

# 2022 BYRON WRITERS FESTIVAL

*Radical hope*

26—28 August  
Elements  
of Byron



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**BYRON BAY**  
Thursdays 7-11am  
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## Southern Cross University understands the transformative power of the written word.

That's why we are proud sponsors of the 2022 Byron Writers Festival. We share the passion of reading, learning, exploring and embracing the wonder of a well-told story.

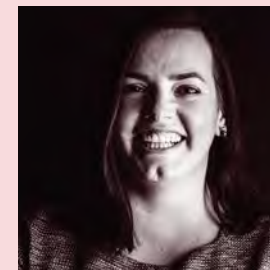
Read more at

[scu.edu.au/transforming-tomorrow](https://scu.edu.au/transforming-tomorrow)

Transforming > Tomorrow



# 2022 Radical hope



**I HAVE A FEELING OF IMMENSE EXCITEMENT WITH** a tinge of nervous energy as I bring you my first program as Artistic Director of Byron Writers Festival, an event with a stellar reputation that draws authors and audiences from afar to soak up three days of fresh ideas, compelling storytelling and buzzing conversations.

What does it mean to bring back this beloved festival after a two-year hiatus, in the wake of pandemic, fires and floods? What role do the arts play in binding our community?

To me, writers festivals are at the forefront of making our culture, a forum where our deepest thinkers can put forward their visions for another world. We hear perspectives from people who have lived different experiences to our own. They are a space to broaden the mind and wonder at the power literature and words have to connect us.

Right now we need so deeply to reconnect, to reflect. If there is any silver lining to be gained from our recent experiences, it is that we can mobilise to adapt right now.

I want us to reflect on our power at this year's festival. It lies in our ability to act together as a community, caring for one another in the common interest. Climate change is knocking on our front door. We need to empower people of all genders and backgrounds. First Nations communities still need to be front and centre of this quest.

Now is the time for a radical kind of hope, that imagines the world anew, that refuses to be defeated and finds delight and joy in everything this wonderful life and earth have to offer.

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I invite you to join some of our greatest thinkers and finest writers at this year's Byron Writers Festival, to celebrate the power of words to transcend our current reality.

At this year's festival you will hear from social and environmental experts on how we can tackle the challenge that is climate change. You will be uplifted by listening to our most gifted storytellers explaining how they celebrate the human condition and render our experiences so magnificently on the page. You will meet talented emerging and established writers who are challenging the status quo. In hearing and engaging with these ideas you are playing your part in making the world anew and I am very much looking forward to welcoming you.




Finally, I want to thank the wonderful partners and supporters who make this event possible and extend a huge shout-out to the hard-working festival team and volunteers. It is a privilege to work with such a dedicated and passionate group of people.

**Zoë Pollock**  
Artistic Director

Held on the lands of the Arakwal Bumberbin and Minjungbal peoples of the Bundjalung Nation, we pay respect to the traditional owners of these lands and acknowledge them as the original storytellers of this region.

[byronwritersfestival.com](https://byronwritersfestival.com)

SHARE YOUR MOMENTS AT **#byronwf2022**

 [@byronwritersfestival](https://www.facebook.com/byronwritersfestival)  
 [@byronwritersfestival](https://www.instagram.com/byronwritersfestival)  
 [@bbwritersfest](https://twitter.com/bbwritersfest)



BYRON WRITERS FESTIVAL IS SUPPORTED  
BY THE NSW GOVERNMENT THROUGH  
CREATE NSW



# Feature Events

## Keynote: Radical Hope

**SATURDAY 27 AUGUST**  
7.30—8.30pm **A**

Byron Theatre  
\$35/\$30 Members  
bookings essential

How can we approach our current moment with radical hope? Five leading thinkers will consider how we can look unflinchingly at our cultural and environmental situation, while finding a new way to imagine our future.

With A.C. Grayling, Damon Gameau, Luka Lesson, Anne-Marie Te Whiu, and Mia Thom, and featuring a special musical performance by Nidala Barker.

SUPPORTED BY  
Southern Cross University  
89 Degrees East



A.C. Grayling



Damon Gameau



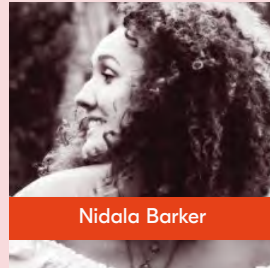
Anne-Marie Te Whiu



Mia Thom



Luka Lesson



Nidala Barker

## Literary Morning Tea: This One Wild and Precious Life

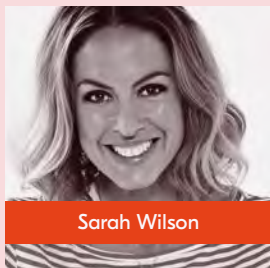
*Sarah Wilson*  
in conversation with  
*Ashley Hay*

**THURSDAY 25 AUGUST**  
10—11.30am **B**

Crystalbrook Byron  
\$65/\$55 Members  
includes coffee, tea and light brunch  
bookings essential

How can we live with joy and abundance in such challenging times? Sit down for morning tea with the courageous and inspiring Sarah Wilson, author of *This One Wild and Precious Life* and host of *Wild*, for a wide-ranging chat about the pathway to a more nourishing, connected life.

EVENT PARTNER  
Crystalbrook Byron



Sarah Wilson

## Spin

**FRIDAY 26 AUGUST**  
7—8pm **C**

Byron Theatre  
\$30/\$25 Members  
bookings essential

Charles Firth (*The Chaser*) and James Schloeffel (*The Shovel*) are joining forces to provide a masterclass in the ancient art of lying.

From political messaging to corporate deception, they'll show you how to bullsh\*t your way through the trickiest situations life can throw at you.



Charles Firth



James Schloeffel

# Feature events

## The Bogong

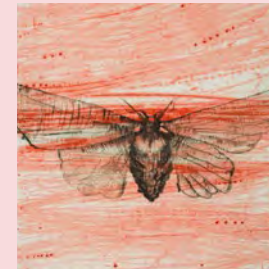
Hosted by  
Danny Teece-Johnson

**FRIDAY 26 AUGUST**  
7.30—9pm **D**

Brunswick Picture House  
\$30/\$25 Members  
bookings essential

The Bogong is a celebration of the lived experience in crafted spoken word form. Featuring six First Nations storytellers, it's a feast for the ears. Join Evelyn Araluen, Fiona Foley, Megan Albany, Paul Callaghan, Gary Lonesborough, Mykaela Saunders and Jane Harrison for a cabaret style event that will explore the theme 'Belonging'.

PRESENTED IN  
PARTNERSHIP WITH  
Blak & Bright, curated by  
Jane Harrison



## Borrow A Living Book

**SUNDAY 28 AUGUST**  
2—3pm **E**

Brunswick Picture House  
\$30/\$25 Members  
bookings essential

Sit down with a local Bundjalung Elder who will share a story of their lived experience. Immerse yourself in rich stories from respected First Nations Elders, up close and personal, and over a cup of tea.

Limited sessions available, three people maximum per session.

PRESENTED IN  
PARTNERSHIP WITH  
Blak & Bright, curated by  
Jane Harrison

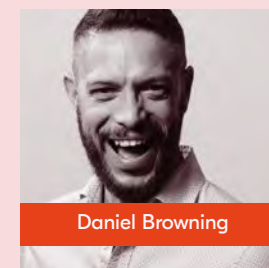
## Bundjalung Nghari – Indigenise

**SATURDAY 27 &  
SUNDAY 28 AUGUST**  
Various times **F**

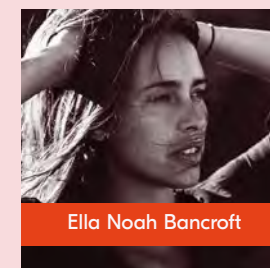
Brunswick Picture House  
\$20-\$45  
bookings essential via  
[norpa.org.au](https://norpa.org.au)

Four Bundjalung writers, Steven Oliver (Black Comedy), Daniel Browning, Kylie Caldwell and Ella Noah Bancroft, explore the healing and resurgence of being back home on country. We are still here, with the same voice and language of our ancestors, *Bundjalung Nghari – Indigenise* enables a new amplification of the continued truth telling in the 21st century.

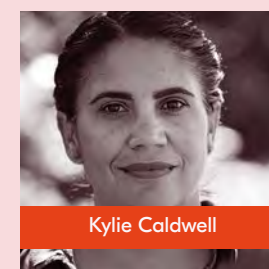
PRESENTED IN  
PARTNERSHIP WITH  
NORPA, curated by  
Rhoda Roberts



