

6–8 August

A festival of ideas,
conversation and storytelling

Byron Writers Festival 2021



FUNDING PARTNERS



MAJOR PARTNERS



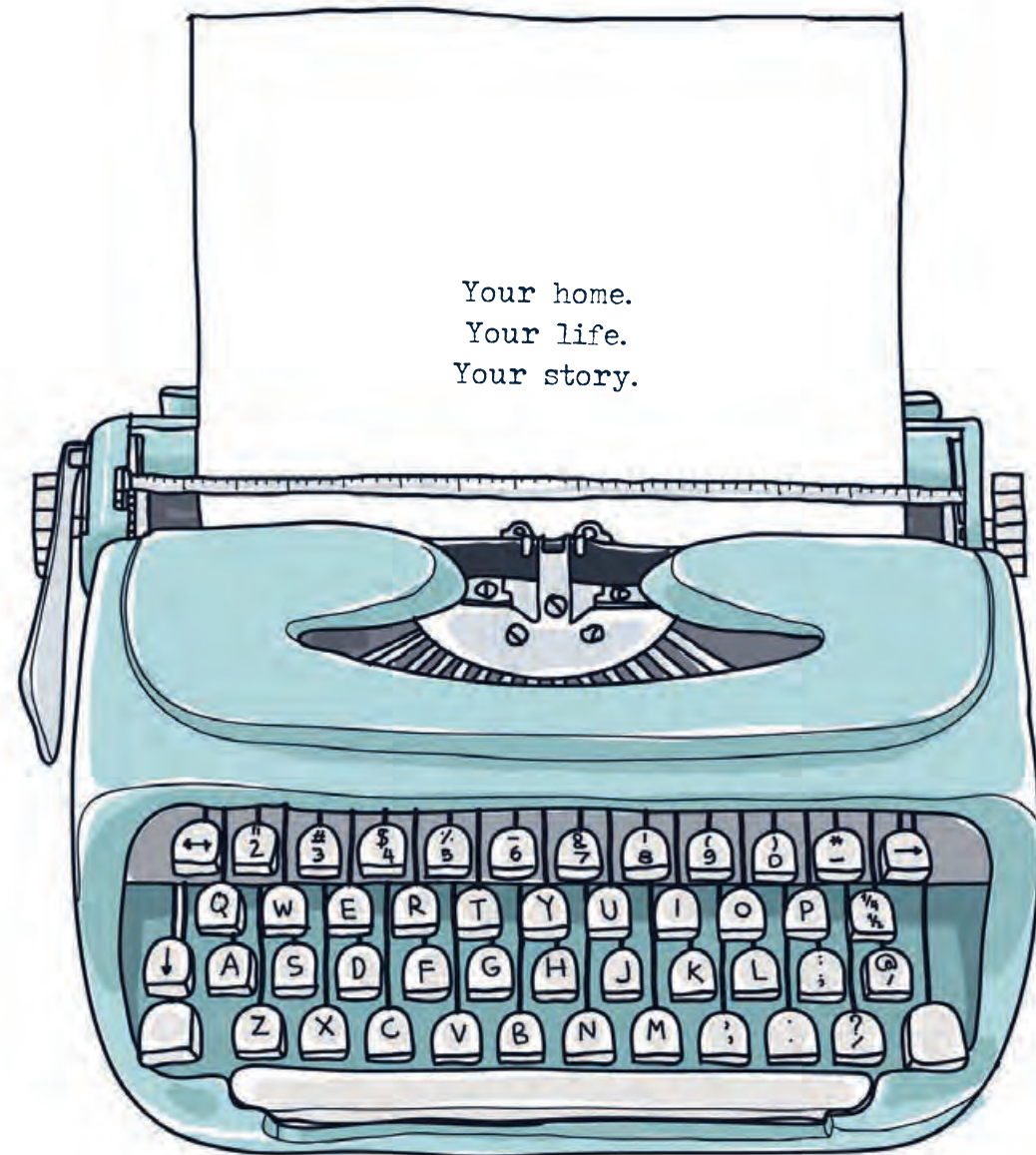
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No1 FARMERS MARKET



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Great ideas need great words.

Universities live on ideas and our best ideas need skilled writers to bring them to life. Words like ‘Coral IVF’ summarise four decades of Professor Peter Harrison’s work, that is regrowing the Great Barrier Reef. Words like ‘ecological jurisprudence’ can be shorthand for the work of our law academics who advocate at the highest levels for the legal rights of nature. Words like ‘regenerative agriculture’ describe courses that are teaching new ways of farming, to heal and regenerate the land we use in our food production.

Great ideas also need space to be heard and discussed. That’s why we have been a proud partner of the Byron Writers Festival since 1997, and why our student reporting team is there every year to cover the festival action.

scu.edu.au



Welcome to the 25th Byron Writers Festival and indeed, welcome back to the Festival grounds on beautiful Arakwal Country, ancient home of storytelling. What a privilege it is to be able to gather as community once again – to reassure, recalibrate and revitalise. We have missed you! Now more than ever our world needs writers and stories for healing. At the core of our Festival is the belief in the power of story as a means to connect, heal and make change. Story provides the framework for understanding. Never more so than when we are faced with the shock of a pandemic that has insisted we learn new ways of being and engaging.

In 2021 we proudly bring more than 150 writers together to create a program brimming with energy and diverse voices. They include memoirists, poets, medicos, environmentalists, commentators, politicians and artists who together shape narratives of hope, mettle and change. Some of the themes we examine include loneliness and the importance of cultivating an inner life, satire, Canberra culture, disability and the many ways people experience the world, connection to community, homelands and of course, nature.

We are honoured that Jiman-Bundjalung woman, Professor Judy Atkinson, will present the 2021 annual Thea Astley Address on the subject of Listening to Truth Telling. As she writes ‘Confronting the past may be hard, painful, shameful but pathways open, and we can see a future that can hold all our Stories. For these Stories are our future.’

When people gather at the Festival we are always heartened by the potential for positive and powerful outcomes. Of course, the mainstay contribution to that energy comes from our local community, the lifeblood that has sustained Byron Writers Festival over the past 25 years.

More than ever this year’s program is a collaborative effort and we specially thank our guest curators Tony Birch and Roanna Gonsalves for their generous creativity. They have broadened the program scope, depth and resonance.

On behalf of the Festival Board, our sincere thanks to the generous funders, sponsors, fellow arts organisations, staff, patrons and volunteers who all make this much-loved Festival possible.

We look forward to welcoming you all and invite you to enjoy the companionship and conviviality that is at the essence of Byron Writers Festival.

Edwina Johnson and the Festival team

2021

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Held on the land of the Arakwal Bumberbin People of the Byron Shire we pay respect to the traditional owners of this land and acknowledge them as the original storytellers of this region.

Share your moments at **#byronwf2021**

- @byronwritersfestival
- @byronwritersfestival
- @bbwritersfest

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And a **massive army of volunteers**

Original artwork: *Petals* by Katrina Brennan for Studio A



Byron Writers Festival is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW

SOUTHERN CROSS
UNIVERSITY MARQUEE

9.15 — Welcome to Country with Delta Kay and the Bunyarra Dancers

9.30—10.30 1
Pathways to Home
Sam Coley, Sara El Sayed,
Peter Polites, **Chair** Lynda Hawryluk
Supported by Southern Cross University

10.45—11.45 2
Strong: Racism and Resilience
Judy Atkinson, Aminata Conteh-Biger,
Julie Janson, **Chair** Sunil Badami

12.00—1.00 3
When Life Becomes Story
Mimi Kwa, Fiona Murphy,
Kaya Wilson, **Chair** Caroline Baum
Supported by Milligram

1.15—2.15 4
The Mungo Panel: Has the Media Lost its Mojo?
Karen Middleton, Kerry O'Brien,
Margaret Simons
Chair Barrie Cassidy

2.30—3.30 5
Archie Roach
in conversation with
Daniel Browning

4.00—5.00 6
From Canberra to Washington: What's Happened to Politics?
Zoe Daniel, Karen Middleton,
Margaret Simons, **Chair** Peter Greste
Supported by 89 Degrees East Communications

FIRST NATIONAL
BYRON PAVILION

9.30—10.15 7
Pip Williams
in conversation with
Zacharey Jane

10.30—11.15 8
Sarah Sentilles
via live stream, in conversation
with Ashley Hay

11.30—12.30 9
Finding Gerald Murnane
Peter Knight, **Chair** Michael Williams

12.45—1.45 10
First Do No Harm: Ethics and Medicine
Raina MacIntyre, John Rasko,
Norman Swan, **Chair** Paul Barclay
Supported by Rochdale Accounting & Business Advisory

2.00—2.45 11
Jack Beaumont
in conversation with
Sarah Kanowski

3.00—4.00 12
Short Fiction Big Themes
Emma Ashmere, Roanna Gonsalves,
Mirandi Riwoe, **Chair** Chris Hanley
Supported by First National Byron

4.15—5.15 13
Evie Wyld
via live stream, in conversation
with Jennifer Byrne

FEROS CARE
MARQUEE

9.30—10.30 14
Secret Senses
Sophie Hardcastle, Fiona Murphy,
Madeleine Ryan
Chair JP Pomare
Supported by Feros Care

10.45—11.45 15
Richard Flanagan
in conversation with
Jennifer Byrne

12.00—1.00 16
Stories of Love and Heartbreak
Hayley Katzen, Will Kostakis,
Peter Polites, **Chair** Nevo Zisin
Supported by Paradiso

1.15—2.15 17
Homelands
Randa Abdel-Fattah, Louisa Lim,
Antony Loewenstein
Chair Osman Faruqi

2.30—3.30 18
The Betoota Advocate: Outback Spin
Becky Lucas, Clancy Overell,
Errol Parker, **Chair** Marc Fennell
Supported by Stone & Wood

3.45—4.45 19
Young Guns
Kavita Bedford, Sam Coley,
Madeleine Ryan
Chair Nicole Abadee

