Her latest novel, *Edenglassie*, is a masterclass in people watching. How does she build such human - and humane - depth into her work? Come and find out. Melissa talks to award winning historian Shannyn Palmer.

## 12:30-1:30pm THEATRETTE: History Repeating

Adult \$28 / Concession \$22

Catherine McKinnon has woven her new book around Robert Oppenheimer and his wife Kitty - the ultimate nuclear family; Emily Maguire's new novel is an audacious portrait of an audacious woman - a mystery from the Middle Ages. Rebecca Harkins-Cross joins these dauntless storytellers to discuss the narrative lure of historical legends, and what the past can tell us about our present.



## 2:00-3:00pm ARC CINEMA: Postcards from the Edge

Adult \$28 / Concession \$22

What can we learn about life by coming to terms with death? After decades of caring for others, Dr Peter Goldsworthy is now grappling with his own cancer diagnosis; C.J. Metcalfe has been defying death since the day she was born. These two remarkable writers have stories to tell and wisdom to share. Join them for a big-hearted and life-affirming conversation. Hosted by Ginger Gorman.

## 2:30-3:30pm THEATRETTE: BOOK LAUNCH - The Thinning

Adult \$32 / Concession \$28

Inga Simpson's last novel, *Willowman*, was a total joy - a tale of craftsmen and cricket bats. Now, she has a new story to tell, and Canberran readers will be first to get their hands on it! Join Inga as she launches *The Thinning*, a powerful literary page-turner about two young people in a race against time to reach a monumental solar eclipse. In conversation with Kate Mildenhall.

## 3:30-4:30pm ARC CINEMA: Earning the Risk

Adult \$28 / Concession \$22

Emily Maguire's new novel, *Rapture*, is her most daring - and dazzling - work to date, a tale of gender, power and the making of a legend. A book like this doesn't happen by accident, it is the culmination of years of learning and experience - a career-long commitment to big thinking, deep research and craft mastery. Join Emily and passionate fan, Bri Lee, for a discussion of literary risk taking.

# VENUE: NATIONAL FILM & SOUND ARCHIVE OF AUSTRALIA



## SATURDAY OCTOBER 26

### 10-11 am ARC CINEMA : Get Thee to a Nunnery

Adult \$28 / Concession \$22

Emily Maguire and Charlotte Wood have both written novels of cloisters - of monks and nuns and clerical power-broking. What is it about these reclusive places that makes for such potent and irresistible storytelling? In conversation with Kate Mildenhall.

### 10:30-11:30am NFSA THEATRETTE:

#### Send in the Poets

Sponsored by Icon Water

Adult \$28 / Concession \$22

In our darkest hours, we turn to poetry for solace, hope, healing and resolve. How might poetry also help us to chart a way forward? Join this brilliant trio of word-crafters – Jeanine Leane, Elfie Shiosaki and Cheryl Leavy – for a life-affirming poetry showcase.



### 12-1pm ARC CINEMA : Doing the Work

Sponsored by Her Canberra

Adult \$28 / Concession \$22

Bri Lee's new book - *The Work* - is about the biggest intersections of life: of art and commerce, of intimacy and distance, of talent and entitlement, and of labour and privilege. It's also her first novel. Bri is joined by local author Qin Qin for a discussion of ambition: on and off the page.

### 12:30-1:30pm THEATRETTE:

#### Let's Queer Up a Few Things

Adult \$28 / Concession \$22

Trans and gender diverse people have always been present in Australian life, whether they have lived quiet lives in the country, performed in cabaret shows, or run for parliament. Join Noah Riseman, Sam Elkin, Leigh Boucher and Michelle Arrow as they honour the resilience, courage, and political achievements of Australia's LGBTQI+ community, while reflecting on the ongoing journey towards equality and inclusion. Hosted by Venus Mantrap.

### 2-3pm ARC CINEMA: Your favourites, Robbie Arnott

Adult \$32 / Concession \$28

Robbie Arnott's fiction is steeped in the wild: women return from the dead as walking ecosystems; mythic birds circle the skies; the water calls to us. In writing these sumptuous, near-sentient landscapes, he grapples with our most wrenching and necessary questions: eco-grief, stolen land and human frailty. He joins local author Karen Viggers to talk about his new novel, *Dusk*, a tale of a feral creature loose in the Tasmanian highlands.



### 2:30-3:30pm THEATRETTE: Slutdom

Presented in partnership with Melbourne University Press

Adult \$28 / Concession \$22

Despite decades of activism, women are still burdened with the effects of slut shaming in everyday life. Finally, there is a book that argues convincingly and passionately for women's enjoyment of sex as a force to advance gender equality. Join sexologist and sex worker Dr. Hilary Caldwell, and memoirist C.J. Metcalfe, as they talk about bodies, pleasure and the power of speaking up.