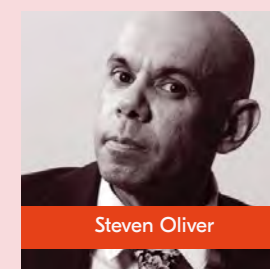
Daniel Browning



Ella Noah Bancroft



Kylie Caldwell



Steven Oliver



Festival Program

Friday 26 August

8.45 Welcome to Country with Delta Kay														
SOUTHERN CROSS UNIVERSITY MARQUEE	9.00—10.00	1	10.15—11.00	6	11.15—12.15	11	12.30—1.30	16	1.45—2.45	21	3.00—4.00	26	4.15—5.15	31
	The First 100 Days: The New Political Landscape		Nimblefoot		The Power of Rage		The Past is Us in Funny Clothes		Thea Astley Address		Radical Art		The Shape of Courage	
	Jane Caro, Ed Coper, Julianne Schultz		Robert Drewe in conversation with Russell Eldridge		Dylin Hardcastle, Kathryn Heyman, Jess Hill		Anna Clark, Eleanor Limprecht		Judy Atkinson Introduced by Adam Van Kempen		Fiona Foley, Ben Quilty		Jean Hinchcliffe, Greg Mullin	
	Chair Barrie Cassidy				Chair Gina Rushton		Chair Mary Spongberg				Chair Daniel Browning		Chair Mark Isaacs	
	Supported by 89 Degrees East		Supported by Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund		Supported by Quarterly Essay						Supported by The Sunseeker		Supported by Southern Cross University	
FIRST NATIONAL BYRON MARQUEE	9.00—9.45	2	10.00—11.00	7	11.15—12.15	12	12.30—1.30	17	1.45—2.45	22	3.00—4.00	27	4.15—5.15	32
	Breaking Ground		The Making of Bundjalung Ngbari – Indigenise		Future Tense: Apocalyptic Cli-Fi		America: The End of Empire?		Antarctica: The Coolest Place on Earth		Motherhood: A Feminist Perspective		Tree Stories	
	Jackie Huggins in conversation with Rhianna Patrick		Ella Noah Bancroft, Daniel Browning, Kylie Caldwell		James Bradley, Laura Jean McKay, Inga Simpson		Ed Coper, Andrew Quilty		James Bradley, Jo Chandler		Natalie Kon-yu, Gina Rushton		Ashley Hay, Inga Simpson	
			Chair Rhoda Roberts		Chair Rhianna Patrick		Chair Paul Barclay		Chair Ashley Hay		Chair Zoe Pollock		Chair Nicole Abadee	
			Supported by NORPA						Supported by Griffith Review				Supported by First National Byron	
MELALEUCA MARQUEE	9.00—10.00	3	10.15—11.15	8	11.30—12.30	13	12.45—1.30	18	1.45—2.45	23	3.00—4.00	28	4.15—5.15	33
	Soul Food: Writing as a Tool For Survival		Finding Inner Strength		Able		Here Goes Nothing		On Stillness		Living With Awe		First Nations Science	
	Nikki Gemmell, Micheline Lee		Akuch Kuol Anyieth, Amani Haydar, Hayley Katzen		Micheline Lee, Fiona Murphy		Steve Toltz in conversation with Jennifer Byrne		Paul Callaghan, Christine Jackman, Indira Naidoo		Tim Baker, Chloe Hooper		Krystal De Napoli, Corey Tutt	
	Chair Zacharey Jane		Chair Anne Maria Nicholson		Chair Adam Van Kempen				Chair Anne Maria Nicholson		Chair Nikki Gemmell		Chair Rhianna Patrick	
	Supported by Rochdale Accounting & Advisory				Supported by Business NSW Northern Rivers				Supported by Pukka Herbs					
GREENSTONE PARTNERS MARQUEE	8.30—10.00	4	10.15—11.15	9	11.30—12.30	14	12.45—1.30	19	1.45—2.45	24	3.00—3.45	29	4.00—5.00	34
	ABC North Coast Live Broadcast with Jo Shoebridge		Lost Voices		Epiphany: Seeing the World Anew		DIY: Self-Publishing		Writing Close to the Bone		A Lifetime of Writing		Collectivism	
	Eleanor Limprecht, Tim Baker		Eleanor Limprecht, Mirandi Riwoe		Krystal De Napoli, Christine Jackman, Yves Rees		Meg Grace, in conversation with Debbie Lee		Aaron Fa'Aoso, Nigel Featherstone, Will Kostakis		Arnold Zable in conversation with Jill Eddington		Van Badham, Yumna Kassal	
	Jean Hinchcliffe, Jeff Sparrow		Chair Jemma Birrell		Chair Joy Lawn		Supported by IngramSpark		Chair Alan Close				Julianne Schultz	
	James Bradley, Evelyn Araluen, Andrew Quilty										Supported by Greenstone Partners		Chair Sunil Badami	
THE SATURDAY PAPER MARQUEE	9.00—10.00	5	10.15—11.15	10	11.30—12.30	15	12.45—1.30	20	1.45—2.45	25	3.00—4.00	30	4.15—5.00	35
	The Price of Bearing Witness		Leaders for the New Age		The Fourth Estate: What's Happened to Australian Media?		Dropbear		The Book Review as Cultural Commentary		Strained Relations: Dictatorships and Diplomacy		Devotion	
	Louisa Lim, Kate McClymont		Jean Hinchcliffe, Claire O'Rourke		Tim Burrowes, Julianne Schultz, Jeff Sparrow		Evelyn Araluen in conversation with Daniel Browning		Declan Fry, Sarah Holland-Batt, Susan Wyndham		Louisa Lim, Andrew Quilty		Hannah Kent in conversation with Susan Wyndham	
	Marian Wilkinson		Mia Thom		Chair Mick O'Regan				Chair Nicole Abadee		Chair Karen Middleton			
	Chair Erik Jensen		Chair Margaret Simons		Supported by The Byron Shire Echo				Supported by Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund				Supported by The Book Room	
	Supported by The Saturday Paper								Supported by Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund		Supported by The Saturday Paper			



Festival Program

Saturday 27 August

SOUTHERN CROSS UNIVERSITY MARQUEE	9.00—9.45	36	10.00—11.00	41	11.15—12.15	46	12.30—1.30	51	1.45—2.45	56	3.00—3.45	61	4.00—5.00	66
	Country: Future Fire Future Farming Bruce Pascoe in conversation with Cheryl Leavy  Supported by Southern Cross University		Brave New Green World Damon Gameau, Saul Griffith, Tim Hollo Chair Sarah Wilson Supported by Summerland Credit Union		Regenerative Farming Matthew Evans, Gabrielle Chan, Anika Molesworth Chair Bronwyn Adcock  Supported by Brookfarm		Standing on the Shoulders of Giants Wendy McCarthy, Claire O'Rourke, Mariam Veiszadeh Chair Anne Maria Nicholson Supported by <i>Dumbo Feather</i>		For the Good of the World A.C. Grayling		The Electric Revolution Saul Griffith in conversation with Kerry O'Brien  Supported by Byron Shire Council		The Limits of Science Bronwyn Adcock, Ed Coper, Joëlle Gergis Chair Gabrielle Chan	
FIRST NATIONAL BYRON MARQUEE	9.00—10.00	37	10.15—11.15	42	11.30—12.15	47	12.30—1.30	52	1.45—2.45	57	3.00—4.00	62	4.15—5.00	67
	Writing From the Margins Becky Manawatu, Mirandi Riwoe, Mykaela Saunders Chair Grace Lucas-Pennington		Positively Capital Emily Bitto, Natalie Kon-yu, Jeff Sparrow Chair Antony Funnell		Understanding Russia This session has been cancelled.		Birds, Dingoes, Trees: Decentering the Human in Fiction Laura Jean McKay, Inga Simpson Chair Krissy Kneen		Shaping Australian History Anna Clark, Fiona Foley, Mark McKenna Chair Paul Barclay		Gender Fluidity Dylin Hardcastle, Yves Rees Chair Krissy Kneen		Sweet Jimmy Bryan Brown in conversation with Chris Hanley  Supported by First National Byron	
MELALEUCA MARQUEE	9.00—10.00	38	10.15—11.00	43	11.15—12.15	48	12.30—1.30	53	1.45—2.45	58	3.00—4.00	63	4.15—5.15	68
	A Sense of Wellbeing: What Does It Mean to Be Well? Paul Callaghan, Phillipa McGuinness, Fiona Murphy Chair David Roland		So Far So Good Aaron Fa'Aoso in conversation with Danny Teece-Johnson		The Mungo Panel: Has the Media Lost Its Mojo? Karen Middleton, Kerry O'Brien, Margaret Simons Chair Barrie Cassidy Introduced by Russell Eldridge		Australian Politics is a Joke Jonathan Biggins, Charles Firth, James Schloeffel Chair Mandy Nolan		Stories as Solace Jennifer Byrne, Arnold Zable Chair Chris Hanley  Supported by Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund		Love and Other Stories Trent Dalton, Nigel Featherstone, Hannah Kent Chair Alex Adsett  Supported by Elements of Byron		Soul Food: The Companionship of Gardens Costa Georgiadis, Matthew Evans, Chair Indira Naidoo Supported by Byron Farmers Market	
GREENSTONE PARTNERS MARQUEE	9.00—10.00	39	10.15—11.15	44	11.30—12.15	49	12.30—1.30	54	1.45—2.45	59	3.00—4.00	64	4.15—5.15	69
	Truth and Other Lies Van Badham, Ed Coper, Tim Burrowes Chair Margaret Simons		Coming of Age Sara El Sayed, Gary Lonesborough, Matt Okine Chair Alex Adsett		7 ½ Christos Tsiolkas in conversation with Jennifer Byrne		When Private Worlds Become Public Fiona Murphy, Matt Okine, Jessie Cole Chair Phillipa McGuinness  Supported by Openbook / State Library of NSW		Reaching Across the Generation Gap Bronwyn Birdsall, Sara El Sayed, Becky Manawatu Chair Nicole Abadee  Supported by Greenstone Partners		Women in Media Julia Baird, Wendy McCarthy, Mawunyo Gbogbo Chair Jeanti St Clair  Supported by Greenstone Partners		Wonder and Possibilities: Why We Should All Read Children's Books Sarah Armstrong, Bronwyn Bancroft, Isobelle Carmody Chair Tristan Bancks	
THE SATURDAY PAPER MARQUEE	9.00—10.00	40	10.15—11.15	45	11.30—12.30	50	12.45—1.45	55	2.00—3.00	60	3.15—4.00	65	4.15—5.15	70
	Saturday Morning News Conference Karen Middleton, Marian Wilkinson Chair Erik Jensen Supported by <i>The Saturday Paper</i>		The Migrant Contribution Emily Brugman, Yumna Kassab, Hannah Kent Chair Sunil Badami		Black Lives Still Matter Mawunyo Gbogbo, Veronica Gorrie, Chelsea Watego Chair Marcia Langton		On Semantics Van Badham, Yves Rees, Jeff Sparrow Chair Julianne Schultz		Surviving Domestic Violence Akuch Kuol Anyieth, Jane Caro, Amani Haydar Chair Jess Hill		Bedtime Story Chloe Hooper in conversation with Kathryn Heyman		Life in the Colony Today Veronica Gorrie, Marcia Langton, Chelsea Watego Chair Declan Fry	