GREENSTONE
PARTNERS MARQUEE

9.15—10.15 20
Marian Wilkinson
in conversation with
Kerry O'Brien
Supported by Greenstone Partners

10.30—11.30 21
YA Writers: Is Anything Off-Limits?
Isobelle Carmody, Helena Fox,
Will Kostakis, **Chair** Marc Fennell

11.45—12.45 22
Consent
Sophie Hardcastle, Kathryn Heyman
Chair Mandy Nolan

1.00—2.00 23
No Shame: Women Speaking Frankly
Ren Alessandra, Shu-Ling Chua,
Lucy Peach, **Chair** Linda Jaivin

2.15—3.15 24
Robert Dessaix
in conversation with
Nicole Abadee

3.30—4.30 25
He She They: Talking About Gender
Jazz Money, Kaya Wilson,
Nevo Zisin, **Chair** Ren Alessandra

THE SATURDAY PAPER
MARQUEE

8.45—9.15 26
Morning Music
with Evelyn Ida Morris and
Peter Knight

9.30—10.15 27
Zoe Daniel
in conversation with
Bruce Wolpe

10.30—11.30 28
On Edge: Drugs, Madness and the Damage Done
James Dunk, Benjamin Gilmour,
Antony Loewenstein
Chair Linda Jaivin

11.45—12.45 29
Take a Deep Breath: Writing Personal Trauma
Lech Blaine, Amani Haydar,
Rick Morton, **Chair** David Roland
Supported by Quarterly Essay

1.00—2.00 30
Can Fiction be History?
Julie Janson, Mirandi Riwoe,
Jock Serong
Chair Roanna Gonsalves
Supported by The Book Room

2.15—3.15 31
What's Your Family Like?
Sara El Sayed, Mimi Kwa,
Christopher Raja
Chair Sunil Badami

3.30—4.30 32
Traumatic States of Mind: Colonial History
Judy Atkinson, James Dunk,
Mark McKenna
Chair Julianne Schultz

BELONGIL ROOM

8.30—10.00 33
ABC North Coast Live Broadcast with Bruce Mackenzie
Featuring interviews with
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Matt Okine, Craig Silvey and
Kaya Wilson

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Poetry: The World in a Grain of Sand
David Hallett, Jazz Money
Chair Anne-Marie Te Whiu

11.30—12.15 35
Veronica Heritage-Gorrie
in conversation with
Daniel Browning

12.30—1.15 36
Christine Jackman
in conversation with
Sana Qadar

1.30—2.30 37
Poetry: Straight to the Heart of the Matter
Tony Birch, Erik Jensen
Chair Lynda Hawryluk

2.45—3.45 38
Love and Control
Amani Haydar, Alice Pung
Chair Krissy Kneen

SOUTHERN CROSS
UNIVERSITY
MARQUEE

9.00—10.00 39

**We Need to Talk
About China**Peter Hartcher, Linda Jaivin,
Louisa Lim, **Chair** Barrie CassidySupported by *The Byron Echo*

10.15—11.15 40

**Elemental: Fire, Earth,
Water**Matthew Evans, Victor Steffensen,
Kaya Wilson**Chair** Grace Lucas-PenningtonSupported by *Crystalbrook Byron*

11.30—12.30 41

Malcolm Turnbullin conversation with
Karen Middleton

12.45—1.30 42

Julia Bairdin conversation with
Christine JackmanSupported by *Southern Cross University*

1.45—2.45 43

Rugby League TragicsLech Blaine, Joe Gorman,
Clancy Overell, Errol Parker
Chair Andrew DentonSupported by *Northern Rivers Review*

3.00—4.00 44

My Life is a JokeKitty Flanagan, Christian Hull,
Judith Lucy, **Chair** Mandy Nolan

4.15—5.00 45

Craig Silveyin conversation with
Mandy NolanSupported by *Bolinda*FIRST NATIONAL
BYRON PAVILION

9.00—9.45 46

Mehreen Faruqiin conversation with
Margaret Simons

10.00—11.00 47

The Gifts of ReadingChigozie Obioma (via live stream),
Jennie Orchard, Alice Pung
Chair Tristan BancksSupported by *First National Byron*

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**Pushing Through Barriers:
Artists and Disability**Tallula Bourne, Gabrielle Mordy,
Greg Sindel **Chair** Adam van KempenSupported by *Summerland Credit Union*

12.30—1.30 49

Kate Grenvillevia live stream, in conversation
with Michael WilliamsSupported by *Bolinda*

1.45—2.45 50

Norman Swanin conversation with
Sarah KanowskiSupported by *Elements of Byron*

3.00—3.45 51

Scott Ludlamin conversation with
Courtney Miller

4.00—5.00 52

Skeletons in the ClosetKate Ellis, Amani Haydar,
Jacqueline Maley
Chair Caro LlewellynFEROS CARE
MARQUEE

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What Life Has Taught MeRobert Dessaix, Arnold Zable
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10.15—11.15 54

ScreenwritingRanda Abdel-Fattah, Benjamin
Gilmour, Matt Okine, Craig Silvey
Chair Ken CrouchSupported by *Screenworks*

11.30—12.15 55

Mary Li and Sophie Liin conversation with
Caro LlewellynSupported by *Feros Care*

12.30—1.30 56

The Power of WordsRanda Abdel-Fattah, Melissa
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Chair Paul Barclay

1.45—2.45 57

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We Trust?**Antony Loewenstein, Raina MacIntyre
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**Weaving Words for Country:
Poetry for a Story of Place**Evelyn Araluen, Jazz Money,
Anne-Marie Te Whiu
Chair Tony Birch

4.15—5.15 59

Bryan Brownin conversation with
Chris HanleySupported by *Feros Care*GREENSTONE
PARTNERS MARQUEE

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Mark McKennain conversation with
Matthew Condon

10.00—11.00 61

**America: The State of
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Bruce Wolpe, **Chair** Marian Wilkinson

11.15—12.15 62

Looking Death in the EyeDanielle Celermajer, Kathryn
Heyman, Mary Hoang
Chair Caroline Baum

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**Channelling the Inner
Child: Writing for Young
Readers**Tristan Bancks, Davina Bell, Ursula
Dubosarsky, **Chair** Sarah Armstrong
Supported by *Milligram*

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**When Home is No
Longer a Haven**Kavita Bedford, Meg Mason,
Christopher Raja
Chair Maggie HamiltonSupported by *Greenstone Partners*

3.00—4.00 65

From Her PerspectiveEmma Ashmere, Claire Thomas,
Pip Williams, **Chair** Nicole Abadee
Supported by *Greenstone Partners*

4.15—5.00 66

**Ginger Meggs 100th
Anniversary: Tristan
Bancks**in conversation with Antony Funnell
Supported by *Business NSW
Northern Rivers*THE SATURDAY PAPER
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Morning Musicwith Evelyn Ida Morris and
Peter Knight

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The Subject is LoveAlison Croggon, Rick Morton
Chair Erik JensenSupported by *The Saturday Paper*

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Kate Ellisin conversation with
Julianne Schultz

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**'Get Ready for a Blak-Out':
First Nations Creative
Practice**Daniel Browning, Fiona Foley,
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Literacy Foundation*

12.30—1.30 71

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Chair Zacharey Jane

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**Thea Astley Address:
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Discontents**Shu-Ling Chua, Veronica Heritage-
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Chair Roanna Gonsalves

BELONGIL ROOM

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**Loneliness in the Age
of Connectivity**Maggie Hamilton, Christine
Jackman, **Chair** Osman Faruqi

11.15—12.15 76

**Flesh Made New:
The Broken Promise of
Stem Cells**Carl Power, John Rasko
Chair Gabrielle Chan

12.30—1.30 77

**I Want to Change
the World**Jean Hinchliffe, Mia Thom
Chair Scott Ludlam

1.45—2.45 78

**Subversive Behaviour:
Art and Activism**Fiona Foley, Amani Haydar
Chair Alison Croggon

3.00—4.00 79

Matt Okinein conversation with
Michael Williams

SOUTHERN CROSS
UNIVERSITY
MARQUEE

9.00—10.00 80

**Fresh Air, Red Dirt and
Small Towns: Stories
From Regional Australia**Gabrielle Chan, Veronica
Heritage-Gorrie, Hayley Katzen
Chair Rick Morton
Supported by Byron Farmers Market

10.15—11.15 81

**Voicing History's
Untold Stories**Emma Ashmere, Jock Serong,
Pip Williams, **Chair** Chris Hanley
Supported by Southern Cross University

11.30—12.30 82

**Staying Calm in an
Uncalm World**Maggie Hamilton, Mary Hoang,
Norman Swan, **Chair** Sana Qadar
Supported by Pukka Herbs

12.45—1.45 83

Suspense in FictionBryan Brown, JP Pomare
Chair Matthew Condon

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Brothers and SistersSam Coley, Alison Croggon,
Meg Mason, **Chair** Mimi Kwa

3.15—4.15 85

Shaking the Family TreeKrissy Kneen, Mary Li
Chair Russell EldridgeFIRST NATIONAL
BYRON PAVILION

9.00—9.45 86

**Shooting Goals: Sports
and Politics**Kate Ellis, Joe Gorman
Chair Mick O'Regan
Supported by First National Byron

10.00—10.45 87

Matthew Evansin conversation with
Paul Barclay
Supported by Byron Shire Council

11.00—12.00 88

Meg Masonin conversation with
Sarah Kanowski

12.15—1.15 89

Food: It Starts on the FarmPam Brook, Gabrielle Chan,
Matthew Evans
Chair Antony Funnell
Supported by Brookfarm

1.30—2.30 90

**Trailblazers: Women Who
Have Made a Difference**Eva Cox (via live stream),
Marcia Langton
Chair Julianne Schultz

2.45—3.45 91

**Scar Tissue: Trauma
and Recovery**Aminata Conteh-Biger,
Veronica Heritage-Gorrie
Chair Paul Barclay

4.00—5.00 92

Think Globally Act LocallyDamon Gameau, Jean Hinchliffe,
Helena Norberg-Hodge
Chair Mick O'Regan
Supported by Stone & WoodFEROS CARE
MARQUEE

9.00—10.00 93

**Luminosity in the
Darkest Moments**Julia Baird, Mary Hoang
Chair Maggie Hamilton
Supported by The Sunseeker Byron Bay

10.15—11.15 94

**What Do We Want From
Our Leaders?**Mehreen Faruqi, Peter Hartcher,
Margaret Simons
Chair Karen Middleton

11.30—12.30 95

**Introverts: When Two's
a Crowd**Christian Hull, Madeleine Ryan
Chair Mandy Nolan
Supported by Feros Care

12.45—1.45 96

**The Sound of Silence:
Deafness and Identity**Mary Li, Sophie Li, Fiona Murphy
Chair Chris Hanley
Supported by Feros Care

2.00—3.00 97

**Griffith Review: Memories,
Imaginations and Personal
Utopias**Lech Blaine, Danielle Celermajer,
Fiona Foley, **Chair** Ashley Hay
Supported by Griffith Review

3.15—4.15 98

That Oceanic FeelingJulia Baird, Emily Brugman,
Jock Serong, **Chair** Courtney Miller
Supported by The Atlantic Byron BayGREENSTONE
PARTNERS MARQUEE

8.45—12.00 99

Kids Big Day OutMC Joel Salom, International Man
of Circus!