### 4:00-5:00pm THEATRETTE: Adapting Murder

Sponsored by Screen Canberra

Adult \$28 / Concession \$22

Local crime-writing superstar, Chris Hammer, has a brand new novel to share with Canberra readers. Meanwhile, his Aussie noir classic, *Scrublands*, has been adapted into a hit TV series, with another season on the way. Join Chris and his screenwriter, Felicity Packard, as they discuss how a murderous idea makes the journey from page to screen. In conversation with Zoya Patel.

# VENUE: NATIONAL FILM & SOUND ARCHIVE OF AUSTRALIA

## 4:00-5:30pm: ARC CINEMA: Queerstories

Adult \$28 / Concession \$22

Vulnerable and fierce, hilarious and heartbreaking, *Queerstories* celebrates the culture and creativity of the LGBTQI+ 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. Now, the beloved storytelling phenomenon arrives in Kamberri.

Each guest is invited to share the story they want to tell, but are never asked to; unexpected tales of pride, prejudice, resilience and resistance. Featuring Sam Elkin, Dylín Hardcastle, David Owen Kelly, Cheryl Leavy and Alistair Ott. Curated and hosted by Maeve Marsden.

## SUNDAY OCTOBER 27

### 10-11am ARC CINEMA: Your Favourites, Anita Heiss

Sponsored by Icon Water

Adult \$32 / Concession \$28

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the Bathurst Wars. Anita Heiss's thrilling new novel, *Dirrayawadha*, takes its title from the Wiradyuri command 'to rise up' and is set during these pivotal frontier conflicts. Join Anita in conversation with Astrid Edwards (recorded for The Garret podcast).

### 10:30-11:30am THEATRETTE: Australian Gospel

Adult \$28 / Concession \$22

Which inheritances can we escape and which will haunt us forever? From one of Australia's most brilliant writers comes a gripping true story about the tangled fates of two couples and the foster children trapped between them. Join Lech Blaine as he discusses his new family memoir with Michael Williams (recorded for The Monthly's weekly podcast, *Read This*).



### 12-1pm ARC CINEMA: The Case for Critics

Presented in partnership with Sydney Review of Books and Radio National's The Bookshelf

Adult \$28 / Concession \$22

Derided, disparaged and cursed to the heavens, book critics are depicted as literature's grand villains – as frustrated creators and gleeful wreckers. But what do critics really do? And why are they necessary for a healthy literary ecosystem? James Jiang, Beejay Silcox and Christos Tsiolkas - a trio of Aussie critics - make the case for criticism. In conversation with Kate Evans and Cassie McCullagh (recorded for Radio National's The Bookshelf).



### 12:30-1:30pm THEATRETTE: Reading Praiseworthy

Sponsored by Icon Water

Adult \$28 / Concession \$22

Alexis Wright's fourth novel has been described as "mighty in every conceivable way". A decade in the making, it is the first book to win both the Stella Prize and the Miles Franklin Literary Award, and that is just the beginning of the acclaim. But the book is imposing and demanding - a 740-page monolith. Join passionate readers Cheryl Leavy, Astrid Edwards, Julieanne Lamond and Jeanine Leane for a guide into the extraordinary world of *Praiseworthy* and Wright's singular genius. Bring your copy of *Praiseworthy* and get ready to get reading!

### 2-3 pm ARC CINEMA: Sex, Power and Truth Telling

Adult \$28 / Concession \$22

The scripts we have about sex, gender and power are deeply ingrained: they shape our families, communities and institutions; our bodies, minds and relationships. But what happens when we dare to rip them up? Join Hilary Caldwell, Veronica Gorrie and Katrina Marson as they shake the status quo and ask big, necessary questions about shame, pleasure, justice, silence and who we trust. Virginia Haussegger leads this vital conversation.

### 2:30-3:30pm THEATRETTE: Your Favourites, Jessie Tu

Adult \$32 / Concession \$28

Jessie Tu's sensational first novel featured a violin prodigy navigating her twenties - a tale of sex and expectation. Join Jessie as she discusses her second novel - *The Honeyeater* - set in the deeply competitive world of literary translation and academia where she returns to the themes she writes best: power, control and the effects of intense pressure. In conversation with Alice Grundy.

# SUPPORT THE CANBERRA WRITERS FESTIVAL

The Canberra Writers Festival is more than just an event - it's a conversation. It's a space where ideas spark, curiosity thrives, and connections are made; where new voices are nurtured and local talent is celebrated.

With thought-provoking panels and inspiring workshops, the festival unites writers, thinkers, and readers in a shared celebration of words.

To keep this vibrant dialogue alive, we need your support. As a not-for-profit organisation, every dollar we receive goes directly toward expanding our event program: more voices, more ideas, more stories.