Festival Program

Sunday 28 August

BYRON WRITERS FESTIVAL 2022	12	SUNDAY PROGRAM	<div>SOUTHERN CROSS UNIVERSITY MARQUEE</div>	9.00—10.00	71	10.15—11.15	76	11.30—12.30	80	12.45—1.45	85	2.00—3.00	90	3.15—4.00	95
			Building Resilient Communities Bronwyn Adcock, Elly Bird, Greg Mullins Chair Gabrielle Chan Supported by Stone & Wood			Learning From Country Bruce Pascoe, Leweena Williams Chair Daniel Browning		Creative Recovery Zanni Louise, Hayley Katzen, Jeanti St Clair Chair Bronwyn Adcock Supported by Southern Cross University		Indigenous Healing Judy Atkinson, Paul Callaghan, Marcia Langton Chair Cheryl Leavy		Climate Change and Gender Jackie Huggins, Anika Molesworth, Gina Rushton Chair Jo Chandler		Stars and Phosphorescence Indira Naidoo and Julia Baird in conversation Supported by Merry People	
			<div>FIRST NATIONAL BYRON MARQUEE</div>	9.00—10.00	72	10.15—11.15	77	11.30—12.30	81	12.45—1.30	86	1.45—2.45	91	3.00—4.00	96
			Poetry as an Act of Decolonisation Evelyn Araluen, Huda Fadlelmawla, Anne-Marie Te Whiu Chair Grace Lucas-Pennington			The Most Urgent Task James Bradley, Delia Falconer, Mykaela Saunders Chair Jo Chandler Supported by Crystalbrook Byron		Governing in the Anthropocene Tim Hollo, Jeff Sparrow, Marian Wilkinson Chair Paul Barclay Supported by Tamara Smith MP		Hope in a Conflicted World Bronwyn Birdsall, Louisa Lim, Arnold Zable Chair Antony Funnell Supported by First National Byron		Outside Influences Mawunyo Gbogbo, Becky Manawatu Chair Anne-Marie Te Whiu		Stories as Safe Passage Through the Dark Side Kate Foster, Chloe Hooper Chair Sarah Armstrong	
			<div>MELALEUCA MARQUEE</div>	9.00—10.00	73	10.15—11.00	78	11.15—12.15	82	12.30—1.30	87	1.45—2.45	92	3.00—4.00	97
BYRON WRITERS FESTIVAL 2022	13	SUNDAY PROGRAM	Sporting Heroes Robert Drewe, Ben Quilty Chair Phil Brown			Love Stories Trent Dalton in conversation with David Leser Supported by Bolinda		Female Desire Jessie Cole, Nikki Gemmell Chair Zacharey Jane		An Equal World: Overcoming Patriarchy David Leser, Yves Rees, Mariam Veiszadeh Chair Jess Hill		A Life of Crime Bryan Brown, Trent Dalton, Steve Toltz Chair Matthew Condon Supported by Caldera Coffee		Sometimes All You Can Do Is Laugh Megan Albany, Jonathan Biggins, Matt Okine Chair Mandy Nolan Supported by Blank Street Press	
			<div>GREENSTONE PARTNERS MARQUEE</div>	Kids Big Day Out MC Joel Salom International Man of Circus!	74	9.30—10.00	Kate Foster	12.20—1.00	83	1.15—2.15	88	2.30—3.30	93	3.45—4.30	98
				10.00—10.30		Corey Tutt		What Lies Beneath Matthew Evans and Costa Georgiadis in conversation		Slow Down, Chill Out: How Surf Culture Has Shaped Us Tim Baker, Tricia Shantz Chair Mick O'Regan		Weaving Threads: How Stories Are Made Emily Bitto, Jessie Cole, Yumna Kassab Chair Joy Lawn Supported by Milligram		Singing for Change Nidala Barker, Tim Hollo Chair Mawunyo Gbogbo	
			9.00—9.30 Bronwyn & Ella Noah Bancroft Supported by Indigenous Literacy Foundation	10.30—11.00		Isobelle Carmody									
				11.00—11.30		Sarah Armstrong									
				11.30—12.00		Tristan Bancks									
BYRON WRITERS FESTIVAL 2022	14	SUNDAY PROGRAM	<div>THE SATURDAY PAPER MARQUEE</div>	9.00—10.00	75	10.15—11.15	79	11.30—12.30	84	12.45—1.45	89	2.00—2.45	94	3.00—4.00	99
			Abandoning Afghanistan Andrew Quilty, Mariam Veiszadeh Chair Mark Isaacs Supported by Crystal Castle			Scratching Society's Underbelly Kate McClymont, Mark McKenna Chair Matthew Condon Supported by The Walkley Foundation		Poetry Showcase Evelyn Araluen, David Hallett, Sarah Holland-Batt, Anne-Marie Te Whiu Introduced by Lynda Hawryluk		Soul Food: Nature and Inspiration Emily Brugman, Ashley Hay, Christos Tsiolkas Chair Jill Eddington Plus presentation of Byron Writers Festival Student Writing Prizes		Writing for My Life Kathryn Heyman in conversation with Jemma Birrell		Solastalgia: What We Are Losing Delia Falconer, Joëlle Gergis Chair Sarah Wilson	



## SATELLITE EVENTS

**SUPPORTED BY**  
**NSW Government through Create NSW**



Jane Caro



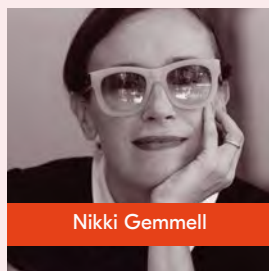
Huda Fadlelmawla



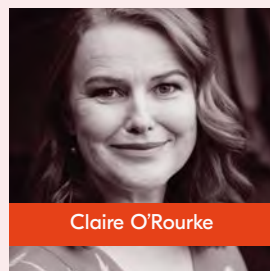
Nigel Featherstone



Mirandi Riwoe



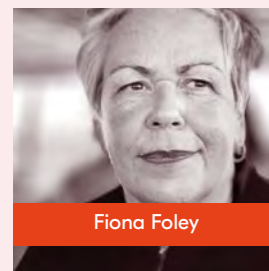
Nikki Gemmell



Claire O'Rourke



Saul Griffith



Fiona Foley

## Dissolve

*Nikki Gemmell  
in conversation  
with Mandy Nolan*

THURSDAY 25 AUGUST  
1.30—3pm **H**

Moller Pavilion, Bangalow  
\$25 inc. afternoon tea by Bangalow  
CWA, bookings essential

Having lived through the humiliation and bewildering complexity of heartbreak in her twenties, Nikki Gemmell eventually resurfaced, reclaimed space for herself and found her voice. Her new memoir *Dissolve* is a deeply personal, profoundly intimate reflection on love and female creativity, and what happens when the two collide in a man's world.

EVENT PARTNER

**Friends of Libraries, Byron Shire**

## How Do We Transform the Future?

*With Saul Griffith and  
Claire O'Rourke*

THURSDAY 25 AUGUST  
2—3pm |

Southern Cross University  
Lismore Campus  
Free, bookings essential

Rapid decarbonisation, sustainable farming and low-impact lifestyles. Are these just pipedreams or a near future reality? Saul Griffith, author of *The Big Switch*, and Claire O'Rourke, author of *Together We Can*, discuss the green future we must pursue and how it can be achieved. Moderated by Ben Roche, Vice President (Engagement) of Southern Cross University.

EVENT PARTNER

Southern Cross University

## Biting the Clouds

*Artist talk with Fiona Foley*

FRIDAY 26 AUGUST  
11—12pm J

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 groundbreaking work of Indigenous scholarship that addresses the inherent silences, errors and injustices from the perspective of the Badjjala people of K'gari (Fraser Island). Fiona shines a critical light on the little-known colonial-era practice of paying Indigenous workers in opium and the 'solution' of then displacing them to K'gari.

EVENT PARTNER

**Tweed Regional Gallery &  
Margaret Olley Art Centre**



# NATIONAL *CIRCUS* FESTIVAL

## MULLUMBIMBY SHOWGROUND

**NATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM** 26 - 29 September

**FESTIVAL WEEKEND** 30 September - 2 October

**NATIONALCIRCUSFESTIVAL.COM**



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).

*The best decision I made was to give my manuscripts to Irina Dunn. Not only did Irina edit my fiction and non-fiction manuscripts, but she also found publishers for them all. Irina has had decades of experience in the industry. She is an expert editor with a meticulous eye, and she understands the tenets of fiction. Writers can learn a lot from her constructive criticism. Irina cleaned up my manuscripts, giving them a polished and professional feel. There's nothing like signing book contracts, and I have Irina to thank for that!*

Jo Tusciano, *The River Child*, Odyssey Books 2022, *Under Andromeda*, Odyssey Books 2023, Lynda Holden and Jo Tusciano, *This is Where You Have to Go*, Pantera 2023

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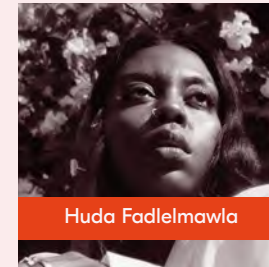
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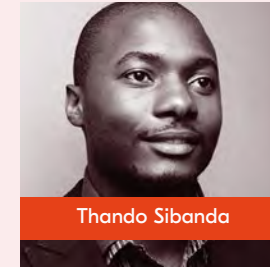
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## Satellite Events



Huda Fadlilmawla



Thando Sibanda



Miles Merrill



David Hallett

### Poets Out Loud Youth Slam

FRIDAY 26 AUGUST  
6—8pm **K**

The Regent, Murwillumbah  
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 2021 Australian Poetry Slam champion Huda Fadlilmawla.