9.00—9.30

Meet Davina Bell

9.30—10.00

Meet Kirli Saunders

10.00—10.30

Meet Ursula Dubosarsky

10.30—11.00

Meet Tristan Bancks

11.00—11.30

Meet Will Kostakis

11.30—12.00

Meet Isobelle Carmody

12.30—1.30 100

Judith Lucyin conversation with
Caro Llewellyn

1.45—2.45 101

**Ticks of Approval:
Mentorships, Residencies,
Awards**Kathryn Heyman, Grace Lucas-
Pennington, Mirandi Riwoe
Chair Michael WilliamsPlus presentation of Byron Writers
Festival Student Writing Prizes

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**Unmuted: The Power
of Podcasts**Matthew Condon, Osman Faruqi,
JP Pomare, **Chair** Sana Qadar
Supported by 89 Degrees East
CommunicationsTHE SATURDAY PAPER
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Peter Knight

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Erik Jensen
Supported by The Saturday Paper

10.15—11.15 105

**Small Green Shoots:
Nature & Healing**Danielle Celermajer,
Victor Steffensen, **Chair** Tony Birch
Supported by Pukka Herbs

11.30—12.30 106

Refugees: No Going BackAminata Conteh-Biger, Arnold
Zable, **Chair** Peter Greste
Supported by Tamara Smith MP

12.45—1.45 107

**Merging Art &
Performance into Fiction**Sophie Hardcastle, Claire Thomas
Chair Erik Jensen
Supported by The Saturday Paper

2.00—3.00 108

**Behind Closed Doors:
Canberra's Toxic Culture**Kate Ellis, Mehreen Faruqi,
Scott Ludlam
Chair Jacqueline Maley

3.15—4.15 109

Words and MusicPeter Knight, Jeff Lang, Lucy Peach
Chair Wendy Were
Supported by Blank Street Press

BELONGIL ROOM

9.00—9.45 110

Arnold Zablein conversation with
Wendy Were

10.00—11.00 111

DIY: Self PublishingAndrew McDermott
Chair Debbie Lee
Supported by IngramSpark

11.15—12.15 112

**WikiLeaks: A Secret
Australia**Scott Ludlam
Chair Osman Faruqi

12.30—1.15 113

Tony Birchin conversation with
Ashley Hay

1.30—2.30 114

**From Country to Stage:
a Bundjalung Yaegl story**Mitch King, **Chair** Julian Louis

2.45—3.45 115

Linda Jaivinin conversation with
Jennifer Byrne

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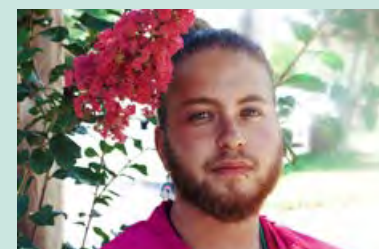
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Satellite Events



Writers on the Road REGIONAL TOUR

SAT 31 JUL — **A**
WED 4 AUG

Various times and venues
FREE

Join us as we bring Byron Writers Festival 2021 authors Isobelle Carmody, Roanna Gonsalves, Krissy Kneen and Nevo Zisin to the Mid North Coast. Presenting workshops and panel discussions in Coffs Harbour, Macksville, Port Macquarie, Grafton, Bellingen and Harwood.

Sat 31 July, 3pm
Workshop & 6pm Event
Coffs Central Depot Cafe

Sun 1 Aug, 2.30pm
Port Macquarie Library

Mon 2 Aug, 5.30pm
Macksville Library

Tues 3 Aug, 5.30pm
Bellingen Library

Wed 4 Aug, 6.30pm
Harwood Hotel

Bookings essential via
byronwritersfestival.com/wotr

Supported by the NSW Government
through Create NSW



Kathryn Heyman

*In conversation with
Sarah Armstrong*

THURS 5 AUG **B**

2pm—3.30pm
Moller Pavilion, Bangalow
\$25 inc. afternoon tea by
Bangalow CWA

Dr Kathryn Heyman is an award-winning writer. She received the prestigious CAL Author Fellowship for *Fury*, a memoir of recovery and transformation. She talks with Sarah Armstrong about the book, and about the possibility of reinvention after trauma.

EVENT PARTNER
Friends of the Library



Evelyn Araluen

*In conversation with
Lynda Hawryluk*

THURS 5 AUG **C**

3pm—4pm
Southern Cross University
Lismore Campus
Free, bookings essential

Evelyn Araluen is a Goorie-Koori poet and co-editor of *Overland Literary Journal*. Her debut poetry collection *Dropbear* is an innovative mix of poetry and prose from a vibrant new Indigenous voice. In conversation with Lynda Hawryluk, Senior Lecturer at Southern Cross University.

EVENT PARTNER
Southern Cross University



Poets Out Loud Youth Slam

THURS 5 AUG **D**

6pm—8pm
The Regent Cinema, Murwillumbah
\$5, under 18s free,
bookings essential

A showcase of fresh new voices from Poets Out Loud. Preselected teams and individuals aged 12-18 represent their schools in this thrilling spoken-word competition. Featuring 2020 Australian Poetry Slam champion Ren Alessandra.

EVENT PARTNER
The Regent Cinema



Studio A Superstars

*Artist talk with Greg Sindel
& Gabrielle Mordy*

FRI 6 AUG **E**

2pm—3pm
Lismore Regional Gallery
Free, bookings essential

Artists living with intellectual disability face a variety of barriers. Hear Studio A artist Greg Sindel and Artistic Director Gabrielle Mordy speak about how artists at Studio A are using the power of comics and storytelling to overcome obstacles and become successful and renowned visual artists.

EVENT PARTNER
Lismore Regional Gallery
SUPPORTED BY
Southern Cross University



REST In the Garden

Dynasty8 Choir

FRI 6 & SAT 7 AUG F

6pm—7pm

Kingscliff Community Hall
Brunswick Heads Memorial Hall
\$30/\$25 concession

Dynasty8 Choir presents an hour-long sonic meditation featuring beautiful ancient and modern classical choral music accompanied by eight shimmering gongs played by David Bennett from *Planet Gongs*. Bring a mat, pillow and a rug, find a spot on the floor and allow yourself to surrender to this magical experience. Chairs also provided.



Danielle Celermajer

In conversation with Daniel Browning

FRI 6 AUG G

7pm—8pm

Crystalbrook Byron
(formerly The Byron at Byron)
\$30

Danielle Celermajer's *Summertime* is written in the shadow of the bushfires. In the midst of the death and grief of animals, humans and ecologies, Celermajer asks us to look around, to become present to all beings who are living and dying through the loss of our shared home.

EVENT PARTNER Crystalbrook Byron



Using Comedy to Hit the Mark

Kitty Flanagan, Christian Hull, Becky Lucas & Matt Okine talk with Mandy Nolan

FRI 6 AUG H

7.30pm—9pm

Byron Theatre \$30

Comedians do more than tell jokes – they write books, TV shows and garner huge social media followings. How do they stay zeitgeist fit? How does each medium dilute or amplify the comedic voice? Australian comedy superstars talk with our own local legend Mandy about using comedy as a tool for world domination!



Matthew Evans on Soil

In conversation with Gabrielle Chan

SAT 7 AUG M

7pm—8pm

The Regent Cinema, Murwillumbah
\$30

Matthew Evans' latest book *Soil* is a hymn to the remarkable and underappreciated bit of Earth that gifts us life. A swashbuckling tale of soil that arms us all with the knowledge and respect to care about its health. Matthew discusses farming and the importance of soil in regenerating landscapes.



The Shape of Sound

Fiona Murphy in conversation with Caroline Baum + Fearless Films screening

SAT 7 AUG N

7pm—8.15pm

Banksia Pavilion, Elements of Byron
Free, bookings essential

Fiona Murphy hid her Deafness for most of her life. In her new memoir, *The Shape of Sound*, Fiona explores issues of stigma and shame, deafness, disability and personal transformation. With a special screening of *Fearless Films*, a series of short films produced by Feros Care and Screenworks about people living boldly with disability.

EVENT PARTNER Feros Care



Tell Me Why Concert

Archie Roach

SAT 7 AUG O

7pm—9pm, inc. interval

NORPA (Lismore City Hall)
\$66.50

In this intimate *Tell Me Why* concert, Archie's profound spiritual presence imparts a moving on-stage memoir of his life. He sings of both the heartbreak and joy of his people and calls for justice, for understanding, for empathy, for healing and for a better future for our children and country.

EVENT PARTNER NORPA
SUPPORTED BY Southern Cross University

John West Youth Poetry Cup

SAT 7 AUG I

1.30pm—2.30pm

Registrations 1pm
Byron Theatre
Free, no bookings

Open to 10-18 year-olds for a single two-minute spoken poem. More info: David Hallett 0487 384 993.