Your donation - big or small - makes a real difference in what the festival can achieve. By making a tax-deductible donation, you help ensure the festival's sustainability and longevity, supporting literature and storytelling in our community and region.

Please consider making a donation to the Canberra Writers Festival, and help us keep the conversation flowing.

**DONATE NOW**



# MASTERCLASS SERIES

## FRIDAY OCTOBER 25th

### 9-11am MOAD: Life Writing with Samah Sabawi

*'Whoever writes his story will inherit the land of words, and possess meaning, entirely!' - Mahmoud Darwish*

How would you write your story? Where would it begin? Where will it end? What compels you to write it? How do you navigate the emotional landscape of your story? Are you writing to heal, to confess, or to educate? Are you driven by vanity or some greater cause? How do you own your truth in the land of words? In this workshop we will consider these questions and more as we grapple with the rich and revelatory genre of memoir.

### 9-11am MOAD: The Words they Leave Behind: Using Ephemera to Inspire Stories, with Kaaron Warren

Have you ever found a photo in an old book? A shopping list in a drawer, a recipe on the back of a notebook, a box of old postcards at a school fete, an inscription in a book that broke your heart? Kaaron Warren has found these and more, always wondering about the person behind the items. Who were they, and what did these things mean to them? We can tell stories around found postcards, telegrams, menus from cruise ships and more, things that were once important to strangers. These are clues to be built on, lives to be imagined. We'll examine this ephemera in detail, developing character profiles around them. We'll write the stories of these forgotten pieces of people's lives. We'll make those pages live again.

### 1-3pm MOAD: Ask Markus Zusak

Markus Zusak tried to write his first novel when he was sixteen (it didn't go well), which makes it thirty-three years now in writing. As well as experiencing great highs with books like *The Book Thief* and *Three Wild Dogs (and the Truth)*, he has also encountered just about every challenge any writer faces each day, each month, each year, whether published or not. This session aims to share that knowledge, whether you're deep into a project, or even just contemplating a life of writing.

### 3-5pm MOAD: Tackling True Crime with Mark Dapin

Whether you're crafting a chilling tale of mystery or a harrowing account of justice, this masterclass will equip you with the foundational skills to turn real-life crimes into unforgettable stories. Mark Dapin addresses the practical questions faced by first-time true-crime writers: How do I find inquest reports? How do I find court transcripts? How do I approach lawyers? How do I visit prisons? How do I interview criminals? How do I interview detectives? How do I figure out who is telling the truth? And, perhaps most importantly, how much danger am I letting myself in for? Mark will then discuss how to structure a story and ensure that the narrative grips the reader.

In true crime more than any other genre, it's vital to keep the reader guessing and not give away too much too soon.

## SATURDAY OCTOBER 26th

### 10am-12pm ANU Transforming Characters with Catherine McKinnon

Characters need to transform. At the start of a story they are in one emotional state, they act, react, and most often (although not always) end the story in a different emotional state. They are changed in some way. Scenes within stories can be shaped around character transformation; the transformation may be small or large, depending on the circumstances. This workshop will focus on character transformation. It asks: how do characters transform? How do you, the writer, 'escalate' a scene, develop a character's internal world, using the senses? How might you explore place to reveal the unique changes your protagonist undergoes, so that you examine emotions in a nuanced way, without the need to signpost every thought or feeling?

### 10am-12pm ANU Facing the Dragon in Memoir with Qin Qin

Our stories can both imprison and liberate us. Beliefs about who we are, or how we write, can shackle the creative spirit. But it's never too late to resist the constraints of inherited narratives. This workshop explores how memoir can be a path to freedom. Whether you're starting out, mired in the messy middle, or struggling with fear in finishing, you're invited to confront the stories imposed on you and see how or where you can transform them. With reflective exercises and discussion, you'll be equipped with deeper awareness and courage to 'face the dragon' towards the truth within.



### 1-3pm ANU Charlotte Wood Takes Your Questions

The path to a finished book is a shadowy one, and the way ahead is not often clear. While every writer must find their own way, sometimes a friendly guide can help lead you through some of the more treacherous stretches. In this two-hour session Charlotte will share what she's learned over a ten-book career, answering your questions on any aspect of the writer's life, including where to start, how not to panic when the track splits or disappears, how to pace yourself and other creative dilemmas. There's an option for participants to submit questions in advance to allow the most considered answers.

**ALL WORKSHOPS:**  
Adult \$120 /  
Concession \$100

## 1-3pm ANU So You Want to Start a Podcast? with Astrid Edwards

Podcasts abound in the book world. They can have significant benefits for literary careers and profiles. But they are also hard work, and more fail than succeed. Join Astrid Edwards - host of the lauded literary interview series, *The Garret* - for a behind-the-scenes look at producing a podcast. This masterclass will take you through the art and craft of podcasting - from that initial spark of an idea to the nuts and bolts of broadcasting - and help you determine if a podcast is the right form for you. While we will focus on podcasts related to writing, editing, reading and publishing, all ideas - from any industry - are welcome.