EVENT PARTNER  
The Regent

### Australian Poetry Slam Byron Heat

SATURDAY 27 AUGUST  
5.30—7.30pm **M**

Registrations 5pm  
Byron Bay Library  
Free, no bookings

Join the audience or sign up to perform. Featuring 2021 Australian Poetry Slam champion Huda Fadlilmawla and Zimbabwe based performance poet Thando Sibanda, with MC Miles Merrill.

More info: [australianpoetryslam.com](http://australianpoetryslam.com)

EVENT PARTNER  
Word Travels

### John West Youth Poetry Cup

SATURDAY 27 AUGUST  
3.30—4.30pm **L**

Registrations 3pm  
Byron Bay Library  
Free, no bookings

Open to 10-18 year olds for a single, original two-minute spoken poem on any theme, no written entries. With a \$500 cash prize, the youth poetry cup is funded through a bequest by the late Melbourne poet John West, and hosted by David Hallett.

More info:  
David Hallett 0487 384 993

### Writers at the Rails

SUNDAY 28 AUGUST  
2.30—4.30pm **N**

Registrations 1.30pm  
The Rails Hotel, Byron Bay  
Free, no bookings

Byron Bay's iconic Writers at the Rails first started in August 1992, and over the years scores of local, visiting and international poets and writers have shared the stage to recite their work. The 30th anniversary of the event features Huda Fadlilmawla, Damien Becker and host David Hallett. Join the audience or sign-up to perform.

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# Workshops



## Writing a Memoir: The Nuts, The Bolts, The Tools To Do It

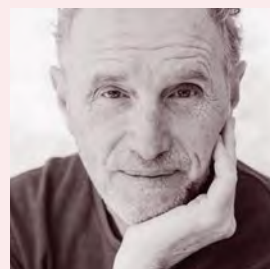
*With Alan Close*

**MONDAY 22 AUGUST**

10am—4pm

Byron Community Centre  
\$145/\$110 Members & Students

I think I've got a story to tell, but where do I start? What do I put in, what should I leave out? And hang on, what exactly is my story? Exploring the truth of your life can be challenging and elusive. This workshop will give you the tools to make your story both engaging and authentic.



## Writing Your New Story After Trauma

*With David Roland*

**TUESDAY 23 AUGUST**

10am—4pm

Byron Community Centre  
\$145/\$110 Members & Students

When our life is turned upside down by change, tragedy or loss, we have the opportunity to create a new life story, a growth story that takes us beyond our suffering and into new territory. How do we find and write this story?



## Theme, Imagery, Symbolism

*With Emily Bitto*

**WEDNESDAY 24 AUGUST**

9.30am—12.30pm

Byron Community Centre  
\$85/\$60 Members & Students

Identify your driving themes, delve into symbolism and render vivid imagery with your prose. In this half-day course, Stella Prize-winner Emily Bitto guides you to explore how the 'big ideas' that preoccupy you as a writer can be used to take your creative project to the next level.

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## Writing the Personal

*With Nikki Gemmell*

**WEDNESDAY 24 AUGUST**

10am—4pm

Byron Community Centre  
\$145/\$110 Members & Students

In this workshop, Nikki Gemmell explores the power of honesty and vulnerability in writing. Nikki will guide participants through questions of craft, the refuge of anonymity, tricks for bravery in writing, personal protectiveness as well as pathways to publication.



## The Golden Rules of Writing a Short Story

*With Sunil Badami*

**WEDNESDAY 24 AUGUST**

10am—4pm

Habitat  
\$145/\$110 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 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.



## Go Publish Yourself

*With Debbie Lee and Graham Davidson*

**WEDNESDAY 24 AUGUST**

1pm—3.30pm

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. Co-presented with Graham Davidson, CEO of Rack & Rune Publishing.

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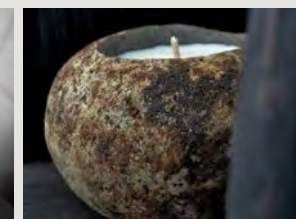
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# Workshops



## Memoir Ethics

With Yves Rees

THURSDAY 25 AUGUST  
9.30am—12.30pm

Byron Community Centre  
\$85/\$60 Members & Students

Memoir can be a powerful form – but one that also has the power to cause harm to others, and even to the author themselves. This masterclass with Dr Yves Rees will explore the complexities involved, helping you to develop a personal ethics of memoir writing.



## Nature Writing

With Inga Simpson

THURSDAY 25 AUGUST  
10am—4pm

Habitat  
\$145/\$110 Members & Students

This workshop explores ways of writing more ecologically, to narrow the divide between the human and more-than-human worlds, while engaging the reader. Through discussion of examples and a range of exercises, we'll explore the notion of authenticity, the intersection of inner and outer landscapes, and the creative potential of research.



## The Truth is in the Detail

With Eleanor Limprecht

THURSDAY 25 AUGUST  
10am—4pm

Byron Community Centre  
\$145/\$110 Members & Students

*The truth of the story lies in the detail.*  
Paul Auster

If we are writing about a subject we do not know intimately, we will inevitably have to undertake research to find the details that will make our writing come to life. What are these details and how do we find them?



## How To Write Satire

With Charles Firth

THURSDAY 25 AUGUST  
1pm—4pm

Byron Community Centre  
\$85/\$60 Members & Students

Satirical comedy writing is a dreary affair of unimaginable pain and suffering. But it's a good way to get incredibly rich quickly. This course gives you all the tips and tricks you need to quit your day job. Includes a look at the technical side of comedy, as well as tips on what to do with the mountains of cash that you'll have to wade through each morning.



## Meet the Publisher

With Annette Barlow

FRIDAY 26 AUGUST  
20-minute consultations,  
10am-2pm

Byron Writers Festival office  
\$105/\$95 Members & Students

Once you've finished polishing your manuscript, the next step is to submit it to agents and publishers. But it's hard for any writer to know if their work is really ready. In this consultation, you'll be given expert feedback on your work and whether or not it's ready to submit.

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# Writers



## Nicole Abadee

Nicole Abadee is books writer for *Good Weekend* magazine. She regularly moderates at writers festivals and has a podcast, *Books, Books, Books*.

25 32 59



## Akuch Kuol Anyieth

Among other publications, Akuch Kuol Anyieth is the author of *Unknown: A Refugee Story*. Akuch works and studies in the field of family and domestic violence.

8 60



## Sunil Badami

Sunil Badami is a writer and broadcaster, who has written for most major Australian publications and appears regularly on ABC radio and TV.

45



## Tristan Bancks

Tristan Bancks's books for kids and teens include *Two Wolves*, *The Fall*, *Detention* and *Ginger Meggs*. His new nail-biter for age 10+ is *Cop & Robber*.

69 74



## Bronwyn Adcock

Bronwyn Adcock has been a journalist for 25 years. Her book, *Currowan*, blends memoir, reportage and analysis as she tracks the path of a devastating bushfire.

46 66 71 80



## Evelyn Araluen

Evelyn Araluen is a Bundjalung poet, researcher and co-editor of *Overland* Literary Journal. Her debut collection *Dropbear* won the 2022 Stella Prize.

4 20 72 84 D



## Van Badham

Van Badham is an internationally award-winning writer and theatre maker. Her newest book, *Qanon And On* is a history of internet conspiracy cults.

34 39 55



## Bronwyn Bancroft

Dr Bronwyn Bancroft is a proud Bundjalung woman and artist. Bronwyn recently collaborated with her daughter Ella Bancroft on the children's book, *Sun and Moon*.

69 74



## Alex Adsett

Alex Adsett is a literary agent and publishing consultant. She represents some of Australia's best authors, and offers strategic advice on publishing contracts and copyright.

44 63



## Sarah Armstrong

Sarah Armstrong was a journalist and has written three novels, including *Salt Rain*, which was shortlisted for the Miles Franklin. *Big Magic* is her first children's novel.

69 74 96



## Julia Baird

Dr Julia Baird is an award-winning journalist and the bestselling author of *Media Tarts*, *Victoria*, and the Australian Book Industry Book of the Year for 2021, *Phosphorescence*.

64 87 95



## Ella Noah Bancroft

Ella Noah Bancroft is a Bundjalung artist, storyteller, author of *Sun and Moon*, and a participant in NORPA's creative development program *Bundjalung Nghari-Indigenise*.

7 74 F



## Megan Albany

Megan Albany is a proud Kalkadoon woman whose debut novel, *The Very Last List of Vivian Walker*, was shortlisted for the 2020 Banjo Prize.

97 D



## Judy Atkinson

Professor Judy Atkinson identifies as a Jiman/Bundjalung woman. She is the author of *Trauma Trails – Recreating Songlines: The transgenerational effects of Trauma in Indigenous Australia*.

21 85



## Tim Baker

Tim Baker is the best-selling author of *Occy*, *Bustin' Down*, *The Door*, *High Surf*, *Surfari*, *Century of Surf*, and his latest book, *Patting The Shark*.