Australian Poetry Slam Byron Heat

SAT 7 AUG J

3pm—5pm

Registrations 2.30pm
Byron Theatre
Free, no bookings

Join the audience or sign up to perform. Featuring 2020 Australian Poetry Slam champion Ren Alessandra, with MC Miles Merrill.

More info australianpoetryslam.com

EVENT PARTNER Word Travels
SUPPORTED BY Byron Theatre



Lisa Walker: Trouble is My Business

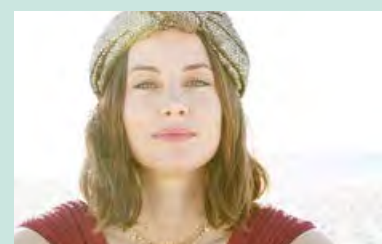
Book Launch

SAT 7 AUG K

6pm

The Book Room at Byron
Free, no bookings

Olivia Grace is back in Byron Bay, and just as well-disguised as ever! Raise a glass to wisecracking teen detective Olivia Grace's second mission. A rip-roaring excursion into madcap sunshine noir, with a flavour of Veronica Mars meets Elmore Leonard. Launched by Kayte Nunn, bestselling author of *The Last Reunion*.



Blood Magic

Lucy Peach

SAT 7 AUG L

6.30pm—7.30pm

Byron Theatre
\$30

Lucy Peach is a singer-songwriter, theatre-maker and author hailing from Fremantle, WA. Her passion for preaching the power of the period is embodied in her latest work, *Blood Magic* — a song cycle written as an ode to the menstrual cycle.



An Evening of Words and Music

Jeff Lang

SAT 7 AUG P

8.30pm—10pm

Byron Theatre
\$30

Join renowned guitarist, songwriter and author Jeff Lang for an evening of words and music, as he plays songs from across his career and reads some short passages from his book. *Some Memories Never Die* is a memoir of three decades on the road in which Jeff recalls the gigs, the twists, the turns and the people he met along the way.



Fiona Foley: Biting the Clouds

Artist Talk

SUN 8 AUG Q

11am—12pm

Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre
Free, bookings essential

Fiona Foley is a visual artist and academic. Her publication, *Biting the Clouds*, is a ground-breaking work of Indigenous scholarship. Fiona discusses her art and writing, both of which examine, subvert and dismantle historical stereotypes.

EVENT PARTNER Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre



Writers at the Rails

SUN 8 AUG R

2.30pm—4.30pm

The Rails Hotel, Byron Bay
Free, no bookings

The 29th anniversary of Writers at the Rails featuring Ren Alessandra, Damien Becker, Sarah Temporal and host David Hallett.

IRINA DUNN, Director of the **Australian Writers' Network**, is a well-known manuscript assessor, editor and literary agent.



She is the author of *The Writer's Guide: Writing for Pleasure or Publication* (Allen & Unwin), and has guided hundreds of manuscripts from rough draft to final polished work and on to publication.

IRINA DUNN's diligence, editing eye for detail, and literary knowledge has enabled many years of research and dreaming become a reality. Irina has been an inspiration... She has a comprehensive understanding of the publishing world and through this knowledge, she found me a publisher. I cannot thank Irina enough for her care in promoting my endeavours, by helping me to find through publication, an audience of readers.

Helen Rayson-Hill, *Eleanor of Aquitaine, the Firebrand Queen* (Interactive Press 2021)

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Workshops



What's the Truth Got to Do With It?

With Alan Close

MON 2 AUG

10am—4pm

Byron Community College
\$120/100 Members & Students

Truth. Facts. Honesty. OMG! It's not boring is it? Finding the 'right' way to tell our stories can be the hardest part of writing them – and the 'truth' of our lives so challenging and elusive. This hands-on workshop will give you the tools to make your story both engaging and authentic.



Balancing Backstory

With Laurel Cohn

MON 2 AUG

10am—4pm

Byron Community Centre
\$120/100 Members & Students

There's nothing worse than getting cornered at a party with a stranger telling you all about themselves – too much backstory! The same is true on the page. Backstory can bog down a manuscript, but it is also essential. This workshop helps writers manage the backstory balancing act.



Nature Writing

With Sophie Hardcastle

TUES 3 AUG

10am—4pm

Byron Community College
\$120/100 Members & Students

Ideal for anyone who is curious about the world around them... whether that's a curiosity for sea breezes, an interest in tree root systems, or a fascination for glacial ice, Sophie will help participants write landscapes to life.



Writing for the Screen

With Benjamin Gilmour

TUES 3 AUG

10am—4pm

Byron Community Centre
\$120/100 Members & Students

Writer/director Benjamin Gilmour, whose script for his feature film *Jirga* won the 2019 NSW Premier's Prize for Scriptwriting, hosts a workshop on the art of screenwriting. Participants will explore the growing of ideas, the importance of story, character development and structure. This workshop will provide skills required to work towards the first draft of a screenplay.



The Golden Rules for Writing a Great Short Story

With Sunil Badami

WED 4 AUG

10am—4pm

Byron Community College
\$120/100 Members & Students

In an engaging, enlightening and entertaining day-long workshop, writer, broadcaster and academic Sunil Badami will reveal his Golden Rules for Writing a Great Short Story, which he tested by writing four short stories in four weeks – all of which were published in some of Australia's most prestigious literary journals.



Making Truth from Story and Story from Truth

With Kathryn Heyman

WED 4 AUG

1pm—4pm

Byron Community Centre
\$60/50 Members & Students

Award-winning novelist and memoirist Kathryn Heyman (*Fury*) helps you take a kernel of truth and turn it into a work of art: a novel, memoir or captivating work of narrative non-fiction. Using a mixture of example, discussion and carefully selected exercises Kathryn Heyman will help you discover the core of your story and how to make it sing.

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Workshops



Go Publish Yourself

With IngramSpark

WED 4 AUG

10am — 12.30pm

Byron Community Centre
\$35/25 Members & Students

Whether you're an aspiring or established writer you can now 'go publish yourself' on equal footing with the mainstream industry players. Join Debbie Lee from IngramSpark to learn about print-on-demand and global distribution, and how these services are turning the publishing world on its head.

SUPPORTED BY IngramSpark



Authentic You for Writers

With Mandy Nolan
& George Catsi

WED 4 & THURS 5 AUG

9am—5pm, 9am—2.30pm

Rockinghorse Studios, Coorabell
\$650/590 Early bird inc hot lunch
both days

For many writers the most comfortable place is behind the keyboard. Mandy Nolan and George Catsi are story detectives – taking your narrative from the page to the stage. Learn how to shine on panels, in story pitches and interviews. An immersive, transforming hands-on class!



Elements of a Story

With Christopher Raja

THURS 5 AUG

9.30am — 12.30pm

Byron Community College
\$60/50 Members & Students

In this three-hour guided writing group, novelist, memoirist and playwright, Christopher Raja, will lead participants through a number of the key elements of a story. Participants are asked to bring along a piece of writing, project or story idea to develop in a supportive and positive setting.



Bringing Your Non-Fiction Book to Life

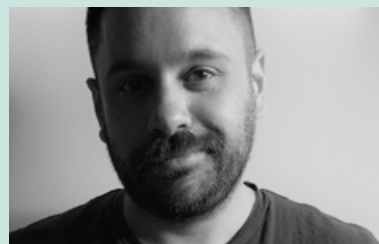
With Maggie Hamilton

THURS 5 AUG

10am—4pm

Byron Community Centre
\$120/100 Members & Students

In this lively workshop, learn how to make your work relevant and captivating – how to arrive at your own voice, and weave in the voices of others – what to leave in and what to take out, and what mistakes non-fiction writers make.



Writing Difficult Characters

With Peter Polites

THURS 5 AUG

10am—4pm

Byron Community Centre
\$120/100 Members & Students

From Captain Ahab to Mrs Dalloway, all the way to that kid everyone hates in *The Slap* – it's the difficult characters that stay with us. In this session writers will be encouraged to study, dissect and bring difficult characters to life through a series of practical exercises.

SUPPORTED BY Faber Writing Academy



Writing Family

With Sara El Sayed

THURS 5 AUG

1pm — 4pm

Byron Community College
\$60/50 Members & Students

This workshop will guide participants through planning, researching and writing family stories. Participants will develop foundational skills in: understanding the ethics of writing the stories of others; deciding what stories need to be told, and why; and crafting family members as characters.

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Mimi Zenzmaier
Funeral Director/Celebrant
End of Life Doula & Guide

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Did we mention Barrio is now open on Sundays? The restaurant is serving coffee and house-made cakes, and offering a seafood-focused lunch featuring Moreton Bay bugs, Australian native rock oysters, local prawns grilled over coal, and more.

Barrio is walking distance from the Writer's Festival, located in the Habitat community development in Byron Bay's Industrial Estate.



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Writers



Tony Birch
GUEST CURATOR

Tony Birch is an activist, historian, essayist and acclaimed author of the novels *The White Girl*, *Ghost River* and *Blood*. His most recent release is the poetry collection *Whisper Songs*.

37 58 70 105 113



Roanna Gonsalves
GUEST CURATOR

Roanna Gonsalves is the award-winning author of *The Permanent Resident* and a four-part ABC Radio National series *On the tip of a billion tongues*.

12 30 71 74 A



Nicole Abadee

Nicole Abadee writes about books for *Good Weekend*, has a literary podcast, *Books, Books, Books*, and appears regularly as a moderator at writers' festivals.

19 24 65



Randa Abdel-Fattah

Randa Abdel-Fattah is an academic, former lawyer, mother of four children and award-winning author. Her most recent book is *Coming of Age in the War on Terror*.

17 54 56



Ren Alessandra

Ren Alessandra is a poet and educator based in Melbourne. As the 2020 Australian Poetry Slam Champion, she has competed and performed interstate and internationally.

23 25 D J R



Evelyn Araluen

Evelyn Araluen is a Goorie-Koori poet, researcher and co-editor of *Overland Literary Journal*. Her debut poetry collection is *Dropbear*.