## 1-3pm ANU The Power of Play with Kate Mildenhall

As a teacher and writer, Kate Mildenhall - the Stella Prize longlisted author of *The Hummingbird Effect* - knows the energetic buzz of a good writing prompt and the creative high of leaving a writing session with pages of new words. She now includes timed writing exercises into her own writing practice to increase energy and output and work around creative blocks. In this 2 hour intensive for writers at any stage of their career or project, participants will work through generative prompts to inspire different aspects of their writing work including landscape, memory, desire, structure, language and theme. Kate will ensure everyone walks away with a pocketful of new prompts to keep the momentum going.



## 1-3pm ANU Writing Lives with Bernadette Brennan

**Sponsored by National Centre of Biography ANU**

For a biography to sing it needs to be written with energy and passion. The biographer, driven by curiosity and the desire to understand what makes their subject tick, or in Helen Vendler's words, 'the inner dynamic of the life', must be open to all sorts of discoveries and challenges. So how do you write such a story? Who do you write about, and why? What practical, ethical and personal complications arise? In this masterclass, the award-winning biographer Bernadette Brennan shares her insights and experience into the often fraught, always fascinating, art of biography.

## SUNDAY OCTOBER 27th

### 9-11am ANU: Preparing for Publication with Carody Culver and Terri Ann White

Carody Culver, editor of Griffith Review, and Terri-ann White, Publisher at Upswell, will take you through the steps of pitching your work to publishers. How do you effectively approach a publisher and when? Do you send short works to literary journals and then progress to a book-length manuscript, or can you stay in the world of short-form writing? What's the difference between pitching a short work and pitching a manuscript? What should you expect after you submit your proposal? And what actually happens to your precious work once it's been accepted, from the different stages of the editing process to book cover design and beyond? We'll endeavour to answer all these questions and more. We'll take you through the responsibilities of both parties – writer and publisher – in the remarkable adventure of going from pitch to print.



### 9-11am ANU: Documentary Poetry with Jeanine Leane

Documentary poetry provokes readers to think critically about issues relevant to society while appreciating the poet's use of poetic form, language, and imagery. Crafting documentary poetry is experimental and involves responding to visual art (film, photography, paintings, political cartoons, mixed-media art), music lyrics, content from historical archives, print media (newspapers, magazines), official documents (legal records, written correspondence, medical records, testimonials), and/or resource materials (advertisements, pamphlets). Join Wiradjuri poet and critic Jeanine Leane for a masterclass in crafting nonfiction documentary poetry.

### 9-11am ANU: Reinvigorating Creativity with Alice Grundy

Has it been a while since you last wrote, or are you stuck in a creative rut? Do you feel as though writing has turned into a chore? In this workshop we cover how to unblock and revive your creativity through playful exercises and practices. You will leave with an armful of tools to pull out the next time you face a blinking cursor or blank page. Last year's masterclass with Alice Grundy was a festival favourite - one of the first events to sell out. Don't wait to book your place!

# HOW TO BOOK

All tickets must be booked and paid for online at [www.canberrawritersfestival.com.au](http://www.canberrawritersfestival.com.au), except for A NIGHT WITH TIM WINTON, which is sold via Ticketek only.

Please have your eTicket downloaded on your phone, or a print out of your tickets, for scanning at each session.

Concession ticket holders must show ID at the door to gain entry.

Ticket booking fees and processing fees apply to all tickets purchased. A \$5 booking fee applies to all orders.

## TICKET REFUNDS

No ticket refund or exchange will be made unless an event is cancelled.

Program information is correct at the time of printing. Please visit [www.canberrawritersfestival.com.au](http://www.canberrawritersfestival.com.au) for updates or changes to the program.



## VENUE INFORMATION

### **National Museum of Australia**

Lawson Crescent, Acton  
[nma.gov.au](http://nma.gov.au)

### **Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House**

18 King George Terrace, Parkes  
[moadoph.gov.au](http://moadoph.gov.au)

### **National Film and Sound Archive of Australia**

McCoy Crescent, Acton  
[nfsa.gov.au](http://nfsa.gov.au)

### **National Library of Australia**

Parkes Place W, Canberra  
[nla.gov.au](http://nla.gov.au)

### **National Press Club of Australia**

16 National Circuit, Barton  
[npc.org.au](http://npc.org.au)

### **The Australian National University**

#### **Llewellyn Hall**

William Herbert Place, Canberra  
[llewellynhall.com.au](http://llewellynhall.com.au)

#### **Marie Reay Teaching Centre**

155 University Avenue, Canberra