4 28 88



## 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.

17 47 57 81





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## Writers



### Nidala Barker

Nidala Barker is a singer-songwriter, activist and outdoor educator. Born of the Aboriginal Djugun people of the Kimberley, her music is an anthem for open hearts and raised fists.

98 A



### Jonathan Biggins

Jonathan Biggins is an actor, writer and director, best known as one of the creators of the political satire *The Wharf Revue*. His latest book is *The Gospel According to Paul*.

53 97



### Elly Bird

Elly Bird is a Councillor on Lismore City Council and Coordinator of Resilient Lismore, a community organisation leading recovery in Lismore after the region's devastating floods.

71



### Bronwyn Birdsall

Bronwyn Birdsall is a writer based in the Northern Rivers. *Time and Tide in Sarajevo* is her first novel.

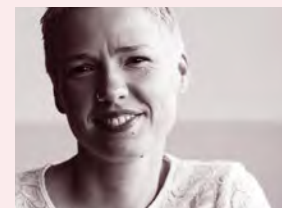
59 86



### Gemma Birrell

Gemma Birrell is the host of *The Secret Life of Writers* podcast. She has previously worked at Sydney Writers Festival, Shakespeare and Co in Paris and Tablo.

9 94



### Emily Bitto

Emily Bitto is an award-winning Melbourne-based writer of fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Her debut novel, *The Strays*, won the 2015 Stella Prize. Her second novel is *Wild Abandon*.

42 93



### James Bradley

James Bradley's books include the novels *Wrack*, *The Deep Field*, *The Resurrectionist*, *Clade* and, most recently, *Ghost Species*.

4 12 22 77



### Bryan Brown

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

67 92



### Phil Brown

Phil Brown is the Arts Editor at *The Courier-Mail*. His latest book is *The Kowloon Kid: A Hong Kong Childhood*.

73



### Daniel Browning

Bundjalung and Kullilli man Daniel Browning is host of Radio National's *The Art Show*. His first book, an anthology of essays on Indigenous art, cultural criticism and memoir, is forthcoming.

7 20 26 76 F



### Emily Brugman

Emily Brugman is the author of *The Islands*, a novel inspired by her Finnish family's experiences of living and working on the Abrolhos Islands, WA, in the mid-20th century.

45 89



### Tim Burrowes

Tim Burrowes is author of *Media Unmade*, the definitive story of Australia's media over the last decade. He edits media industry analysis newsletter *Unmade*, and founded *Mumbrella*.

15 39



### Jennifer Byrne

Jennifer Byrne is a senior journalist and broadcaster, and founding host of the much-loved ABC television program *The Book Club*.

18 34 49



### Kylie Caldwell

Kylie Caldwell is a Bundjalung artist, writer, weaver and fibre artist, interested in reviving and pursuing traditional cultural practices that her ancestors have used over thousands of years.

7 F



### Paul Callaghan

Dr Paul Callaghan is an Aboriginal man belonging to the land of the Worimi people. His recently released book is *The Dreaming Path*.

23 38 85 D



### Isobelle Carmody

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

69 74



# Writers



## Jane Caro

Jane Caro AM is a Walkley Award-winning columnist, author, broadcaster, documentary maker, feminist and social commentator. *The Mother* is her first novel.

1 60 G



## Barrie Cassidy

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

1 48



## Gabrielle Chan

Gabrielle Chan is rural and regional editor of *Guardian Australia*. Her latest book is *Why You Should Give a F\*\*k About Farming*.

46 66 71



## Jo Chandler

Jo Chandler is an award-winning journalist who specialises in explanatory deep dives, often on science. Her latest work appears in *Griffith Review 77: Real Cool World*.

22 77 90



## Anna Clark

Anna Clark is a historian at the University of Technology Sydney and the author of *Making Australian History*.



## Alan Close

Alan Close has been writing for over 40 years. His most recent book is *Before You Met Me: A Memoir Of One Man's Troubled Search For Love*.

24



## Jessie Cole

Jessie Cole is the author of four books. Her latest memoir, *Desire*, is out in August.

54 82 93



## Matthew Condon

Matthew Condon is a journalist who has spent almost a decade investigating crime and corruption in Queensland. His latest book is *The Night Dragon*.

79 92



## Ed Coper

Ed Coper is a leading communications expert and author of *Facts and Other Lies: Welcome to the Disinformation Age*.

1 17 39 66



## Trent Dalton

Trent Dalton is the bestselling author of *Boy Swallows Universe*, *All Our Shimmering Skies*, and *Love Stories*.

63 78 92



## Robert Drewe

Robert Drewe is an acclaimed author of fiction and non-fiction. His work has been widely translated, and adapted for film, television, theatre and radio. *Nimblefoot* is his latest book.

6 73



## Jill Eddington

Jill Eddington has enjoyed a long career in the literary sector including in festivals, publishing and at the Australia Council for the Arts.

29 89



## Sara El Sayed

Sara El Sayed is a writer based in Meanjin (Brisbane). Her debut memoir, *Muddy People*, is out now.

44 59



## Russell Eldridge

Russell Eldridge is a journalist, novelist and media trainer. He served on the Byron Writers Festival Board for many years. His latest book is *Harry Mac*.

6 48



## 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.

46 68 83



## Aaron Fa'Aoso

Aaron Fa'Aoso is a Torres Strait Islander producer, director, screenwriter and actor. He is known for his role in *Black Comedy*. Aaron's memoir, *So Far, So Good*, is out this year.

24 43

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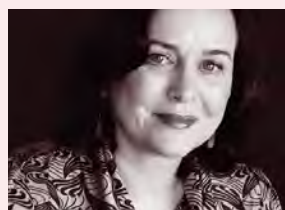
# Writers



## Huda Fadlelmawla

Huda Fadlelmawla, the Goddess, is the current Australian Poetry Slam Champion and two-time Queensland champ. She is working on her first poetry collection, *The Birth of Goddess*.

72 G K M N



## Delia Falconer

Delia Falconer is a novelist and nonfiction writer. *Signs and Wonders: Dispatches from a time of beauty and loss* was published in 2021.

77 99



## Nigel Featherstone

Nigel Featherstone is the author of the novels *My Heart is a Little Wild Thing* and *Bodies of Men*.

24 63 G



## Charles Firth

Charles Firth is a founding member of *The Chaser*, co-host of *The Chaser Report* podcast, and the inventor of the decimal system.

53 C



## Fiona Foley

Fiona Foley is an artist from the Wondunna clan of the Badtjala nation. Fiona's book *Biting the Clouds* was shortlisted for the QLA's QLD Premier's Award for a work of State Significance.

26 57 D J



## Kate Foster

Kate Foster is a children's author writing about friends, family, and dogs. She is the author of the middle grade novels *PAWS* and *The Bravest Word*.

74 96



## Declan Fry

Declan Fry is a writer based in Naarm. His latest work appears in *Another Australia*.

25 70



## 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*.

42 86



## Damon Gameau

Damon Gameau is a filmmaker, author and environmental educator. His documentary *2040* explores solutions to improve our planet. His most recent project is *Regenerating Australia*.

41 A



## Mawunyo Gbogbo

Mawunyo Gbogbo is the author of *Hip Hop & Hymns* and a music and pop culture reporter for Double J and ABC News.

50 64 91 98



## Nikki Gemmell

Nikki Gemmell's latest books are memoir *Dissolve*, and the psychological thriller *The Ripping Tree*. She also pens a column for *The Weekend Australian Magazine*.

3 28 82 H



## Costa Georgiadis

Costa Georgiadis is an Australian landscape architect and the beloved host of ABC TV's *Gardening Australia*. His book, *Costa's World*, was released in 2021.

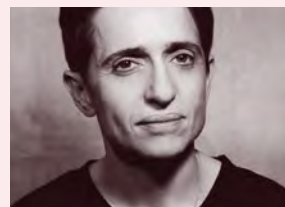
68 83



## Joëlle Gergis

Dr Joëlle Gergis is an award-winning climate scientist and author. Her latest book is *Humanity's Moment: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope*.

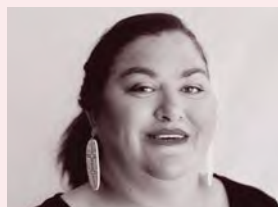
66 99



## Masha Gessen

Masha Gessen is a Russian-American journalist and author. They are the author of 11 books, including *Surviving Autocracy* and *The Future Is History: How Totalitarianism Reclaimed Russia*.

31 47



## Veronica Gorrie

Veronica Gorrie is a Gunai/Kurnai woman who lives and writes in Victoria. *Black and Blue*, a memoir of racism and resilience won the 2022 Victorian Prize for Literature.

50 70



## Meg Grace

Meg Grace is author of the award winning novel *Supermums*. She struggles with intriguing biographies with short word counts, and likes books, birds and Baileys.

19

# Writers



## A. C. Grayling

A. C. Grayling is the author of over thirty books of philosophy, biography, history of ideas, and essays. His latest book is *For the Good of the World*.

56 A



## Saul Griffith

Saul Griffith is an inventor, engineer, Founder and Chief Scientist of Otherlab, and the author of *The Big Switch – Australia's Electric Future*.

41 61 I



## David Hallett

David Hallett has been writing and performing poetry since the 1970s and is host of two of Australia's longest running poetry events. *Out of the Blue* is his latest collection.

84 N



## 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.

58 67



## Dylin Hardcastle

Dylin Hardcastle is a non-binary author, artist, screenwriter and former Provost's Scholar at the University of Oxford. They are based on Bundjalung Country. *Below Deck* is their most recent book.

11 62



## Lynda Hawryluk

Lynda Hawryluk is a writer, poet and academic who coordinates the Associate Degree of Creative Writing at Southern Cross University. She also serves on the Byron Writers Festival board.