58 C



Sarah Armstrong

Sarah Armstrong has written three novels for adults and her first novel for young readers aged 8 - 12 will be published by Hardie Grant next year.

63 B



Emma Ashmere

Emma Ashmere is the author of *Dreams They Forgot* and *The Floating Garden*, which was shortlisted Small Press Network Book of the Year 2016.

12 65 81



Judy Atkinson

Professor Judy Atkinson identifies as Jiman Bundjalung. *Trauma Trails - Recreating Songlines: The transgenerational effects of Trauma in Indigenous Australia* was released in 2002.

2 32 73



Sunil Badami

Sunil Badami is a writer and broadcaster, who has contributed to most major Australian publications and appears regularly on ABC Radio and TV.

2 31



Julia Baird

Dr Julia Baird is a globally renowned author and award-winning journalist. Her latest book *Phosphorescence* became an instant bestseller when it was published in 2020.

42 93 98



Tristan Bancks

Tristan Bancks is a children's and teens' author. His books include *Two Wolves*, *The Fall*, *Detention*, *Tom Weekly* and *Nit Boy*. His latest book is *Ginger Meggs*.

47 63 66 99



Paul Barclay

Paul Barclay is a Walkley Award-winning journalist and broadcaster on ABC Radio National with an appetite for ideas and in-depth analysis and discussion.

10 56 87 91



Caroline Baum

Journalist Caroline Baum is the author of the memoir *Only*. Ambassador for the Older Women's Network in NSW and presents the podcast *Life Sentences*.

3 62 N



Jack Beaumont
Jack Beaumont is the nom de plume of a former operative in the clandestine operations branch of the French foreign secret service, the DGSE. *The Frenchman* is Beaumont's first book.

11



Kavita Bedford
Kavita Bedford is an Australian-Indian writer with a background in journalism, anthropology and literature. *Friends & Dark Shapes* is Kavita's debut novel.

19 64



Davina Bell
Davina Bell is a children's author. Her books include *All the Ways To Be Smart*, and her debut Young Adult novel, *The End of the World Is Bigger Than Love*.

63 99



Lech Blaine
Lech Blaine is an award-winning writer from Toowoomba, Queensland. *Car Crash* is his first book.

29 43 97



Matthew Condon
Matthew Condon is a prize-winning Australian journalist and author. He recently released the true crime podcast *Ghost Gate Road*, which went to #1 on the Apple Australia podcast charts.

60 72 83 102



Aminata Conteh-Biger
Aminata Conteh-Biger is an author, inspirational speaker, performer, and former refugee turned Founder and CEO of the Aminata Maternal Foundation. Her latest book is *Rising Heart*.

2 91 106



Eva Cox
Eva Cox is a prominent feminist, public commentator, and social equity advocate. She is currently Adjunct Professor at Jumbunna Indigenous Institute of Education and Research, UTS.

90



Alison Croggon
Alison Croggon is an award-winning novelist, poet, librettist and critic. *Monsters* is her most recent book.

68 78 84



Tallula Bourne
Tallula Bourne is an independent artist, a Sprung!! Integrated Dance Theatre Company ensemble member and Sprung!! Online Auslan Choirmaster.

48



Pam Brook
Pam Brook is a food producer, innovator and farmer. Author of *We Can All Eat That! Raise healthy, adventurous eaters and help prevent food allergies*.

89



Bryan Brown
Iconic Australian actor Bryan Brown became an international success in the early '80s with critical acclaim, appearing in over 80 films. *Sweet Jimmy* is his first book.

59 83



Daniel Browning
Daniel Browning is an Aboriginal journalist, radio broadcaster, sound artist and writer. He produces and presents *Away!* the Indigenous art and culture program on ABC Radio National.

5 35 70 G



Ken Crouch
Ken Crouch is CEO of Screenworks, a non-profit that provides screen-related development and networking opportunities, that support people living in regional Australia.

54



Zoe Daniel
Zoe Daniel is a three-time foreign correspondent, former ABC US Bureau Chief, Southeast Asia and Africa correspondent. Her book *Greetings from Trumpland* was released in 2021.

6 27 61



Andrew Denton
Andrew Denton has worked in every medium except crayon. He counts Rupert Murdoch, Paul Keating and Germaine Greer amongst his favourite detractors.

43



Robert Dessaix
Robert Dessaix is best-known as a writer of literary non-fiction. His latest books are *What Days Are For*, *The Pleasures of Leisure* and *The Time of Our Lives*.

24 53



Emily Brugman
Emily Brugman writes fiction and non-fiction. Her essay *The Sea: Friend or Foe?* was published in 2021 in *Lines to the Horizon: Australian Surf Writing*.

98



Jennifer Byrne
Jennifer Byrne is a reputed journalist and broadcaster, the founding host of ABC TV's *Book Club* who now presents BBC's *Mastermind*.

13 15 115



Isobelle Carmody
Isobelle Carmody is one of Australia's most highly regarded authors of fantasy. Her most recent novel is the final book in the Kingdom of the Lost series, *The Velvet City*.

21 71 99 A



Barrie Cassidy
Barrie Cassidy is one of Australia's most respected political journalists having hosted *Insiders* on ABC TV for 18 years.

4 39



Ursula Dubosarsky
Ursula Dubosarsky is the author of over 60 books for children and young adults, including her most recent novel, *Pierre's Not There*. She is the current Australian Children's Laureate.

63 99



James Dunk
James Dunk is a historian at the University of Sydney, where he lectures in the history of medicine and Australian history. *Bedlam at Botany Bay* is his first book.

28 32



Sara El Sayed
Sara El Sayed was born in Egypt. She teaches at Queensland University of Technology. Her memoir *Muddy People* is about growing up and becoming oneself in an Egyptian Muslim Family.

1 31 33



Russell Eldridge
Russell Eldridge is a journalist, novelist and media trainer and was a founding and long-serving Board member of Byron Writers Festival.

85



Danielle Celermajer
Professor Danielle Celermajer is an academic and philosopher whose work focuses on human rights, ethics and multispecies justice. She wrote *Summertime* while facing the devastating summer fires of 2019-2020.

62 97 105 G



Gabrielle Chan
Gabrielle Chan is a respected journalist and author of *Rusted Off*. Her current book is *Why You Should Give a F**k About Farming*.

76 80 89 M



Shu-Ling Chua
Shu-Ling Chua is a Melbourne-based essayist, critic and poet. Her debut collection of essays is titled *Echoes*.

23 74



Sam Coley
Sam Coley is a Kiwi writer living in Sydney. He won the 2017 Richell Prize for Emerging Writers for his debut novel, *State Highway One*.

1 19 84



Kate Ellis
Kate Ellis was a Labor MP from 2004 until 2019. Her book *Sex, Lies and Question Time* explores life as a woman in Australian politics.

52 69 86 108



Matthew Evans
Matthew Evans, Tasmanian chef, farmer, food writer and broadcaster is the author of *Soil*, a hymn to the remarkable and underappreciated bit of Earth that gifts us life.

40 87 89 M



Mehreen Faruqi
Dr Mehreen Faruqi is the Greens' senator for NSW, an engineer and activist. *Too Migrant, Too Muslim, Too Loud* is her no-holds-barred memoir.

94 108



Osman Faruqi
Osman Faruqi is editor of the *The Saturday Paper's* daily news podcast *7am*. He was an award-winning reporter with the ABC Radio National documentary program *Background Briefing*.

17 75 102 112



Marc Fennell

Marc Fennell is a Walkley Award-winning journalist, interviewer, author and documentary maker.

18 21



Kitty Flanagan

Kitty Flanagan is one of Australia's best-known comedians. She is the co-writer of ABC TV series *Fisk* and author of the best-selling *488 Rules for Life*.

44 [H](#)



Richard Flanagan

Richard Flanagan's novels are published in 42 countries. He won the Booker Prize for *The Narrow Road to the Deep North*. His latest novel is *The Living Sea of Waking Dreams*.

15



Fiona Foley

Fiona Foley is a visual artist and lecturer at Queensland College of Art, Griffith University. Her book, *Biting the Clouds* is a ground-breaking work of Indigenous scholarship.

70 78 97 [Q](#)



Lynda Hawryluk

Dr Lynda Hawryluk is a writer and academic who coordinates the Associate Degree of Creative Writing at Southern Cross University.

1 37 [C](#)



Ashley Hay

Ashley Hay is an award-winning novelist and essayist and the editor of *Griffith Review*.

8 97 113



Amani Haydar

Amani Haydar is a successful artist, lawyer, mum and advocate for women's health and safety. Her book is *The Mother Wound*.

29 38 52 78



Veronica Heritage-Gorrie

Veronica Heritage-Gorrie is a proud Gunaikurnai woman. Her debut memoir is *Black and Blue*.

35 74 80 91



Helena Fox

Helena Fox's debut novel, *How It Feels To Float*, is an exploration of grief and mental illness that has been published in Australia and internationally.

21



Antony Funnell

Antony Funnell is an author and Walkley Award-winning broadcaster. His books include *The Future and Related Nonsense* and the satirical novel *So Far, So Good*.

66 89



Damon Gameau

Bestselling author Damon Gameau, is renowned for his provoking documentaries and books, *That Sugar Guide* and *2040: A Handbook for the Regeneration*.

92



Benjamin Gilmour

Local filmmaker Benjamin Gilmour is the author of five books. His latest memoir *The Gap* has recently been optioned for a television series.

28 54



Kathryn Heyman

Dr Kathryn Heyman is a celebrated writer. She received the prestigious CAL Author Fellowship for *Fury*, a memoir of recovery and transformation.

22 62 101 [B](#)



Jean Hinchliffe

Jean Hinchliffe is a 17-year-old climate activist, an organiser of School Strike 4 Climate, and author of *Lead the Way*.

77 92



Mary Hoang

Mary Hoang is an entrepreneur, artist, head psychologist and founder of mental health organisation The Indigo Project. *Darkness is Golden* is her first book.