84



## Ashley Hay

Ashley Hay is a novelist, essayist and editor at *Griffith Review*. A revised edition of her 2002 book, *Gum: The Story of Eucalypts and Their Champions*, was published in 2021.

22 32 89 B



## Amani Haydar

Amani Haydar is an award-winning writer, visual artist, lawyer and advocate for women's health and safety based in Western Sydney. Her debut memoir is *The Mother Wound*.

8 60



## Kathryn Heyman

Kathryn Heyman is the award-winning author of six novels and the acclaimed memoir *Fury*. She is also the director of the Australian Writers Mentoring Program.

11 65 94



## Jess Hill

Jess Hill is a Walkley award-winning journalist and the author of *See What You Made Me Do*, and *The Reckoning* in *Quarterly Essay 84*.

11 60 87



## Jean Hinchliffe

Jean Hinchliffe is a climate justice activist and writer. Her first book, *Lead the Way* was published in 2021.

4 10 31



## Sarah Holland-Batt

Sarah Holland-Batt is the author of three books of poems—most recently, *The Jaguar*—and a collection of essays on poetry, *Fishing for Lightning*.

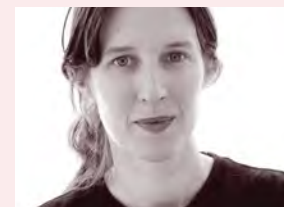
25 84



## Tim Hollo

A highly regarded environmentalist, community builder and musician, Tim Hollo is Executive Director of the Green Institute. *Living Democracy* is his first book.

41 81 98



## Chloe Hooper

Chloe Hooper is the award-winning author of two novels and three works of non-fiction, including *The Tall Man* and *The Arsonist: A Mind on Fire*. *Bedtime Story* is her most recent book.

28 65 96



## Jackie Huggins

Bidjara and Birri-Gubba Juru woman Jackie Huggins is the author of *Sister Girl: Reflections on Tiddaism, Identity and Reconciliation*, and a biography of her father *Jack of Hearts QX11594*.

2 90



## Mark Isaacs

Author of *The Undesirables* and *The Kabul Peace House*, Mark Isaacs is a fierce advocate for the rights of displaced people in Australia and globally.

31 75



# Writers



## Christine Jackman

Christine Jackman is an award-winning journalist, author and communications consultant. Her latest book, *Turning Down The Noise*, is a quest for calm in the modern world.

14 23



## Zacharey Jane

Zacharey Jane is a writer, teacher and whale-lover. She is tour manager for *Writers on the Road*, and the author of two works of fiction and sundry short stories and articles.

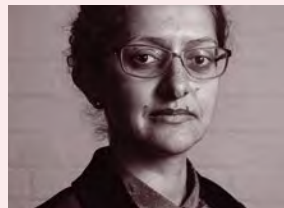
3 82 G



## Erik Jensen

Erik Jensen is the editor-in-chief of Schwartz Media and founding editor of *The Saturday Paper*. His latest book is *I Said the Sea Was Folded*.

5 40



## Yumna Kassab

Yumna Kassab is a writer from Western Sydney. Her first book, *The House of Youssef*, was shortlisted for several major awards. *Australiana* is her latest book.

34 45 93



## Hayley Katzen

Hayley Katzen writes personal essays and facilitates recovery projects for her bushfire-affected community. *Untethered*, her debut memoir, was published in 2020.

8 80



## Hannah Kent

Hannah Kent is the bestselling author of *Burial Rites*, *The Good People* and *Devotion*. She lives and works on Peramangk and Kurna Country.

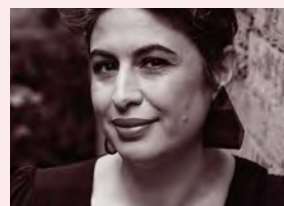
35 45 63



## Krissy Kneen

Krissy Kneen is the award-winning author of fiction, poetry, film and non-fiction. *The Three Burials of Lotty Kneen* is their latest book.

52 62



## Natalie Kon-yu

Natalie Kon-yu is a Naarm-based writer, academic and editor. She is the author of *The Cost of Labour* and a co-commissioning editor of several books.

27 42



## Will Kostakis

Will Kostakis is an award-winning author for young adults, best known for his novels *The First Third*, *The Sidekicks* and the *Monuments* duology.

24



## Marcia Langton

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

50 70 85



## Joy Lawn

Joy Lawn judges literary fiction (QLA) and women's crime and has judged the PM Literary and NSW Premier's Awards. She reviews for *The Australian* and *PaperbarkWords*.

14 93



## Cheryl Leavy

Kooma and Nguri woman Cheryl Leavy is an Executive Director of the Queensland Government working on First Nations Policy and a member of the Brisbane Writers Festival board.

36 85



## Debbie Lee

Debbie Lee is Senior Manager in Content Acquisition and Business Development at IngramSpark. Formerly an academic publisher, she assists publishers of all shapes and sizes.

19



## Micheline Lee

Micheline Lee's novel, *The Healing Party*, was shortlisted for the Victorian Premiers Literary Awards. Recently she was published in *We've Got This: Stories by Disabled Parents*.

3 13



## David Leser

David Leser is an award-winning journalist and author of seven books, including *Women, Men and the Whole Damn Thing* which explores patriarchy and misogyny in the age of #MeToo.


78 87



## Louisa Lim

Louisa Lim is a journalist, author and lecturer at the University of Melbourne. Her latest book is *Indelible City: Dispossession and Defiance in Hong Kong*.

5 30 86



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# Writers



## Eleanor Limprecht

Eleanor Limprecht is the author of four novels: *The Coast*, *The Passengers*, *Long Bay* and *What Was Left*.

4 9 16



## Gary Lonesborough

Gary Lonesborough is a Yuin man from the Far South Coast of NSW. *The Boy from the Mish* is Gary's debut YA novel.

44 D



## Zanni Louise

Zanni Louise is author of over twenty-five books for kids, including bestselling picture book series *Human Kind* and *Errol*. Her latest works include *I Feel The World* and *Wonder Earth*.

80



## Grace Lucas-Pennington

Bundjalung woman Grace Lucas-Pennington is an editor specialising in fiction and poetry. She is currently the Senior Editor at State Library of Queensland's *black&write!*

37 72



## Becky Manawatu

Becky Manawatu (NGĀITAHU) was born in Nelson, raised in Waimangaroa, and lived in Germany and Italy before returning to the West Coast with her family. *Auē* is her first novel.

37 59 91



## Wendy McCarthy

Wendy McCarthy is an educator and activist. She is the author of *Don't Be Too Polite*, *Girls*, a personal, political memoir about life, family, and politics.

51 64



## Kate McClymont

Kate McClymont AM is an investigative journalist who writes for *The Sydney Morning Herald*. Her latest book is *Dead Man Walking*.

5 79



## Phillipa McGuinness

Phillipa McGuinness is author of *Skin Deep: the inside story of our outer selves* and editor of *Openbook*, the State Library of NSW magazine.

38 54



## Laura Jean McKay

Laura Jean McKay is the author of *The Animals in That Country* - winner of The Arthur O Clarke Award and The Victorian Prize for Literature.

12 52



## Mark McKenna

Mark McKenna is one of Australia's leading historians, and the author of several prize-winning books. His latest is *Return to Uluru*.

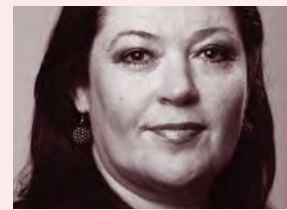
57 79



## Miles Merrill

Performing writer Miles Merrill brought poetry slams to Australia from Chicago. He is the spark for dozens of spoken word programs across the Asia-Pacific region.

M



## Karen Middleton

Karen Middleton is *The Saturday Paper's* chief political correspondent with more than 30 years' experience in print and broadcast media. She has written two books.

30 40 48



## Anika Molesworth

Anika Molesworth is a farmer, scientist and storyteller known for her work in agriculture, food systems and generating climate change awareness. Anika is the author of *Our Sunburnt Country*.

46 90



## Greg Mullins

In 2019 former fire commissioner Greg Mullins tried to warn the then prime minister of an approaching bushfire disaster. *Firestorm* tells a story of climate, fire, and political evasion.

31 71



## Fiona Murphy

Fiona Murphy is an award-winning Deaf writer based in the Blue Mountains. Her acclaimed memoir, *The Shape of Sound*, explores deafness, sign language and identity.

13 38 54



## Indira Naidoo

Indira Naidoo is one of Australia's most popular broadcasters and authors and the host of ABC Radio's *Weekend Nightlife*. *The Space Between the Stars* is her latest book.

23 68 95



## Krystal De Napoli

Krystal De Napoli is a Gomeroli astrophysicist, author, and radio broadcaster. Her book *Astronomy: Sky Country* explores Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sky knowledge.

14 33



## Anne Maria Nicholson

Anne Maria Nicholson is an author and former journalist for major media organisations, including the ABC. She has two novels published with a third in the pipeline.

8 23 51



## Mandy Nolan

Stand-up comedian, columnist and political agitator, Mandy Nolan has leapt from the stage to the page with five humorous memoirs, the latest of which is *The Full Mandy*.

53 97 H



## Karlie Noon

Karlie Noon is a Gamilaraay astronomer and writer. She is the co-author of *Astronomy: Sky Country*, an exploration of Aboriginal knowledge of the night skies and connection to Country.

33 76



## 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*.

48 61



## Matt Okine

Multi-talented actor, writer & presenter Matt Okine is one of Australia's favourite award winning comedians. Matt's debut novel is *Being Black 'n Chicken & Chips*.

44 54 97



## Steven Oliver

Steven Oliver is a descendant of the Kuku-Yalanji, Waanyi, Gangalidda, Woppaburra, Bundjalung and Biripi peoples, best known for his work on the ABC's hit show *Black Comedy*.

F



## Mick O'Regan

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

15



## Claire O'Rourke

Claire O'Rourke is a campaigner, communicator, and behaviour change expert. Totally climate freaked-out, Claire helps others take action on climate change. *Together We Can* is her first book.

10 51 I



## Bruce Pascoe

Bruce Pascoe is an Aboriginal Australian writer best known for his work *Dark Emu*. His latest book is *Country: Future Fire Future Farming*, co-written with Bill Gammage.

36 76



## Rhianna Patrick

Rhianna Patrick is a freelance Torres Strait Islander journalist and broadcaster with over 25 years' experience.

2 12 33



## Andrew Quilty

Andrew Quilty is the recipient of nine Walkley Awards, including the Gold Walkley, for his work on Afghanistan. *August in Kabul* is his first book.

4 17 30 75



## Ben Quilty

Ben Quilty is an Australian artist and social commentator. *Free Fall* brings together his recent collection of paintings.

26 73



## Yves Rees

Dr Yves Rees is a historian at La Trobe University, co-host of *Archive Fever* podcast, and author of *All About Yves: Notes from a Transition*.

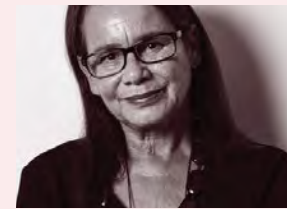
14 55 62 87



## Mirandi Riwoe

Mirandi Riwoe's work includes *The Burnished Sun*, a collection of short stories and novellas, and *Stone Sky Gold Mountain*.

9 37 G



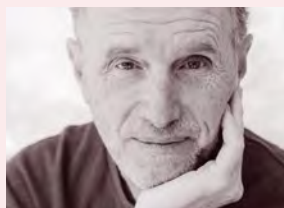
## Rhoda Roberts

Widjabul woman Rhoda Roberts AO is an actor, journalist, producer, writer, artistic director and Creative Director First Nations at Northern Rivers Performing Arts (NORPA).

7 F



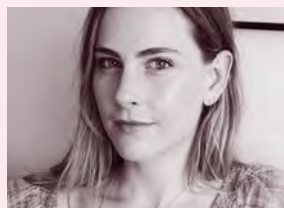
# Writers



## David Roland

Dr David Roland is a narrative psychologist and non-fiction writer whose work is informed by his lived experience and his professional training. *The Power of Suffering* is his latest book.

38



## Gina Rushton

Gina Rushton is a journalist, editor and author of *The Most Important Job in the World*.

11 27 90



## Mykaela Saunders

Mykaela Saunders is an award-winning Koori and Lebanese writer and the editor of *This All Come Back Now*, an anthology of blackfella speculative fiction.

37 77 D



## James Schloeffel

James Schloeffel is founder of *The Shovel*, which is widely regarded as the country's second most-loved satirical news service, after *Sky News*.

53 C



## Julianne Schultz

Professor Julianne Schultz AM FAHA is the founding editor of *Griffith Review* and the author of *The Idea of Australia: The Search for the Soul of the Nation*.

1 15 34 55



## Tricia Shantz

Tricia Shantz is a Byron-based social geographer and research consultant. She is the author of *Neverland: American & Australian Surfers in Byron Bay 1960s & 1970s*.

88



## Thando Sibanda

Thando Sibanda is a writer, performing poet and arts consultant based in Zimbabwe, concerned with the human challenges in the journey of life.

84 A M



## Margaret Simons

Margaret Simons is an award-winning freelance journalist and author. Her latest book is *Penny Wong: Passion and Principle*.

10 39 48



## Inga Simpson

Inga Simpson's most recent books include the novel, *The Last Woman in the World*, and her first children's book, *The Book of Australian Trees* illustrated by Alicia Rogerson.

12 32 52



## Jeff Sparrow

Jeff Sparrow is a writer, editor, broadcaster and Walkley award-winning journalist. His latest book is *Crimes Against Nature: Capitalism and Global Heating*.

4 15 42 55 81



## Mary Spongberg

Prof. Mary Spongberg is the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Academic Capability) at Southern Cross University, and the author of *Empathetic Histories: Women Writers and the Nation's Past*.

16



## Jeanti St Clair

Jeanti St Clair tells stories using audio, and describes herself as a story-catcher. She is a media and journalism lecturer at Southern Cross University and the creator of *Lismore Flood Stories*.

64 80



## Danny Teece-Johnson

Gamilaraay man Danny Teece-Johnson has been working in Black media for 20 years. He is producer/presenter of Triple A Murri Country's flagship show *Let's Talk*.

43 D



## Mia Thom

Mia Thom is a Bundjalung climate activist, a co-organiser of the school strike for climate movement within the Byron Shire.

10 A



## Steve Toltz

Steve Toltz is the award-winning writer of *A Fraction of the Whole* and *Quicksand. Here Goes Nothing* is his latest book.

18 92



## Christos Tsiolkas

Christos Tsiolkas is the award-winning author of five novels, including *Head On* and *The Slap*. He is also a playwright, essayist and screen writer. His latest book is *7 1/2*.

49 89



## Corey Tutt

Corey Tutt is the founder of DeadlyScience, a champion of STEM and the author of *The First Scientists: Deadly Inventions and Innovations from Australia's First Peoples*.

33 74



## Adam van Kempen

Adam van Kempen has been Festival Chair since 2018. He also serves on the board of Sprung!! Integrated Dance Theatre and in his spare time, is the Principal of BvK Solicitors Attorneys.

13 21



## Mariam Veiszadeh

Mariam Veiszadeh is a human rights advocate, lawyer, writer and media commentator. Born in Afghanistan, Mariam came to Australia as a refugee with her family in 1990.

51 75



## Chelsea Watego

Chelsea Watego is a Munanjahli and South Sea Islander woman born and raised on Yuggera country. She is the author of the groundbreaking work, *Another Day in the Colony*.

50 70



## Anne-Marie Te Whiu

Anne-Marie Te Whiu (Te Rarawa) is a poet, weaver, cultural producer and festival director, having edited Tony Birch's *Whisper Songs* & co-edited *Solid Air*.

72 84 91 A



## Marian Wilkinson

Marian Wilkinson is an award winning journalist and contributor to *The Saturday Paper*. Her latest book, *The Carbon Club*, investigates Australia's bitter political battles over climate change.

5 40 81



## Leweena Williams

Leweena Williams is a Bundjalung woman and CEO of the Tweed Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council.

76



## Sarah Wilson

Sarah Wilson is a best-selling author, podcaster, thought leader, philanthropist and climate advisor. Her most recent book is *This One Wild & Precious Life*.

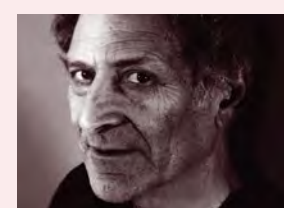
41 99



## Susan Wyndham

Susan Wyndham is a freelance journalist, book reviewer, and writer. She was literary editor of *The Sydney Morning Herald* for many years until 2017.

25 35



## Arnold Zable

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

29 58 86



# Festival Directory

## Eat, Drink & Shop

### Food

Food is available for purchase on site from an array of popular and delicious local food stalls with vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free options available.

The Brookfarm Brunch Bar offers healthy, delicious breakfast options plus nutritious snacks made with top-notch ingredients, available daily.

There are plenty of comfortable places to sit and eat.

### 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.

### Coffee

Visit the Caldera Coffee stall or one of our other local coffee carts on site to satisfy your caffeine and sweet tooth cravings.

There is an onsite cup wash station for your BYO coffee cup.

### Water Refill Stations

Byron Writers Festival is a plastic water bottle free event. BYO bottle for free refills at our water stations.

### Book Signing Tent

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

### Artisan Markets

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

### Sculptures

A beautiful sculpture walk curated by local artist Suvira McDonald is free for all festival patrons to explore and enjoy.

Sculptures are for sale. Please see Suvira at the sculpture tent for enquiries.

## Discover

### Kids Big Day Out

Sunday 28 August

Kids Big Day Out returns with a stellar line-up of authors and performers making for a fun-packed program of stories, comedy and storytelling. A perfect outing for the whole family. The StoryBoard Bus is onsite hosting a workshop space where kids can create their own stories alongside acclaimed authors and storytellers. See Session 74 on Sunday's Program for the full schedule.

### Summerland Credit Union Sanctuary

Take some time out in the Summerland Credit Union Sanctuary, a shaded space to sit, relax and discuss the conversations and big ideas over festival weekend.

Supported by Summerland Credit Union

### Indigenous Literacy Foundation (ILF)

Byron Writers Festival 2022 is fundraising for the important work undertaken by ILF. Please help close the literacy gap and make a donation in the orange boxes around the festival site or at the ILF tent.

### Information and AUSLAN Registration Tent

Visit our information tent for site maps, program updates, or to ask one of our friendly volunteers a question. Information tent volunteers can also assist patrons who require an AUSLAN interpreter or wheelchair and mobility assistance.

### PEN The Empty Chair

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

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## TURNING THE PAGE...

After a few *unprecedented* years apart, it's time to come back together in conversation.

**Stone & Wood** are proud to be a partner to the Byron Writers Festival, bringing creativity and conversation back to the fertile ground of the Northern Rivers.

Sponsors of this year's Sunday Locals' passes, we hope this initiative provides the chance for new and returning audiences to enjoy this outstanding cultural event in our region.

We pay our respects to the people of the Bundjalung nation, traditional custodians of the land where we work, live and read books.

Enjoy the festival and remember, books and beer are not mutually exclusive joys.