62 82 93



Christian Hull

Christian Hull is a comedian, writer, podcaster and prolific content creator, best-known for his personal, off-the-cuff videos and podcast series *Complete Drive!*.

44 95 [H](#)



Joe Gorman

Joe Gorman is an award-winning author and journalist based in Brisbane. His latest book is *Heartland: How Rugby League Explains Queensland*.

43 86



Kate Grenville

Kate Grenville's award-winning novels include international best-seller *The Secret River*, *The Idea of Perfection*, *Lilian's Story* and *A Room Made of Leaves*.

49



Peter Greste

Peter Greste is a celebrated journalist who spent 25 years with the BBC and Al Jazeera. He is now an academic and media freedom advocate.

6 106



David Hallett

David Hallett has been writing and performing poetry since the 1970s. Host of two of Australia's longest running poetry events, David's poetry jumps from the page to the stage.

34 [I](#) [R](#)



Christine Jackman

Christine Jackman is an award-winning journalist, author and communications consultant. Her latest book, *Turning Down The Noise*, was published in 2020.

36 42 75



Linda Jaivin

Linda Jaivin is an internationally published author of fiction, including *The Empress Lover*, and non-fiction. Her latest book is *The Shortest History of China*.

23 28 39 115



Zacharey Jane

Zacharey Jane is a writer, teacher and painter. Her two publications with UQP are *The Lifeboat*, released internationally, and the children's picture book, *Tobias Blow*.

7 53 71 [A](#)



Julie Janson

Julie Janson is a Burruberongal woman of the Darug nation. Novelist, playwright and poet. Won the Oodgeroo Noonuccal Indigenous Poetry Prize and the Judith Wright Poetry Prize.

2 30



Maggie Hamilton

Published in over a dozen countries, Maggie Hamilton is a keen observer of social trends. Her new book is *When We Become Strangers*.

64 75 82 93



Chris Hanley

Chris Hanley OAM is the Founder of Byron Writers Festival and was Chair for 20 years until 2016. He is the Principal of Byron Bay First National.

12 59 81 96



Sophie Hardcastle

Sophie Hardcastle is a queer author, artist, screenwriter and former Provost's Scholar at the University of Oxford. *Below Deck* is her latest book.

14 22 107



Peter Hartcher

Peter Hartcher is a journalist, political editor of *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age* and author of *Red Zone: China's Challenge* and *Australia's Future*.

39 72 94



Erik Jensen

Erik Jensen is founding editor of *The Saturday Paper* and editor-in-chief of Schwartz Media. *I Said The Sea Was Folded* is his first book of poetry.

37 68 104 107



Sarah Kanowski

Sarah Kanowski co-presents *Conversations* on ABC Radio and podcast. She previously presented *Books and Arts* on ABC Radio National and joined the ABC as a producer on *Late Night Live*.

11 50 88



Hayley Katzen

Hayley Katzen's personal essays and short stories have been published in Australian, American and Asian journals, anthologies and podcasts. *Untethered* is her debut memoir.

16 80



Mitch King

Mitch King is a Yaegl Bundjalung man from the Far North Coast of NSW. He has worked as an Associate Producer and Associate Artist for NORPA since 2014.

114



Krissy Kneen
Krissy Kneen is an award-winning author of memoir and fiction, including *Affection*, *An Uncertain Grace* and her newest memoir *The Three Burials of Lotty Kneen*.
38 71 85



Peter Knight
Peter Knight is a musician whose practice exists in the spaces between genres and cultures. His album, *Crossed & Recrossed*, explores links between literature and music.
9 26 67 103 109



Will Kostakis
Will Kostakis is a writer of defamatory celebrity journalism, and award-winning YA novels. He recently applied his trademark style to fantasy novels *Monuments* and *Rebel Gods*.
16 21 99



Mimi Kwa
House of Kwa is Mimi's first book, a departure from her 20-year career as a TV reporter and anchor for the ABC and Channel 9.
3 31 33 84



Melissa Lucashenko
Melissa Lucashenko is an acclaimed Aboriginal novelist, essayist and short story writer of Goorie and European heritage. Her work has been widely published since 1997.
56



Judith Lucy
Judith Lucy is a best-selling author and award-winning stand-up comedian known nationally for her work in radio, stage, television and film. *Turns Out, I'm Fine* is her latest book.
44 100



Scott Ludlam
Scott Ludlam is a writer, activist and former senator, serving from 2008 – 2017. His first book on ecology, technology and politics is titled *Full Circle*.
51 77 108 112



Raina MacIntyre
Raina MacIntyre is Professor of Global Biosecurity, NHMRC Principal Research Fellow and Head of the Biosecurity Program at the Kirby Institute, UNSW, Australia.
10 57



Jeff Lang
Jeff Lang is one of Australia's most accomplished guitarists and songwriters. His recently released memoir *Some Memories Never Die* is an entertaining account of over 30 years on the road.
109 **P**



Marcia Langton
Professor Marcia Langton is one of our nation's most important Indigenous voices. She has written several books, including her bestselling guide to indigenous Australia, *Welcome to Country*.
90 104



Debbie Lee
Debbie Lee is senior manager at Ingram Content Group. Formerly an academic publisher, she now assists publishers of all shapes and sizes.
111



Dub Leffler
Bigambul man Dub Leffler is one of Australia's most sought after illustrators of children's literature. He has written two books for children and is currently illustrating his 26th title.
52 72 108



Jacqueline Maley
Jacqueline Maley is an award-winning journalist and columnist with *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age*. *The Truth About Her* is Jacqueline's first novel.
64 84 88



Meg Mason
Meg Mason began her career at *The Times* and later wrote for *Vogue*, *ELLE*, and *The New Yorker*. *Sorrow and Bliss* is her third book.
75 98



Andrew McDermott
Andrew McDermott is the CEO and founder of Publicious Book Publishing, a company designed to assist authors with all aspects of self-publishing.
25 34 58



Mark McKenna
Mark McKenna is one of Australia's leading historians, based at the University of Sydney. His latest book is *Return to Uluru*.
48 **E**



Mary Li
Mary Li began her career as a professional ballet dancer at 16. Her memoir *Mary's Last Dance* is the long-awaited sequel to her husband Li Cunxin's *Mao's Last Dancer*.
55 85 96



Sophie Li
Sophie Li was born profoundly deaf to two famous ballet dancers – Li Cunxin (*Mao's Last Dancer*) and Mary Li, author of *Mary's Last Dance*. Sophie now works for *The Urban List*.
17 39



Louisa Lim
Louisa Lim is a journalist, podcaster and author of *The People's Republic of Amnesia*; *Tiananmen Revisited*. She is currently writing a book about Hong Kong.
52 55 100



Caro Llewellyn
Caro Llewellyn is CEO of the Wheeler Centre and the author of four works of non-fiction, including the 2020 Stella Prize shortlisted memoir, *Diving into Glass*.
4 6 41 94



Karen Middleton
Karen Middleton is *The Saturday Paper's* chief political correspondent and author of *Albanese: Telling it Straight* and *An Unwinnable War: Australia in Afghanistan*.
29 68 80



Courtney Miller
Byron born with interludes in Europe, Africa, Asia and the USA, Courtney has worked in politics, art, fashion and recently finished a Berkeley MPA.
26 67 103



Jazz Money
Jazz Money is a Wiradjuri poet whose writing appears in print, installation art and film. Her debut collection is *how to make a basket*.
22 44 45 95 **H**



Gabrielle Mordy
A passionate advocate for the rights of all people to access the arts, Gabrielle leads the Studio A enterprise and has over 10 years' experience working with artists with disability.
27



Antony Loewenstein
Antony Loewenstein is an independent journalist, author and film-maker. His latest book is *Pills, Powder and Smoke: Inside the Bloody War on Drugs*.
17 28 57 61



Julian Louis
Julian Louis is the Artistic Director and CEO of NORPA. Julian is a theatre maker and director of place-based theatre, inspired by stories from regional Australia.
114



Becky Lucas
Becky Lucas is a writer and stand-up comedian who has performed at comedy festivals internationally. Her recent memoir is *Acknowledgements*.
18 **H**



Grace Lucas-Pennington
Bundjalung woman and fiction and poetry editor, currently the Senior Editor at *black&write!*, Queensland State Library.
40 73 101



Evelyn Ida Morris
Evelyn Ida Morris is a gifted musician, celebrated for their dexterity across multiple instruments and songwriting that is both complex and structurally adventurous.
26 67 103



Rick Morton
Rick Morton is an award-winning journalist and the author of three non-fiction books. His most recent book is *My Year of Living Vulnerably*.
29 68 80



Fiona Murphy
Fiona Murphy is a Deaf poet and essayist. Her work has been published in *Kill Your Darlings*, *Overland*, *Griffith Review* and the *Big Issue*, among other publications.
3 14 96 **N**



Mandy Nolan
Mandy Nolan is a stand-up comedian, author, journalist, workshop facilitator and presenter. She has written four humorous memoirs. Her latest book is *The Full Mandy*.
22 44 45 95 **H**

Writers



Helena Norberg-Hodge

A pioneer of the local economy movement, Helena has promoted the economics of personal, social and ecological well-being for over 40 years.

92



Kerry O'Brien

Kerry O'Brien anchored the iconic ABC current affairs programs *Lateline*, 7.30 and *Four Corners* for more than 25 years. His latest book is *Kerry O'Brien: A Memoir*.

4 20



Mick O'Regan

Mick O'Regan is a journalist and broadcaster with more than two decades experience with the ABC and Seven Network.

86 92



Chigozie Obioma

Chigozie Obioma's novels, *The Fishermen* and *An Orchestra of Minorities*, were both shortlisted for The Booker Prize and have been translated into 30-plus languages.

47



Matt Okine

Matt Okine is an actor, writer and one of Australia's favourite award-winning comedians. His novel *Being Black 'N Chicken & Chips* was released in 2019.

33 54 79 H



Jennie Orchard

Jennie Orchard has worked in publishing and the non-profit sector. Her latest book *The Gifts of Reading* celebrates the 20th anniversary of global literacy non-profit, Room to Read.