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

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# Partners

## Funding Partners



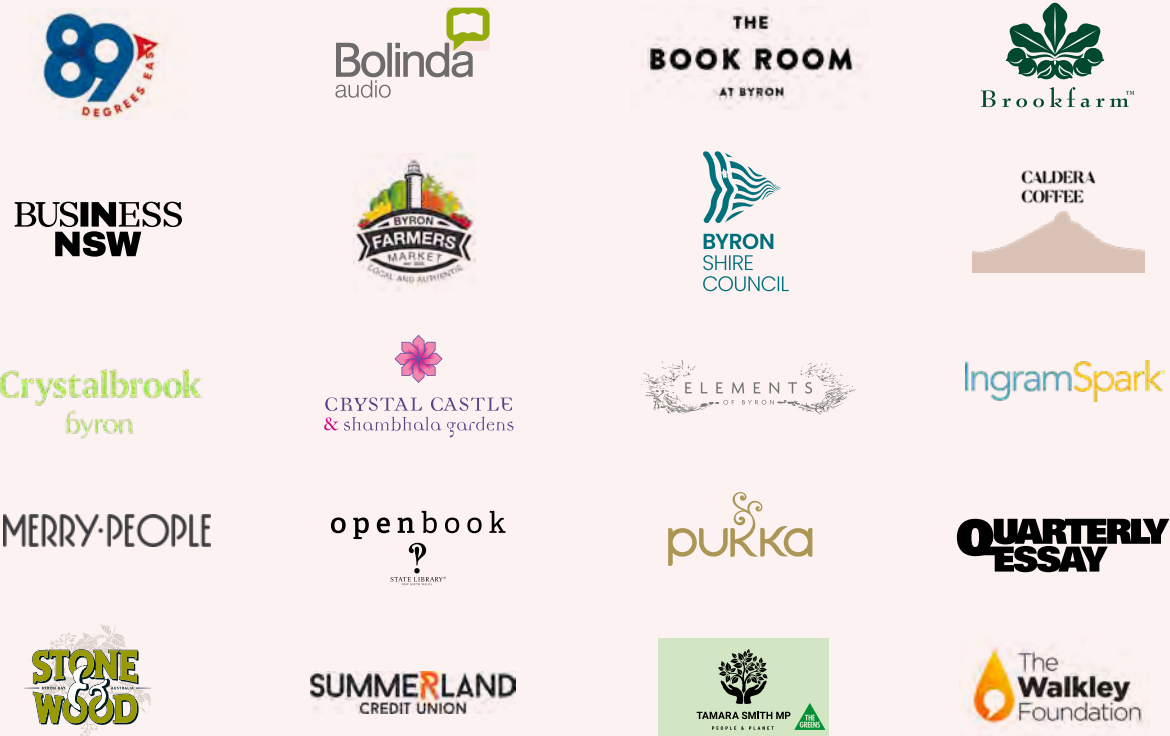
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## Major Media Partners



## Festival Partners



# Partners

## Supporting Partners



## Cultural Partners



## Media Partners



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Scott Malcolm & Jane Taylor  
Tom & Sibylle Vidal

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Auslan Interpreters  
Bask & Stow  
Bay FM  
Brian Warrick  
Bruce Pollock  
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Byron Bay Chocolate Co.  
Daniel Browning  
Delta Kay  
Edwina Johnson  
Fallen BROKEN Street  
Grace Lucas-Pennington  
Hilarie Dunn  
Jill Eddington  
Leweena Williams  
Marele Day  
Mat Morris  
Newington College  
Northern Rivers Plant Hire  
Penny Leonard  
Rhoda Roberts  
The Cellar  
The Rails Hotel  
The Regent  
The Wheeler Centre  
Tweed Party Hire  
UNSW Centre for Ideas  
Plus all the publishers who assisted in creating the 2022 Byron Writers Festival program



# Travel & Key Info

## How to get to the festival

The festival site is located adjacent to Elements of Byron Resort, 144 Bayshore Drive, Byron Bay.  
Festival gates open at 8.30am each day.  
For further information about the venue, maps and shuttle timetables, visit [byronwritersfestival.com/travel](https://byronwritersfestival.com/travel)

### By Solar Train or Shuttle

We encourage you to use public transport if possible. A Festival shuttle bus and train service will be operating between Byron CBD and the Festival site from Friday 26 – Sunday 28 August. For train and shuttle maps and timetables, please visit [byronwritersfestival.com/travel](https://byronwritersfestival.com/travel)

### By Car

Car parking opens at 7.45am. It is adjacent to the festival site and within easy walking distance. Parking is by donation (EFTPOS facilities available). To alleviate traffic congestion and limit carbon emissions, we encourage carpooling if possible. Please park as directed by the parking attendants.  
  
Accessible parking available. Please ensure your Disability Parking Permit is clearly displayed.

### By Bike

Bikes can be secured at the dedicated bike parking area at the festival entrance.

## Event and Workshop Venues

**Brunswick Picture House**  
30 Fingal Street, Brunswick Heads

**Byron Community Centre**  
69 Jonson Street, Byron Bay

**Byron Farmers Market**  
Butler Street Reserve, Butler St, Byron Bay

**Byron Bay Library**  
Corner Middleton Street & Lawson Street, Byron Bay

**Byron Theatre**  
69 Jonson Street, Byron Bay

**Byron Writers Festival office**  
2/58 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay

**Crystalbrook Byron**  
77-97 Broken Head Road, Byron Bay

**Habitat**  
1 Porter Street, Byron Bay

**Moller Pavilion, Bangalow Showgrounds**  
1 Market Street, Bangalow

**Southern Cross University**  
Military Road, Lismore

**The Rails Hotel**  
86 Jonson Street, Byron Bay

**The Regent**  
5 Brisbane Street, Murwillumbah

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

## Key Info

### Stay COVID Safe

Byron Writers Festival will be operating with a COVID-19 Safety Plan. Practice good hand hygiene, physical distancing where possible and consider wearing a mask where physical distancing is not possible. Please follow our Stay COVID Safe guidelines outlined at [byronwritersfestival.com/stay-covid-safe](https://byronwritersfestival.com/stay-covid-safe)



### 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, accessible toilets, wheelchair accessibility and other Access queries, please visit [byronwritersfestival.com/access](https://byronwritersfestival.com/access)

### Waste Reduction and Recycling

Byron Writers Festival and our food and coffee vendors manage waste to reduce landfill, reuse and recycle wherever possible. Please sort your waste into the correct bins for collection and processing.

### BYO Water Bottle & Coffee Cup

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

# Tickets

## 2022 Festival Passes

Pass Options		Days	Full Price	Members/Students
3-day Pass	Includes access to all festival sessions. Excludes workshops and separately ticketed events	Friday, Saturday & Sunday	\$299	\$255
1-day Pass	Includes access to all Festival sessions on your selected day/s. Excludes workshops and separately ticketed events.	Friday, Saturday or Sunday	\$135	\$110
Sunday Family Pass	Includes one child 6-12 years old and two accompanying adults. Children gain access to Kids Big Day Out marquee only and must be accompanied by at least one adult at all times	Sunday	\$175 for one child plus two adults. \$20 for each additional child. Children under 6 are free.	N/A
Kids Big Day Out Pass	Entry to Kids Big Day Out Marquee only. Includes one child 6-12 years and one accompanying adult.	Sunday	\$40 for one child plus one adult. \$20 for each additional child. Children under 6 are free.	N/A

## Visit [byronwritersfestival.com/tickets](https://byronwritersfestival.com/tickets) or call (02) 6685 5115

### Notes and conditions

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.

Parking opens at 7:45am. Gates open at 8.30am.  
For full terms and conditions, including COVID-safe flexible ticketing policies and conditions of entry, visit [byronwritersfestival.com/terms-conditions](https://byronwritersfestival.com/terms-conditions)

## Our Team

### Board

Chair **Adam van Kempen**  
Treasurer **Cheryl Bourne**  
Secretary **Hilarie Dunn**  
Members **Daniel Browning, Marele Day, Lynda Dean, Lynda Hawryluk and Grace Lucas-Pennington**

### Team

Artistic Director **Zoë Pollock**  
Executive Director **Emma Keenan**  
Operations Manager **Shien Chee**  
Communications Manager **Anika Ebner**  
Program Manager **Emily Brugman**  
Partnerships Coordinator **Aarna Hudson**  
Festival Administrator **Tom Wolff**  
Travel Manager **Cherrie Sheldrick**  
Site Manager **Amy Shaw**  
Technical Production **Mic Deacon**  
Publicist **Clare McGregor**  
Tour Manager **Zacharey Jane**  
Production Assistant **Emily Read**  
Volunteer Coordinator **Emily De Matteis**  
Schools Coordinator **Gabby Le Brun**  
  
And a massive army of volunteers

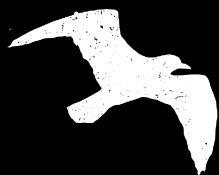
### Support Us

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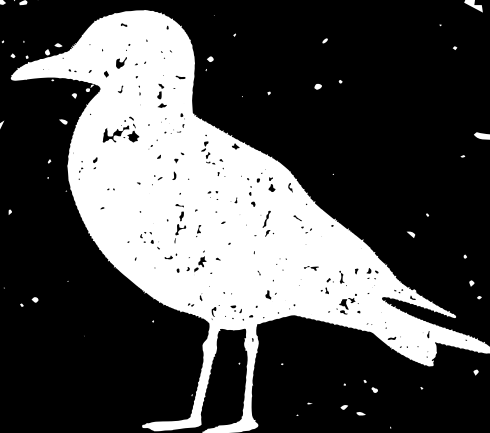


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