47



Clancy Overell

Clancy Overell is a regional journalist with over 40 years' experience. He is co-editor of *The Betoota Advocate*, an independent regional newspaper from far west QLD.

18 43



Errol Parker

Errol Parker is a regional journalist with over 40 years' experience. He is co-editor of *The Betoota Advocate*, an independent regional newspaper from far west QLD.

18 43



Lucy Peach

Lucy Peach is a singer-songwriter, theatremaker, educator and author. *Period Queen* is her first book and turns the worst thing about the menstrual cycle into the best thing.

23 109 L



Peter Polites

Peter Polites is a novelist from Western Sydney who has written two queer noirs, *Down the Hume* and *The Pillars*. His forthcoming novel is *God Forgets About the Poor*.

1 16



JP Pomare

JP Pomare is the author of three best-selling and critically acclaimed thrillers. His latest novel is *The Last Guests*.

14 83 102



Carl Power

Carl Power writes about the history of philosophy and medicine. His new book with John Rasko *Flesh Made New* explores what lies beneath the surface of scientific advances.

76



Alice Pung

Alice Pung is an Australian writer whose award-winning books include *Unpolished Gem*, *Laurinda* and *Her Father's Daughter*. Her latest book is *One Hundred Days*.

38 47



Sana Qadar

Sana Qadar hosts *All in the Mind* on ABC Radio National, and co-hosts SBS Eyes on *Gilead: A Handmaid's Tale* Podcast.

36 82 102



Christopher Raja

Christopher Raja is a writer and the 2021 UTS Copyright Agency New Writer's Fellow. His most recent work is a memoir – *Into the Suburbs: A Migrant's Story*.

31 64 74



John Rasko

Professor John Rasko is an Australian pioneer in the application of adult stem cells and genetic therapy. His new book with Carl Power is *Flesh Made New*.

10 76



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THE STORY

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Byron Writers
Festival a warm
welcome back.



TAMARA SMITH MP

MEMBER FOR BALLINA

Authorised by Tamara Smith Member for Ballina.
Produced using parliamentary entitlements.

GET IN TOUCH

☎ 02 6686 7522
🌐 tamarasmith.org.au
✉ ballina@parliament.nsw.gov.au
📍 Ballina Electorate Office
Shop 1, 7 Moon St, Ballina NSW 2478

**THE
GREENS**



Mirandi Riwoe

Mirandi Riwoe is an award-winning author of the novella *The Fish Girl* and the novel *Stone Sky Gold Mountain*, which won the 2020 Queensland Literary Award.

12 30 101



Archie Roach

Archie Roach is one of Australia's most treasured performers, and has been recording award-winning albums for nearly 30 years.

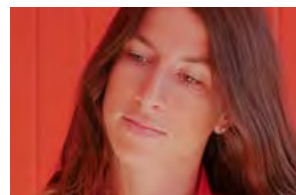
5 O



David Roland

Dr David Roland is a writer and psychologist. His most recent book is *The Power of Suffering: growing through life crises*.

29



Madeleine Ryan

Madeleine Ryan is an Australian writer, director and author. Her debut literary fiction novel, *A Room Called Earth*, is out now.

14 19 95



Kirli Saunders

Gunai woman Kirli Saunders is an award-winning children's author, poet, teacher and artist. Her works include *The Incredible Freedom Machines*, *Bindi* and *Kindred*.

70 99



Julianne Schultz

Professor Julianne Schultz is the publisher and founding editor of *Griffith Review* and chair of *The Conversation*. Her forthcoming book is *The Idea of Australia*.

32 57 69 90



Sarah Sentilles

Sarah Sentilles is the author of five books, including *Draw Your Weapons* and *Stranger Care*. She is a graduate of Yale University and Harvard Divinity School.

8



Jock Serong

Jock Serong is the author of five novels and was the founding editor of *Great Ocean Quarterly*. His current novel is *The Burning Island*.

30 81 98



Craig Silvey

Craig Silvey is from Fremantle, Western Australia. He is the award-winning author of *Jasper Jones* and *Honeybee*.

33 45 54



Margaret Simons

Margaret Simons is an award-winning freelance journalist and author. *Penny Wong: Passion and Principle* is her most recent book and the first biography of the Australian politician.

4 6 46 94



Greg Sindel

Greg Sindel is a passionate and prolific graphic artist, and the author of six graphic novels. He works out of Studio A in Sydney.

48 E



Victor Steffensen

Victor Steffensen is an Indigenous writer, filmmaker, musician and consultant. He is the co-founder of the National Indigenous Fire Workshops. His recent book is *Fire Country*.

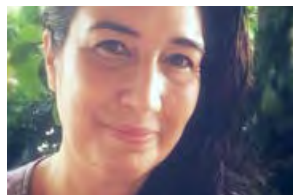
40 105



Norman Swan

Dr Norman Swan is a journalist, host of Radio National's *The Health Report* and co-host of *Coronacast*. *So You Think You Know What's Good For You* is his latest book.

10 50 82



Anne-Marie Te Whiu

Anne-Marie Te Whiu is a Māori-Australian writer, weaver, producer and editor of *Solid Air: Australian and New Zealand Spoken Word* and *Whisper Songs*.

34 58



Mia Thom

Mia Thom is a Bundjalung climate activist, a co-organiser of the School Strike 4 Climate movement within the Byron Shire.

77



Claire Thomas

Claire Thomas is a Melbourne writer. Her second novel, *The Performance*, is being published internationally in 2021.

65 107



Malcolm Turnbull

Malcolm Turnbull was the 29th Prime Minister of Australia. Prior to entering politics, he was a lawyer, investment banker and journalist. *The Bigger Picture* is his political memoir.

41



Adam van Kempen

Adam van Kempen the Festival Chair since 2018 is a lover of storytelling of all forms and is enormously proud to be a part of the Festival team.

48



Wendy Were

Wendy Were is an executive director at the Greater Sydney Commission. She is a former artistic director and chief executive of Sydney Writers' Festival.

109 110



Marian Wilkinson

Marian Wilkinson is a multi-award-winning journalist. Her latest book, *The Carbon Club*, investigates the network behind Australia's bitter political battles over climate change.

20 61 72



Michael Williams

Michael Williams is Artistic Director of Sydney Writers' Festival. A regular host of literary and ideas events, his background is in publishing and broadcasting.

9 49 79 101



Pip Williams

Pip Williams is the author of *One Italian Summer* and the national number one bestseller, *The Dictionary of Lost Words*.

7 65 81



Kaya Wilson

Kaya Wilson is a writer and tsunami scientist based in Australia. In 2019 he was the winner of the 2019 Writing NSW Varuna Fellowship.

3 25 33 40



Bruce Wolpe

Bruce Wolpe is a Senior Fellow at the United States Studies Centre. Bruce has worked in the US Congress and with Prime Minister Julia Gillard.

27 61



Evie Wyld

Evie Wyld is the author of *After the Fire*, *A Still Small Voice*, *Everything is Teeth*, *Miles*. Franklin prize-winner *All the Birds*, *Singing* and Stella winner *The Bass Rock*.

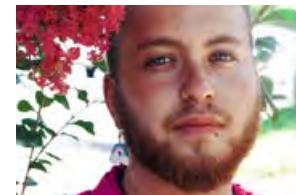
13



Arnold Zable

Arnold Zable is an Australian writer and recipient of the 2021 Australia Council Award for Lifetime Achievement in Literature. His latest book is *The Watermill*.

53 56 106 110



Nevo Zisin

Nevo Zisin (they/them) is a queer, non-binary, Jewish writer, performer, activist and public speaker. Author of award-winning *Finding Nevo*, and *The Pronoun Lowdown*.

16 25 71 A

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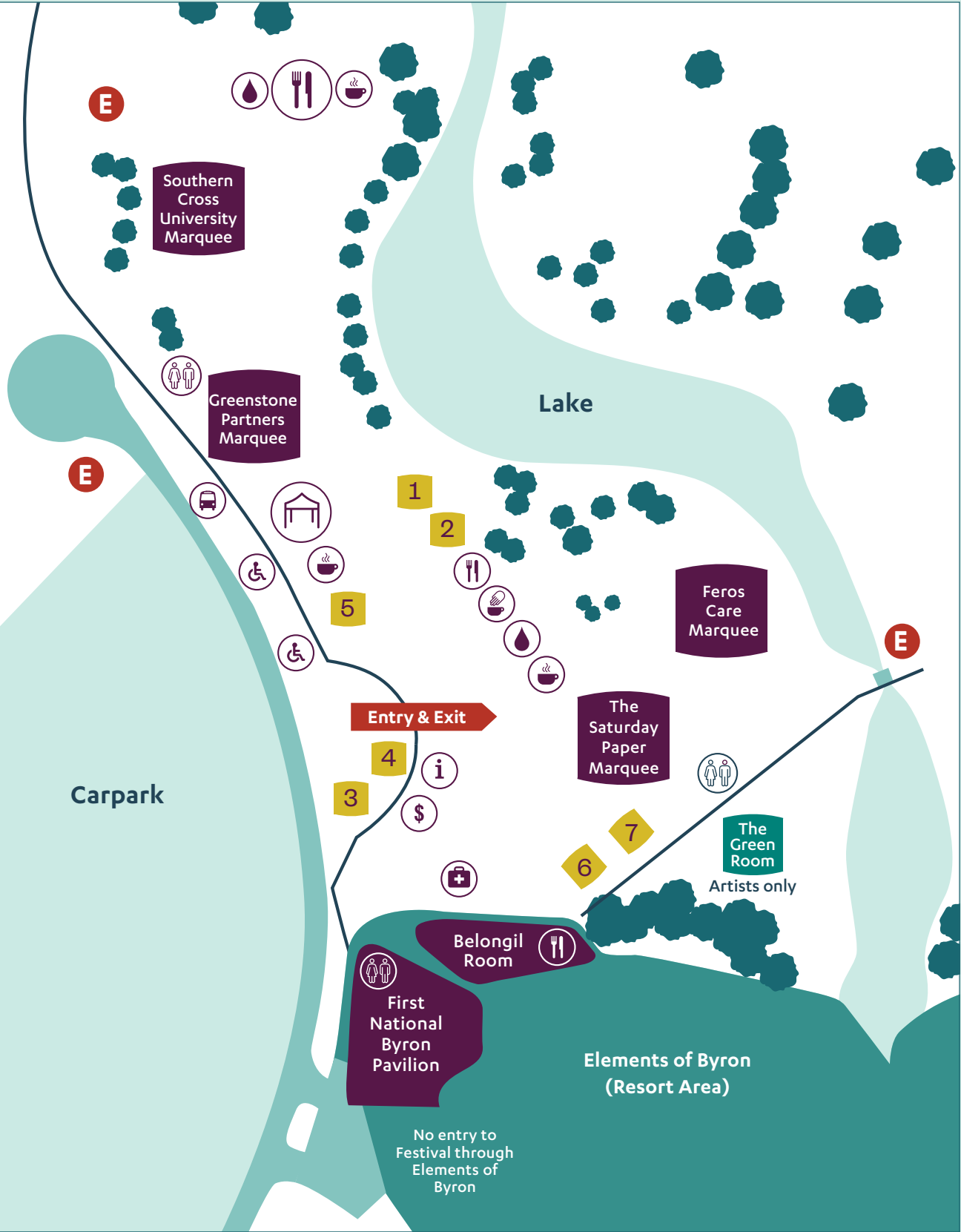
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Rob Doolan
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Sydney Writers Festival
The Canavan
The Rails Hotel
The Wheeler Centre
Tweed Party Hire
UQP
Plus all the publishers who assisted in creating the 2021 Byron Writers Festival Program.



1 The Book Room

Come and explore the pop-up Festival Bookshop. Our bookseller, The Book Room, stocks books by all Festival authors, with plenty of room to browse and shop.

2 Book Signing Tent

Bring your bookshop purchases to be signed by your favourite authors. Signings are held after Festival sessions.

3 Volunteer Rego

4 Box Office

5 Sculpture Info Tent

6 Volunteer Hub

7 Media Tent

Coffee

Toilets

ATM

Bus Stop

Disabled Parking

E Emergency Assembly Area

First Aid

Beat the rush

Gates open at 8am daily. Come early to check in and enjoy coffee, breakfast, market stalls and morning entertainment.

Artisan Markets

The Festival's onsite marketplace, populated by a select group of local artisans. Browse the amazing creations on offer and take home a memento.

Food

Food will be available for purchase on site from an array of popular and delicious local food trucks and vendors.

Brookfarm Brunch Bar

Offering healthy, delicious breakfast options plus nutritious snacks made with top-notch ingredients, available daily.

Cup wash station

There will be an onsite cup-wash station. BYO coffee cup and help us in our mission to be a zero waste Festival.

Water refill stations

Supported by **First National Byron**

Byron Writers Festival is a plastic water bottle free event. Please BYO bottle for free refills. Stainless steel Festival branded water bottles will be for sale at the Information Tent.

Information and Auslan registration tent

Visit our information tent for site maps, program updates, to purchase a refillable water bottle or to ask one of our friendly volunteers a question. Information tent volunteers can also assist patrons who require an Auslan interpreter.

Discover

Kids Big Day Out Sunday 8 August

Kids Big Day Out returns with a stellar line-up of authors and performers making for a fun-packed day of stories, comedy and storytelling. A perfect day out for the whole family. The StoryBoard Bus will be on site hosting a workshop space where kids can create their own stories alongside acclaimed authors and storytellers.

Sculptures

Our beautiful sculpture walk is curated by Suvira McDonald. Please see Suvira at the Sculpture Info Tent for any sales enquiries or to purchase a hand-made ceramic cup to re-use and take home.

Indigenous Literacy Foundation (ILF)

Byron Writers Festival 2021 is fundraising for the important work undertaken by ILF. Please help close the literacy gap and make a donation in the orange boxes that roam the Festival site or at the ILF tent.

PEN The Empty Chair

The Empty Chair symbolises a writer who could not be present on stage because they have been imprisoned, detained, disappeared, threatened or killed.

Morning Music

Start your day with piano performances from musicians Evelyn Ida Morris and Peter Knight at *The Saturday Paper* marquee. From 8.30am.

Revolve Your World

Revolve Your World is a unique waste management system that utilises waste minimisation strategies, onsite waste stream sorting, consolidation and processing. Their goal is to help events and communities achieve 100% recycling rates.

How to get to the Festival

The Festival site is located at Elements of Byron, 144 Bayshore Drive Byron Bay (approximately 5km from Byron town centre). Festival gates open at 8am each day.

Solar Train or Shuttle Bus

We encourage you to use public transport if possible. The Byron Bay Solar Train runs from Byron Bay CBD to North Beach Station at Elements of Byron Resort, where the Festival takes place, for a cost of \$5 per one-way journey.

A Festival shuttle bus service will operate between Byron CBD and the Festival site from Friday 6 – Sunday 8 August. For train and shuttle maps and timetables, please visit byronwritersfestival.com/travel

Car

Limited car parking is available at the Festival site from 7.30am. Parking is by donation. To alleviate traffic congestion and limit carbon emissions, we encourage carpooling if possible. Please park as directed by the parking attendants. Please ensure that you obey Council parking signs.

Bike

Bikes can be parked and locked to the safety fencing at the Festival entrance where signposted.

Satellite Event and Workshop Venues

Bellingen Library
29/31 Hyde Street, Bellingen

Brunswick Heads Memorial Hall
22 Fingal Street, Brunswick Heads

Byron Community College
East Point Arcade (opposite Mercato),
107 Jonson Street, Byron Bay

Byron Community Centre
69 Jonson Street, Byron Bay

Byron Farmers Market
Cavanbah Centre
249 Ewingsdale Road, Byron Bay

Byron Theatre
69 Jonson Street, Byron Bay

Coffs Central Depot Café
35-61 Harbour Drive, Coffs Harbour

Crystalbrook Byron
(formerly The Byron at Byron)
77-97 Broken Head Road, Byron Bay

Elements of Byron
144 Bayshore Drive, Byron Bay

Harwood Hotel
2 Morpeth Street, Harwood

Kingscliff Community Centre
81 Marine Parade, Kingscliff

Lismore Regional Gallery
11 Rural Street, Lismore

Macksville Library
41 Princess Street, Macksville

Moller Pavilion, Bangalow Showgrounds,
1 Market Street, Bangalow

Nambucca Heads Library
23 Ridge Street, Nambucca Heads

NORPA (Northern Rivers Performing Arts)
Lismore City Hall, 1 Bounty Street, Lismore

Port Macquarie Library
Grant Street, Port Macquarie

Rockinghorse Studios
36 Keys Road, Coorabell

Southern Cross University
Lismore Campus, Military Road, Lismore

The Book Room at Byron
27 Fletcher Street, Byron Bay

The Rails
86 Johnson Street, Byron Bay

The Regent Cinema
5 Brisbane Street, Murwillumbah

Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre
2 Mistral Road, South Murwillumbah



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Always read the label. Follow the directions for use. If symptoms persist, talk to your healthcare professional. Dietary supplements can only be of assistance when dietary intake is inadequate.

Tickets & Key Info

2021 Festival Passes

Pass Options		Days	Full Price	Members—Students
1-Day Pass	Includes access to all Festival sessions on your selected day/s. Excludes workshops and separately ticketed events.	Friday, Saturday, Sunday	\$135	\$110
Kids Big Day Out Pass	Includes entry for one child 6-12 years and one accompanying adult to designated Kids Big Day Out marquee only.	Sunday 8 August	\$40 for one child and one adult, \$20 for each additional child.	N/A

Visit byronwritersfestival.com/tickets or call (02) 6685 5115

Notes and conditions

To help us deliver a COVID-safe event, Festival passes will be sold as single days (Friday, Saturday, Sunday). You will need to purchase a 1-Day Pass for each day that you plan on attending. We expect to be back to selling 3-Day Passes in 2022.

All tickets are subject to availability and booking fees.

Children must be supervised by at least one adult at ALL times.

Tickets will be exchanged on entry for a wristband that is non-transferable.

For full terms and conditions, including COVID-safe flexible ticketing policies and conditions of entry, visit byronwritersfestival.com/terms-conditions

Stay COVID Safe



Byron Writers Festival will be operating under an approved COVID-19 Safety Plan. To ensure your safety and the safety of Festival artists and staff, please follow our Stay Covid Safe guidelines outlined at byronwritersfestival.com/stay-covid-safe

Key things to note

Arrive early!

All ticket holders will be required to check in prior to entering the Festival site. Check in using the QR Code on display at Festival entrances. Download the Service NSW App prior to arriving (assistance will be available if you do not have a smartphone). Gates open at 8am.

Contactless Payments

We recommend on-site purchases are made by card where possible.

Be Safe

Maintain physical distancing and practice good hand hygiene. Wearing of masks is recommended particularly for indoor venues and where physical distancing is not possible.

Accessibility

We are continually aiming to improve access to Byron Writers Festival and enhance the experience of patrons of all abilities. For more information about Auslan Interpreting, Assistive Listening, Wheelchair Accessibility and other access queries, please visit byronwritersfestival.com/access

Waste Reduction and Recycling

Byron Writers Festival and our food and coffee vendors are working with local waste warriors Revolve Your World to reduce landfill wherever possible. Information on our waste and recycling system will be available on-site for Festival patrons to follow.

BYO Water Bottle and Coffee Cup

Byron Writers Festival is a plastic water bottle free event. BYO bottle for free water refills, supported by First National Byron. There will be an onsite cup wash station for your BYO coffee cup.

Support Us

Byron Writers Festival is Australia's largest and leading annual regional literary gathering made possible by the generosity of patrons, sponsors and supporters. Any donations you contribute over \$2 are tax deductible and graciously accepted. You can make a donation when you purchase your tickets, or alternatively visit givenow.com.au/byronwritersfestival

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